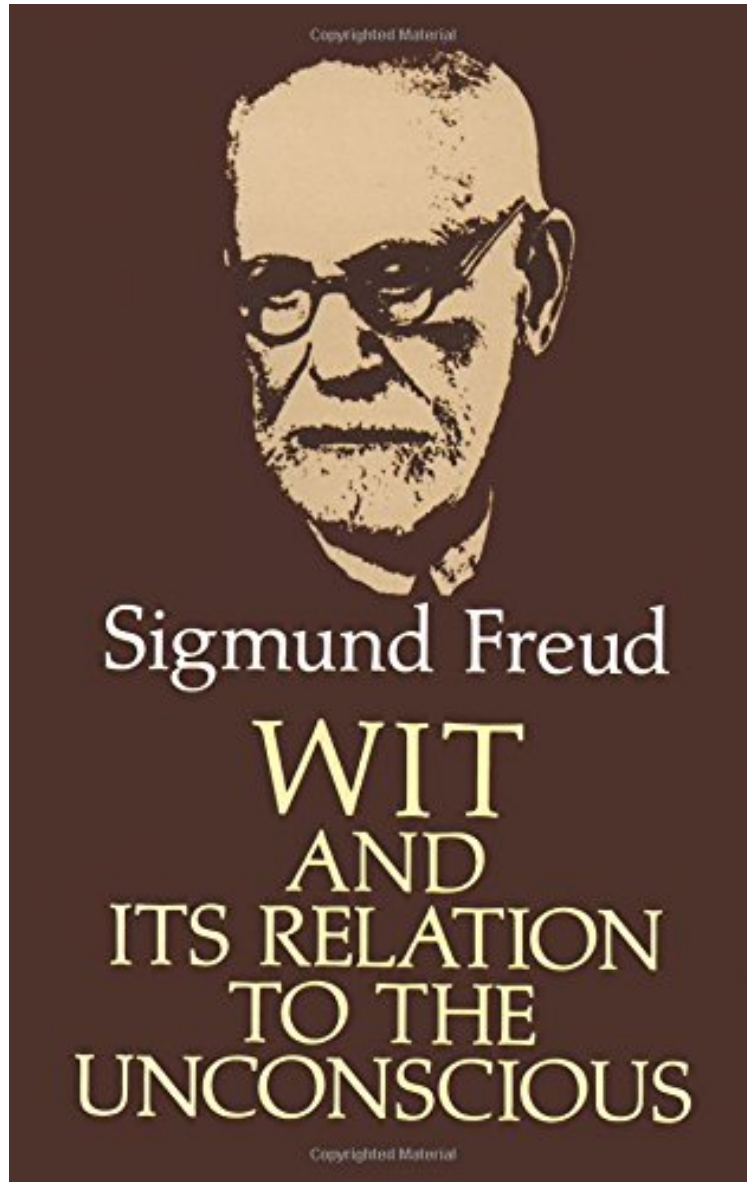


(Download free pdf) Wit and Its Relation to the Unconscious

## Wit and Its Relation to the Unconscious

*Sigmund Freud*

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**Sigmund Freud : Wit and Its Relation to the Unconscious** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wit and Its Relation to the Unconscious:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not very funnyBy Howard E. BorckDated and translated from the German misses being funny and is a tedious read. I've read most of Freud and this book is not as good as his "Jokes and Their Relation to the Unconscious" which is much better translation and read.Either book is not as focused as

Peter Berger's *Redeeming Laughter* which is much more interesting and relevant to our time and culture. Also there's an Alan King VHS (not in DVD) "The College of Comedy" with Tim Conway, Buddy Hackett, Paul Rodriguez, and Judy Gold which is both funny and insightful. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Painful. Utterly painful. By calc chick I've had to read this book for my thesis and it has been the most painful time of my life! Its so dry and tedious - i really hated most of the hours. There were glimmers of pleasure here and there with some insightful stuff, but generally not fun. Its amazing that a book on humor can be so utterly humorless. Not sure if i had a bad translation or if its just the book itself. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. AN UNUSUAL ENTRY INTO FREUD'S WORKS By Steven H Propp This 1905 book about the psychological origins of humor is a welcome change from the often ponderous theoretical musings of Freud. Here are some representative quotations from the book: "Strictly speaking, we do not know what we are laughing about. In all obscene jokes we succumb to striking mistakes of judgment about the 'goodness' of the joke as far as it depends upon formal conditions; the technique of these jokes is often very poor while their laughing effect is enormous." (On "Jewish jokes which originate with Jews"): "I do not know whether one oftens finds a people that makes merry so unreservedly over its own shortcomings." "Where the argument seeks to draw the hearer's reason to its side, wit strives to push aside this reason. There is no doubt that wit has chosen the way which is psychologically more efficacious." "We know, too, in the case of wit that it is not a strange person's, but one's own mental processes that contain the sources for the production of pleasure." "Humor can now be conceived as the loftiest of these defense functions. It disdains to withdraw from conscious attention ideas which are connected with the painful affect, as repression does, and it, thus, overcomes the defense automatism."

Renowned as the father of psychoanalysis, Freud was uniquely qualified to write this fascinating exploration of the nature of wit — including jokes and joking — and its role and function as a manifestation and vehicle of unconscious impulses. First analyzing the techniques and tendencies of wit, the great analyst probes the origins of wit in the "pleasure mechanism." He then discusses the motives of wit, wit as a social process, the relation of wit to dreams and the unconscious, and wit and the various forms of the comic. Until the publication of this important study, the literature on which was insubstantial; those investigations that existed tended to neglect wit in favor of the larger, more general area of the comic. In Freud's hands, however, the study of wit became another avenue of investigation into the psyche. With characteristic insight and intelligence he shows that wit, although it belongs to aesthetics, is subject to the same laws, shares the same mechanism and serves the same tendencies as neuroses, dreams and psychopathological acts. Published a few years after Freud's breakthrough work, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, the present volume is not only an acutely perceptive psychological study, its lighthearted tone and abundant store of jokes and witticism make it one of the most accessible and enjoyable of Freud's works. It is presented here in an excellent English translation by A. A. Brill, Freud's chosen translator and former Chief of the Clinic of Psychiatry, Columbia University.

Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: German About the Author Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) is one of the twentieth century's greatest minds and the founder of the psychoanalytic school of psychology. His many works include *The Ego and the Id*; *An Outline of Psycho-Analysis*; *Inhibitions*; *Symptoms and Anxiety*; *New Introductory Lectures on Psycho-Analysis*; *Civilization and Its Discontent*, and others.