



# Persuasion and Healing: A Comparative Study of Psychotherapy

By Jerome D. Frank MD PhD, Julia B. Frank MD

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This popular study of "psychological healing" treats topics ranging from religious revivalism and magical healing to contemporary psychotherapies, from the role of the shaman in nonindustrialized societies to the traditional mental hospital. Jerome and Julia Frank (who are father and daughter) contend that these therapies share common elements that improve the "morale" of sufferers. And in combating the "demoralizing meaning" that people attach to their experiences, the authors argue, many therapies are surprisingly similar to rhetoric (the art of persuasion) and to hermeneutics (the study of meanings).

Highly acclaimed in previous editions, *Persuasion and Healing* has been completely revised and expanded. In addition to a broadened exploration of the role of demoralization in illness, this latest edition offers updated information on topics including self-help, family therapy, psychopharmacology, psychotherapy for the mentally ill, and techniques such as primal therapy and bioenergetics. As they explore the power of "healing rhetoric" in these activities, the authors strengthen the ties among the various healing profession.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

Anyone treating patients or engaging in clinical research to develop new drug or psychosocial treatments should take a few hours to absorb, once again, the brilliance of *Persuasion and Healing*.

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*(Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease)*

Lucid, literate, and persuasive, *Persuasion and Healing* was a classic then, and remains one now.

*(British Journal of Psychiatry)*

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#### **Karen Arsenault:**

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