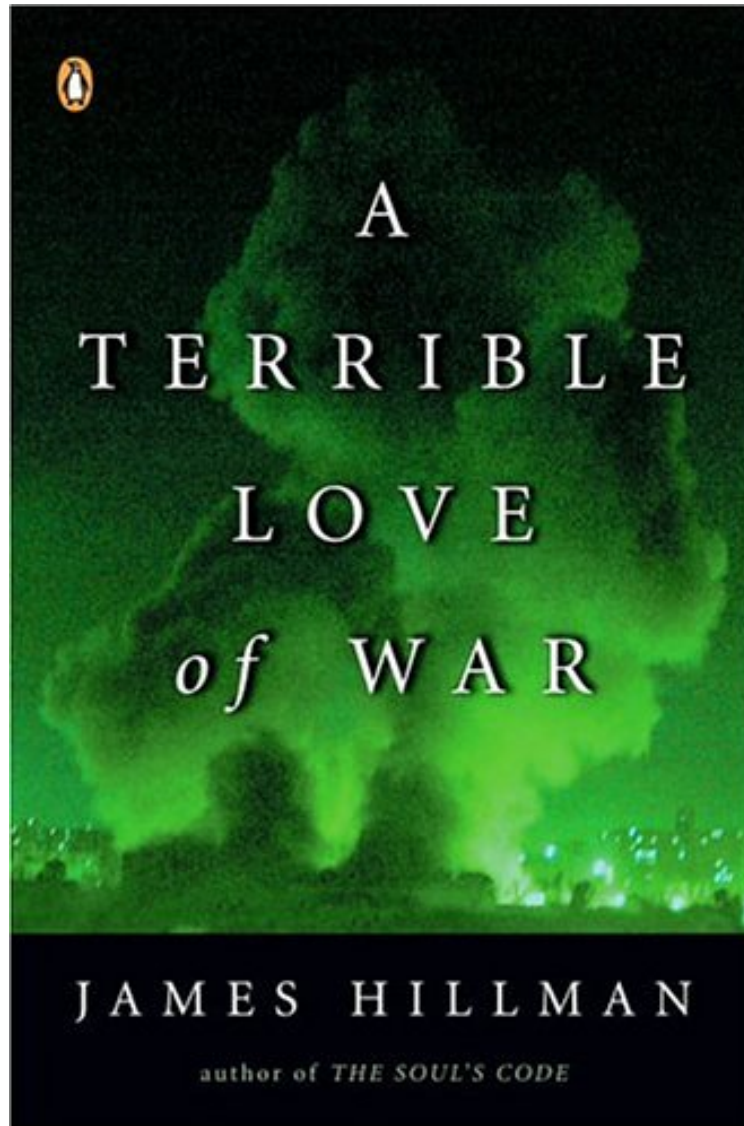


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## A Terrible Love of War

James Hillman

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**James Hillman : A Terrible Love of War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Terrible Love of War:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. James Hillman is A Psychological and Archetypal Treasure! By anonomous I have loved James Hillman since I heard of him and met him in 98 in Mendocino. I am lucky to have his picture, his smile. He is a wonderful elder and dances with style and grace. I wish I had seen him tap dance more than a few steps. . . 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Must read By A. Sykora A page turner of great depth

(yes, that is possible). It speaks of war as a mythic rather than a socio-political experience. One of the best twenty books I have ever read. Boom.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Maria ValentinaGreat Book and Excellent Customer Service from Hawthorne Academic

War is a timeless force in the human imaginationand, indeed, in daily life. Engaged in the activity of destruction, its soldiers and its victims discover a paradoxical yet profound sense of existing, of being human. In *A Terrible Love of War*, James Hillman, one of today's most respected psychologists, undertakes a groundbreaking examination of the essence of war, its psychological origins and inhuman behaviors. Utilizing reports from many fronts and times, letters from combatants, analyses by military authorities, classic myths, and writings from great thinkers, including Twain, Tolstoy, Kant, Arendt, Foucault, and Levinas, Hillman's broad sweep and detailed research bring a fundamentally new understanding to humanity's simultaneous attraction and aversion to war. This is a compelling, necessary book in a violent world.

From Publishers WeeklyWhy do we love war? asks Jungian psychoanalyst Hillman, author of the bestselling *The Soul's Code*. One might ask in reply, Do we, in fact, love war? Hillman answers unequivocally in the affirmative, skewering modern pretension to prefer the Prince of Peace to the god of war. Mars is the central character in Hillman's exploration of war as an archetypal impulse. "The whole bloody business," he writes, "reveals a god, therewith placing war among the authentic phenomena of religion. And that is why it is so terrible, so loved, and so hard to understand." His portrayal of war as an implacable force, a primary element of the human condition, is unsettling, as is his description of war as a "beautiful horror"but he cites enough memoirs and letters written by those in the heat of battle to convince that it can have a kind of beauty for combatants. Hillman also effectively evokes the transcendent, Mars-like fury that overtakes soldiers in battle ("I felt like a god... I was untouchable," writes one). Throughout, Hillman offers other disturbing insights: readers may feel a shock of recognition when he compares our addiction to viewing war (whether real or cinematic) to the viewing of pornography, noting that we are all voyeurs. But Hillman's mesmerizing prose loses its impact when he launches a sneering attack on Christianity (and the U.S., where "we are all Christians") for being a warrior religion. And perhaps only Jungians will understand his baffling assertion that aesthetic passion (or, in archetypal terms, devotion to Venus) can slow our ceaseless rush to war. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Important reading for our time, as we try to make sense of our terrors."San Francisco Chronicle"[Hillman's] portrayal of war as an implacable force, a primary element of the human condition, is unsettling."Publishers WeeklyAbout the AuthorA world-renowned lecturer, teacher, author, Jungian analyst, and former director of the C. G. Jung Institute, James Hillman (1926-2011) was born in New Jersey and spent much of his life in Europe. He is the author of more than twenty books, translated into ten languages, including *The Myth of Analysis* and *Reinventing Psychiatry*, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1975.