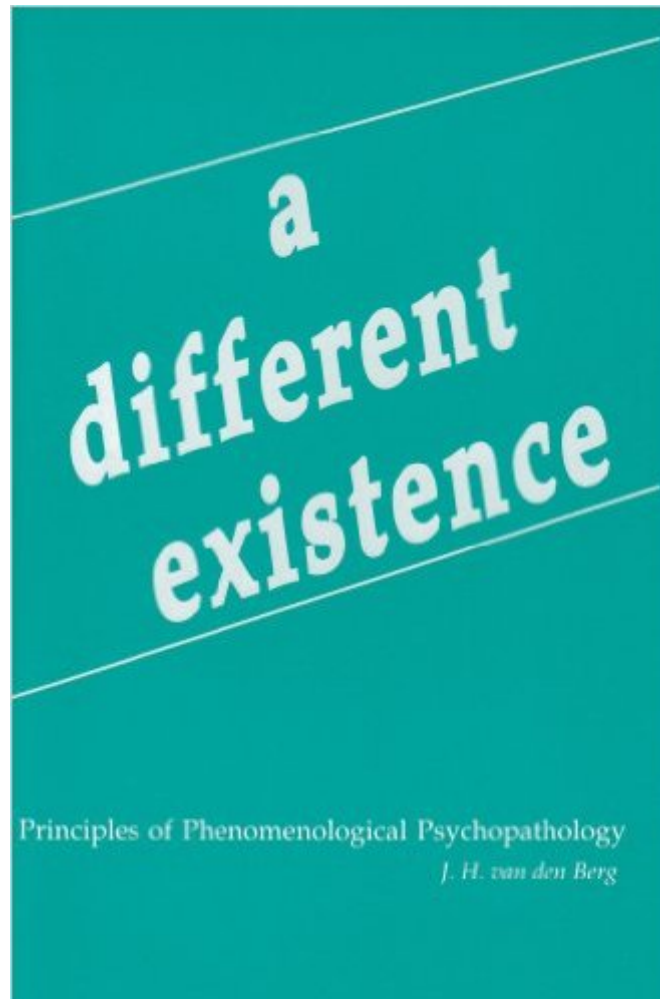


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# A Different Existence: Principles Of Phenomenological Psychopathology



## Synopsis

Through the presentation of the behavior of a single case, van den Berg elaborates the major forms of experiencing, including one's physical world, one's body, one's social world, and time perspective of past and future. Before elaborating how these notions can be dealt with within an existential orientation, he discusses their traditional conception in pathology under the rubrics of projection, conversion, transference, and mythicizing. In a final chapter, he provides an integrating framework in discussing pathology as the experience of loneliness. Not the least of the rewards in this book is the author's concluding section providing an historical summary of phenomenological psychopathology. Seminal works and ideas of such major figures as Dilthey, Jaspers, Binswanger, Straus, Boss, and Sartre, as well as less-known contributors, are given a brief but judicious presentation. We can be grateful to the author . . . for this felicitous entree into an important avenue for understanding the abnormal personality. • Contemporary Psychology

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For those looking for an accurate and concrete introduction to phenomenological psychopathology, this book is probably the best way to go. Van den Berg is a pretty good phenomenologist, and has a very down-to-earth yet evokative descriptive style that, while sometimes frustratingly vague, can also be quite revealing. Unfortunately, Van den Berg spends a bit too much of his time talking about patients' relationships with the physical world and almost no time speaking of the structure of their interpersonal relationships, making his interpretations sometimes seem strangely decontextualized and a bit off the mark. Still, this is a neat little book that can be quite helpful when one is trying

to get an intuitive and nontechnical grasp of phenomenological psychopathology.

This is one of the most under-rated phenomenology books available. On first read it appears simplistic, but this is both its charm and power. Phenomenology is not complex - it is very simple. It is seeing (or hearing etc) what is there - before any interpretation. And this is perhaps the difficult part - engaging with things without interpreting them. This book must be re-read and then it can be mindblowing. And many of today's 'stars' - like Hillman and Sardello owe van den Berg a large debt. Also try his other books, particularly 'Changing Nature of Man' and 'Divided Existence and Complex Society'.

Great book that makes you think about where you truly are in life. It is a must for all psychology minded people.

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