D. Scott Rogo Replies

To the Editor:

Since my paper was on ketamine and was not on Dr. Grosso's theory or Jungian psychology, I don't see why my colleague is offended that I pay so little attention to his theory. His views are given as much attention and space as the others mentioned in the paper. My only obligation was to cite Dr. Grosso's views within the context of archetypal theories in general, which is just what I do. Please note that I was criticizing archetypal theories in general, and not Dr. Grosso's in particular. In fact, my comments were directed more to the Grofs' views than his.

The careful reader should have noted that the pros and cons I outlined for each of the three ketamine/NDE theories were presented from an objective, and not from a personal, standpoint. Dr. Grosso totally failed to see this. I wrote that archetypal theories "could be called" non-theories, not that I personally considered them so. This is an important difference of emphasis. It does not matter whether either Dr. Grosso or I believe in archetypes or not; what matters is how the psychological or scientific establishment in general regards the validity of the idea.

While I am favorably disposed to the idea of archetypes (as displayed in my book Miracles), it must be admitted that psychology has never come up with any hard evidence that archetypes really exist as actual entities. Jung's theory was really nothing more than a hazy notion he developed in order to account for what he felt to be regularities in the thinking patterns of many different peoples and cultures. It is an arbitrary descriptive term and not an explanatory one or even a predictive theory. This is why I object to its being applied to the NDE.

Dr. Grosso ended his letter by trying to trip me up with my past writings and on linguistic grounds. What's the use in all this? Let's get on with our empirical research and forget about polemics. Scientific progress bogs down only because researchers tend to become emotionally involved in their own theories, which is the true crux of Dr. Grosso's communication.

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