

The Effect of Evil Eye in the Individuals' Journey for Personhood within a Christian Orthodox Society

Authors : Nikolaos Souvlakis

Abstract : The present paper negotiates the effect of 'the evil eye' on individuals' mental health while at the same time poses the problem of how the evil eye fits into the anthropological arena as a key question that forges a fundamental link between religion, anthropology and mental health professions. It is the argument of the paper that the evil eye is an essential and fundamental human phenomenon and therefore any scholarly field involved in its study must consider the insight it provides into the development of personhood. The study was an anthropological study in the geographical area of Corfu, a Greek Orthodox society uninfluenced by the Ottoman Islamic Culture. The paper aims to deepen our understanding of the evil eye as it analyses the interaction between the evil eye and gaze and how they affect the development of personhood; based on the empirical data collected from the fieldwork. Therefore, the paper adopts a psychoanalytic anthropology approach to facilitate a better understanding of the evil eye through the accounts of individuals' journeys in the process of their development of personhood. Finally, the paper aims to offer a detailed analysis of the particular element of eye ('I') and, more specifically, of 'the others', as they relate to the phenomenon of the evil eye.

Keywords : gaze, evil eye, mental health, personhood

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