

# The Jaded Traveller: John Jasper's Failed Psychic Quest in Charles Dickens's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

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## The "Jaded Traveller": John Jasper's Psychic Quest in Charles Dickens's *of Edwin Drood*.

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English

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### Committee Chair or Co-Chairs

William Styron Harris Jr.

### Committee Members

Edwin W. Williams, Judith B. Slagle

### Abstract

This thesis is a Jungian study of John Jasper, the central character in Charles Dickens's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Jasper fails to achieve psychological individuation; he suffers from what Carl G. Jung calls dissociation of consciousness, which prevents Jasper from entering the process of individuation--a

Jasper's boredom, self-alienation, hypocrisy, and secret double self.

Faced with projections of his anima and shadow self, Jasper has psychological and spiritual growth. But rather than integrate the personality that each of the anima and shadow figures represent, he sends messages or attempts to mesmerize them into submission to himself.

Throughout the novel, the journey motif constantly surfaces, as he goes on a quest in search of his self. But it is a failed quest that leads to his disintegration.

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