



Mythological Archetypes as an Emergent Process



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A new born baby

A new-born baby is a complex adaptive system

- Dissipative System
- Maintains its own boundaries
- Ability to learn
- Formed by the self organisation of a large number of autonomous agents interacting intensely

Physical energy flow

food is eaten processed and waste excreted

Mental energy flow

experiences are perceived, processed and responded to. It is a recursive process.



A new born baby

The new-born baby creates a series of nested complex adaptive systems.

From the network of neurons emerge thoughts and feelings.

From the complex interactions of thoughts and feelings emerges a sense of self.



A new born baby

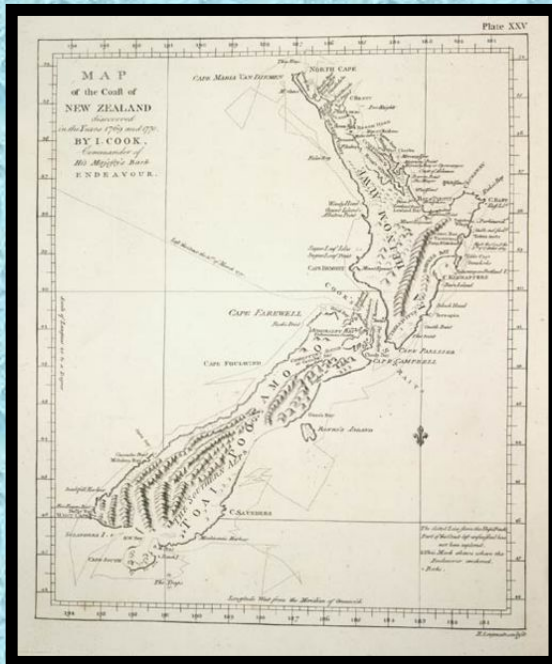


In order to make sense of its experience the newborn must create a mental map inside itself with representations of:

- itself
- the environment in which it lives
- its relationships to the people in its life.

It then compares what it experiences to the map to decide how to act.

A map of New Zealand by Captain Cook



Captain Cook made this map of New Zealand in 1769. It was surprisingly accurate, but has some notable errors.

Through dynamically interacting with its world, the baby's map gradually becomes more accurate and forms a dynamically stable, evolving sense of self.

The birth of humanity



Each individual had to form a mental map; one that was sufficiently aligned to everybody else in the community, so their communications made sense to each other. The aligning of individual minds is like the swarming of

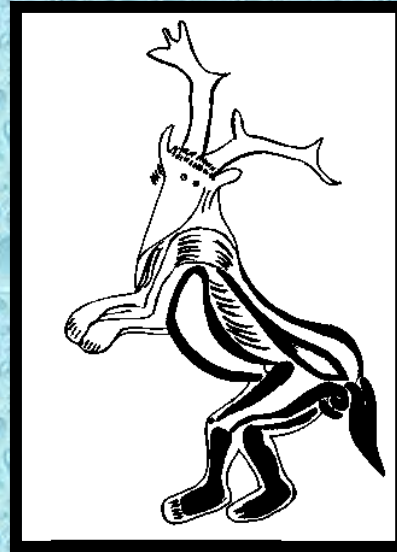
fish or birds, or an ant colony, where new characteristics emerge in the group that enable greater co-operation.

The birth of community



A significant social development was specialised roles for different community members.

The birth of community



Four core roles found in all traditional societies are:

- the leader
- the wisdom keeper
- the protector
- the nurturer



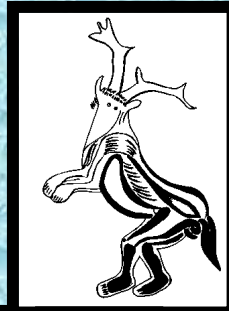
The birth of community



Each tribal member needed to form a similar mental pattern of each role in their map. It showed them:

- how to act in their role
- what to expect of others in their roles.

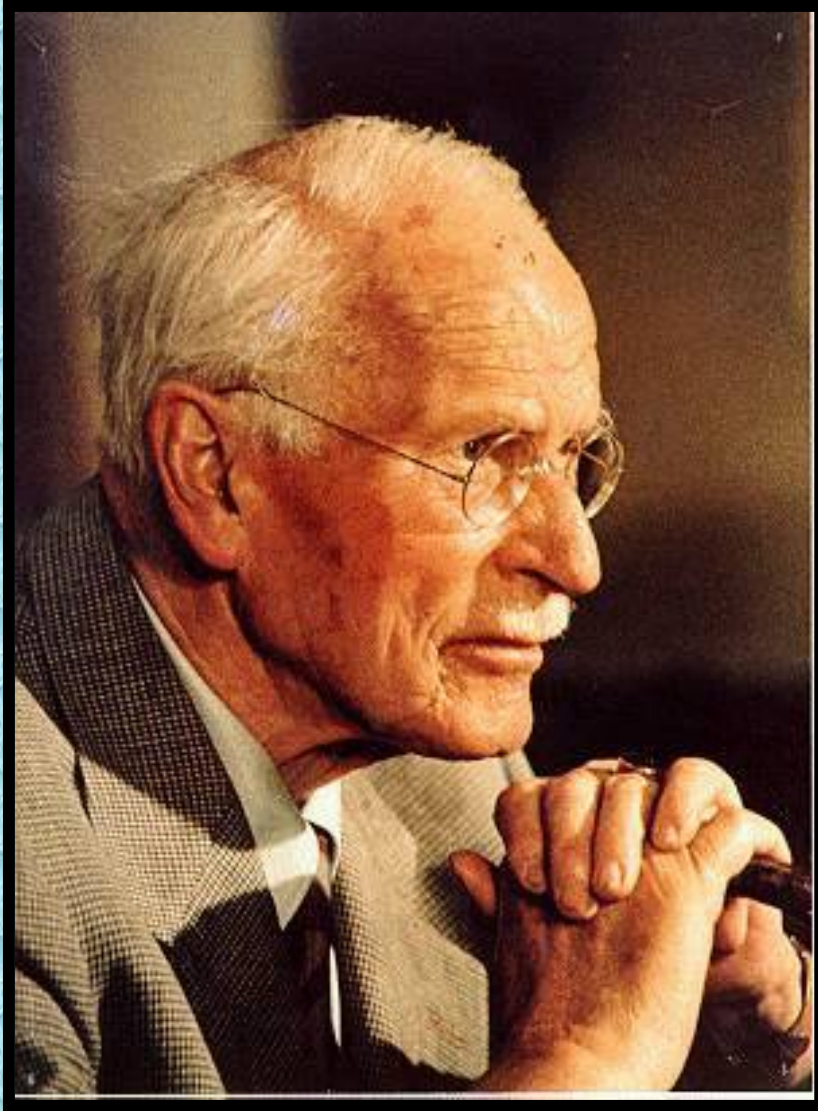
Shared human mental constructs



We inherited these shared human mental constructions from our ancestors. Each new generation analyses the strength of these roles in the minds of the people.



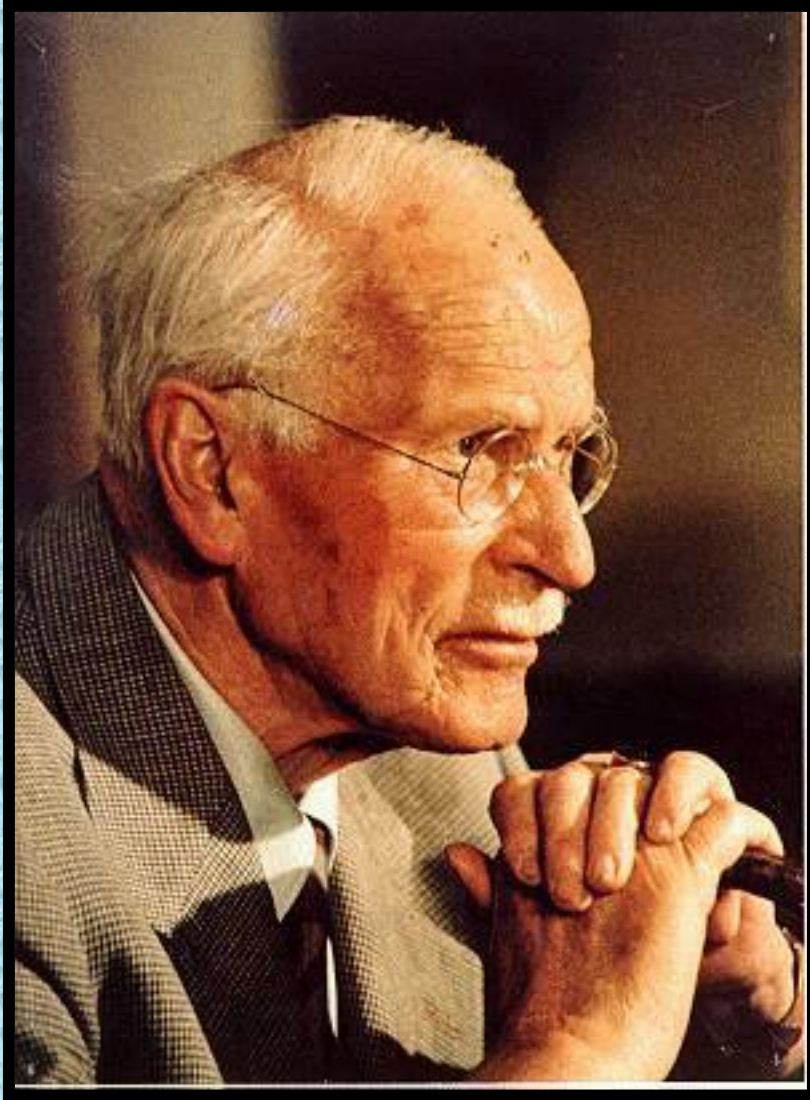
Archetypes



Carl Jung discovered these shared human mental constructs and called them *Archetypes*.

Archetypes are pre-cultural systems common to all. Each culture adapts them to suit their environment and circumstances.

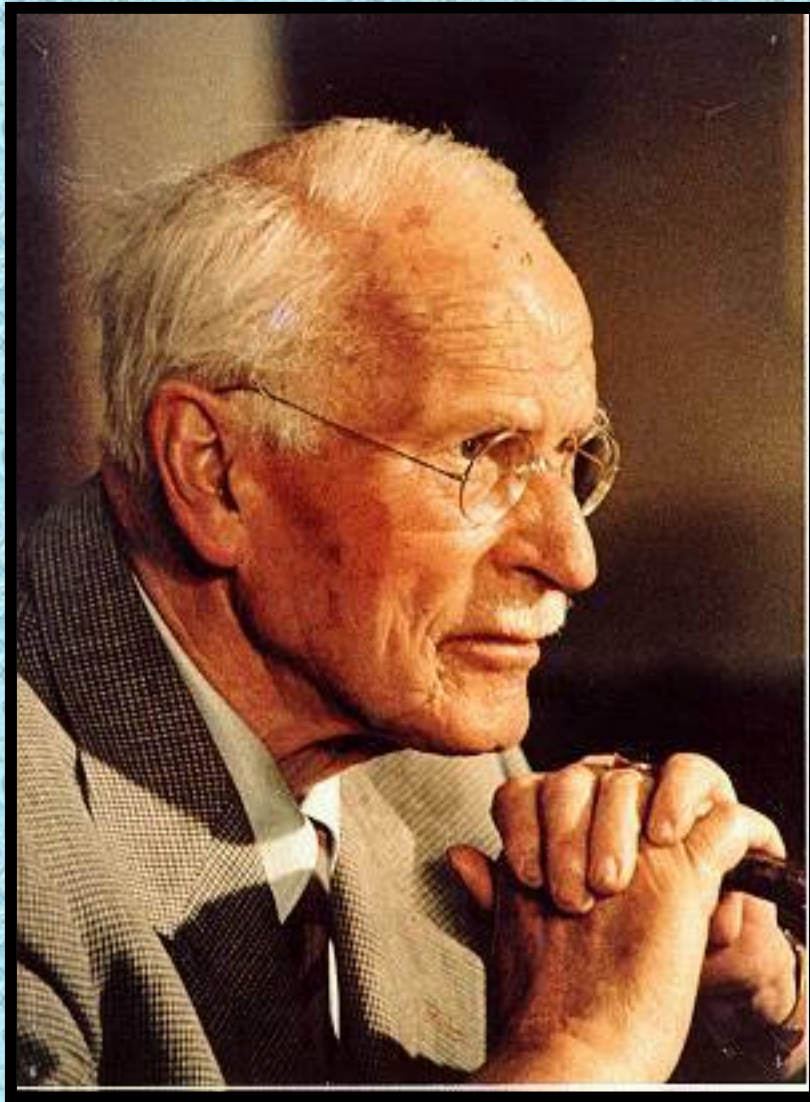
Archetypes



Archetypes have a magical mysterious quality about them. Jung proposed that they reside in the collective unconscious and were formed in a realm beyond time and space.

Could the collective unconscious rather be a bottom up emergent product of communities of minds?

Archetypes



Might the magical, mysterious, vibrant nature of archetypes rather be explained as products of the next nested level of mental energy whose emergent properties are not previously predictable by investigating the agents that formed them.

Communities of minds
Collective unconscious

-

Individual sense of self

-

Thoughts and feelings

-

Neural network in brain

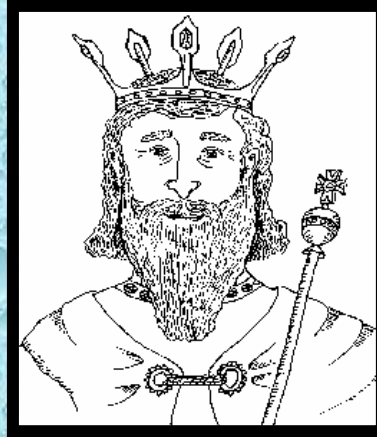
Four core archetypes

Robert Moore identified four key archetypes that match the four key tribal roles.

King	-	leader
Warrior	-	protector
Magician	-	wisdom holder
Lover	-	nurturer



King, warrior, magician, lover



The King

authority, power, control, decision making

King, warrior, magician, lover



The Warrior

Protection, courage to resist threats to our
autonomy, defends boundaries

King, warrior, magician, lover



The Magician

wisdom, knowledge, understanding,
learning, healing

King, warrior, magician, lover



The Lover

Compassion, concern for self, concern for others

King, warrior, magician, lover



King - authority
Warrior - courage
Magician - wisdom
Lover - compassion

King, warrior, magician, lover

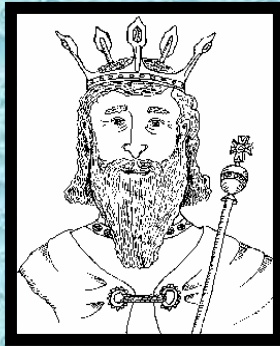


Distortions

Each of the above archetypes has two associated archetypes.

- over expresses the energy of the archetype
- one under expresses the energy.

King, warrior, magician, lover



Clown
King
Tyrant

Coward
Warrior
Bully

Dizzy
Blond
Magician
Witch

Martyr
Lover
Witch

Witch and the Clown



King - powerful, commands respect confident, responsible.

Clown - weak, clumsy, invites ridicule, avoids control and responsibility



Magician - wise, kind knowledgeable, heals,

Witch - nasty, self centred, uses magic to control and manipulate and devour others

Witch and the Clown

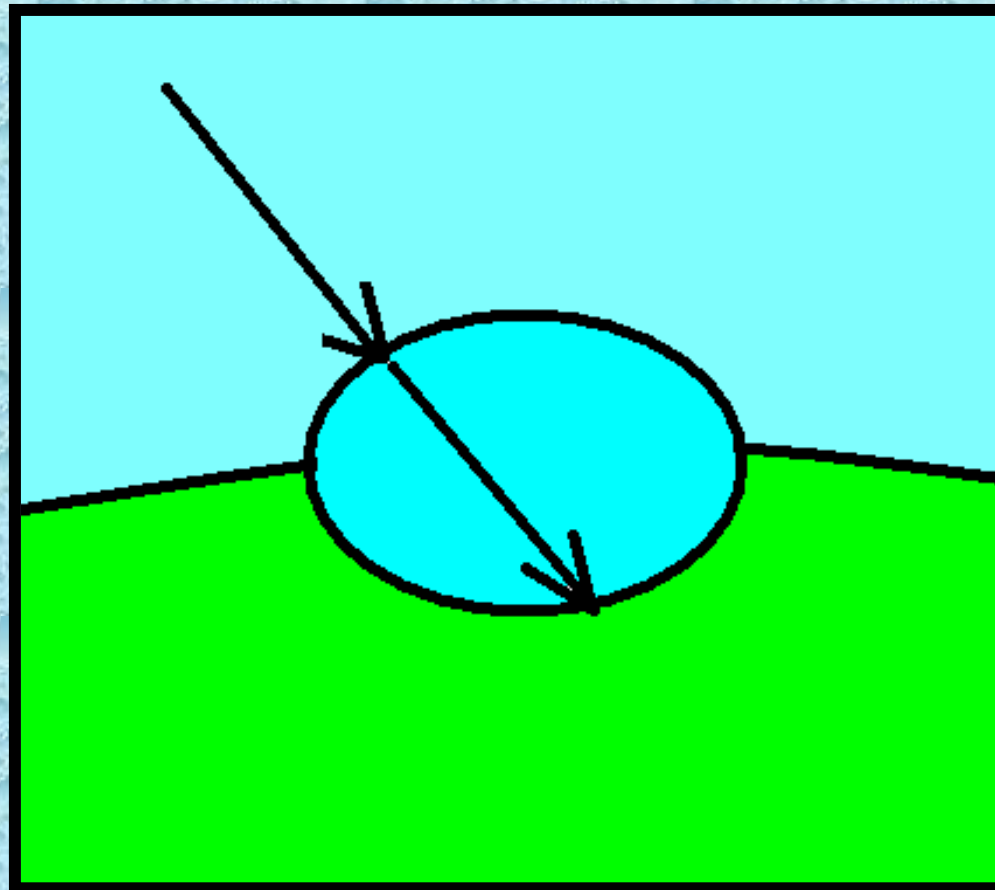


Clown - to cope with his inadequacies, he looks for somebody else to take control of his life.

Witch - to cope with her inadequacies, she looks for somebody whose else life she can control.

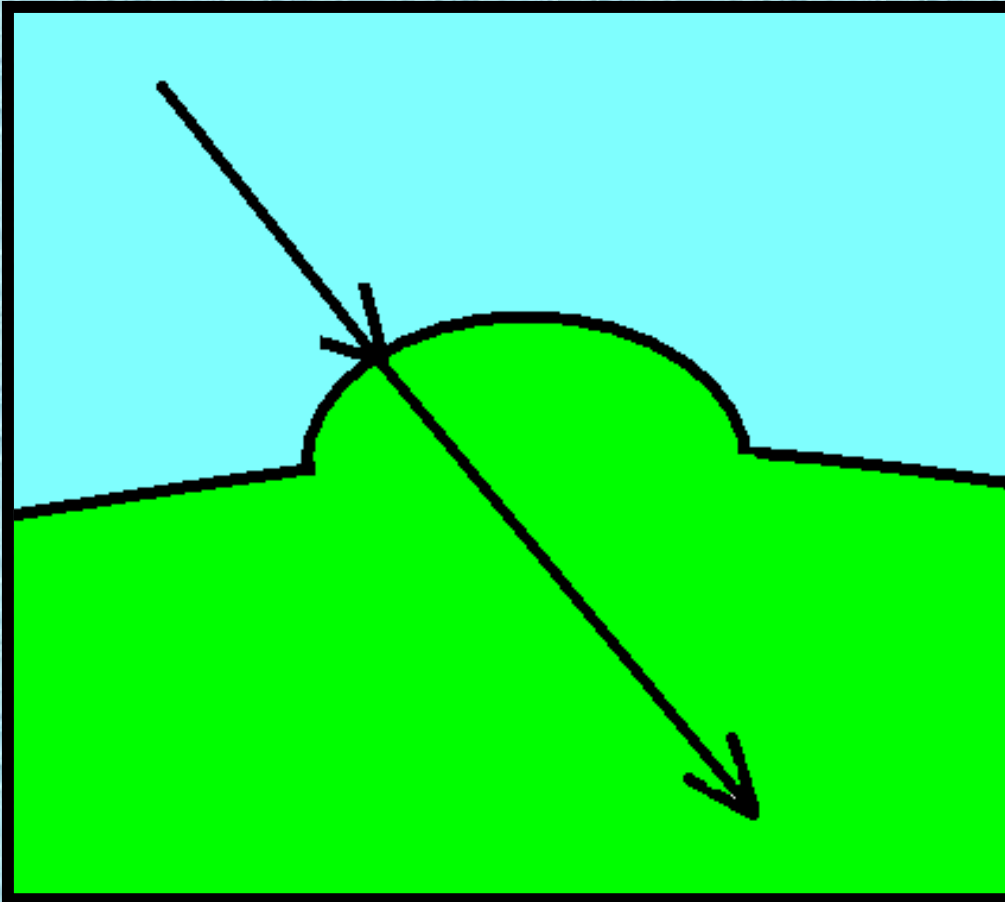
They form a dynamically stable, but dysfunctional relationship.

Another archetype



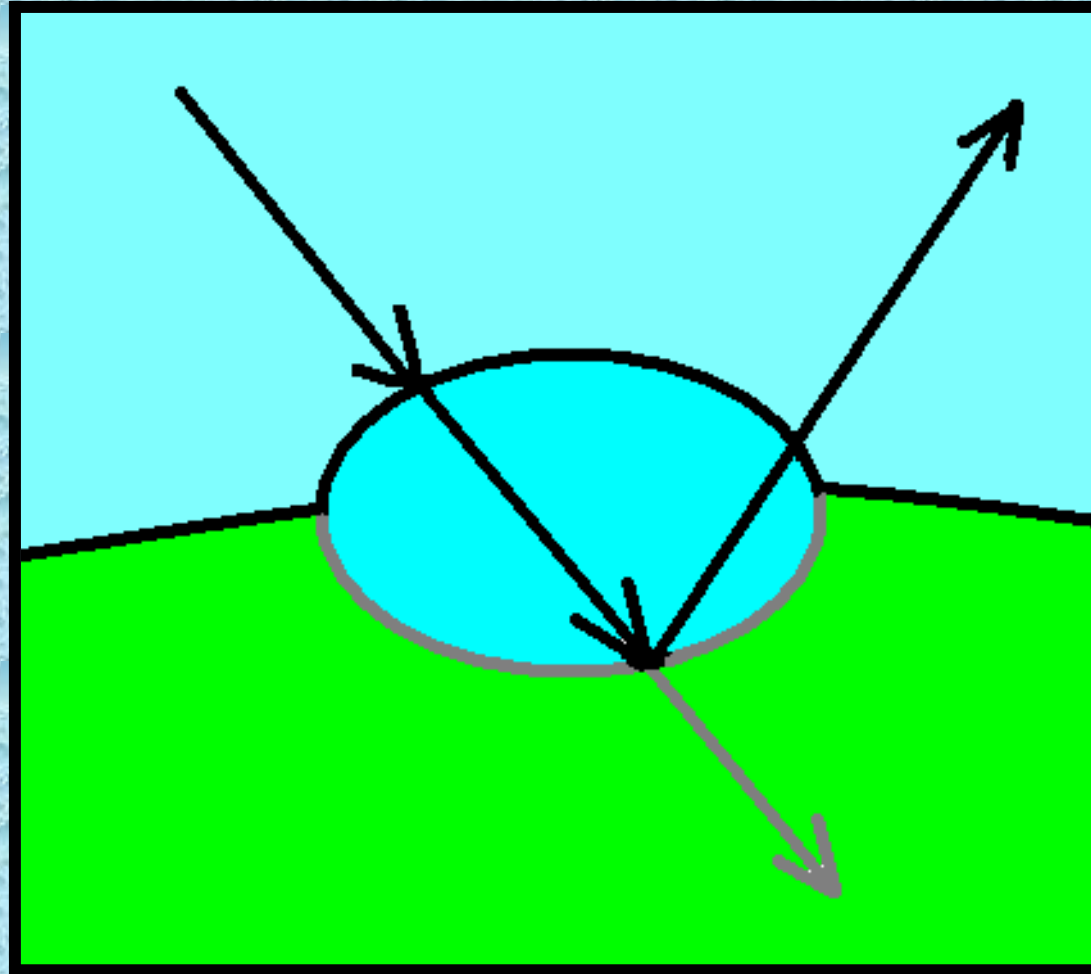
Becoming
aware of an
event in the
outside world

Another archetype



Accepting and
integrating an
experience
within us

Another archetype



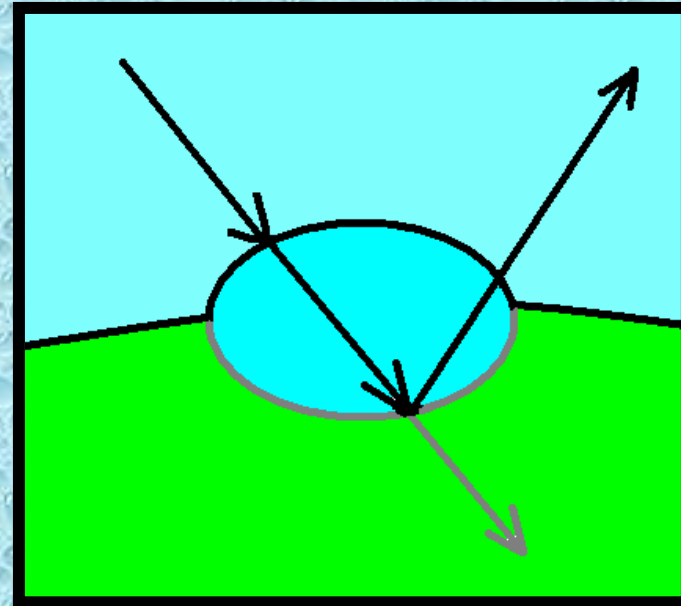
Rejecting
part or all of
an
experience

Coping with the unknown

Any event we deny has already been perceived, so it can not go away.

The mental energy associated with the experience is quarantined off into our a part of our unconscious mind as a separate mental construct, to become a strange attractor for further rejected experiences. Jung called the *Shadow* and I call

The Dragon



Coping with the unknown



The dragon represents all the experiences we have had that we have not been able to integrate fully into our being.

Coping with the unknown

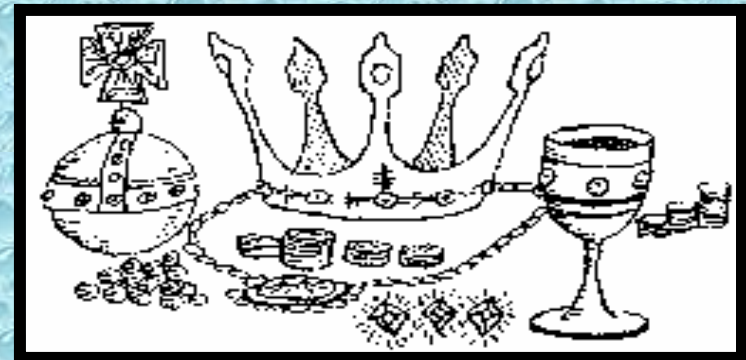


We unfortunately reject some experiences, and relegate them to the dragon, which actually reflect our true nature, because we do not yet have the courage to embrace them. Our greatest potential sits unrealised within the dragon.

Coping with the unknown



So, within the dragon is our treasure. We can only find our treasure by facing our dragon.



The Dragon



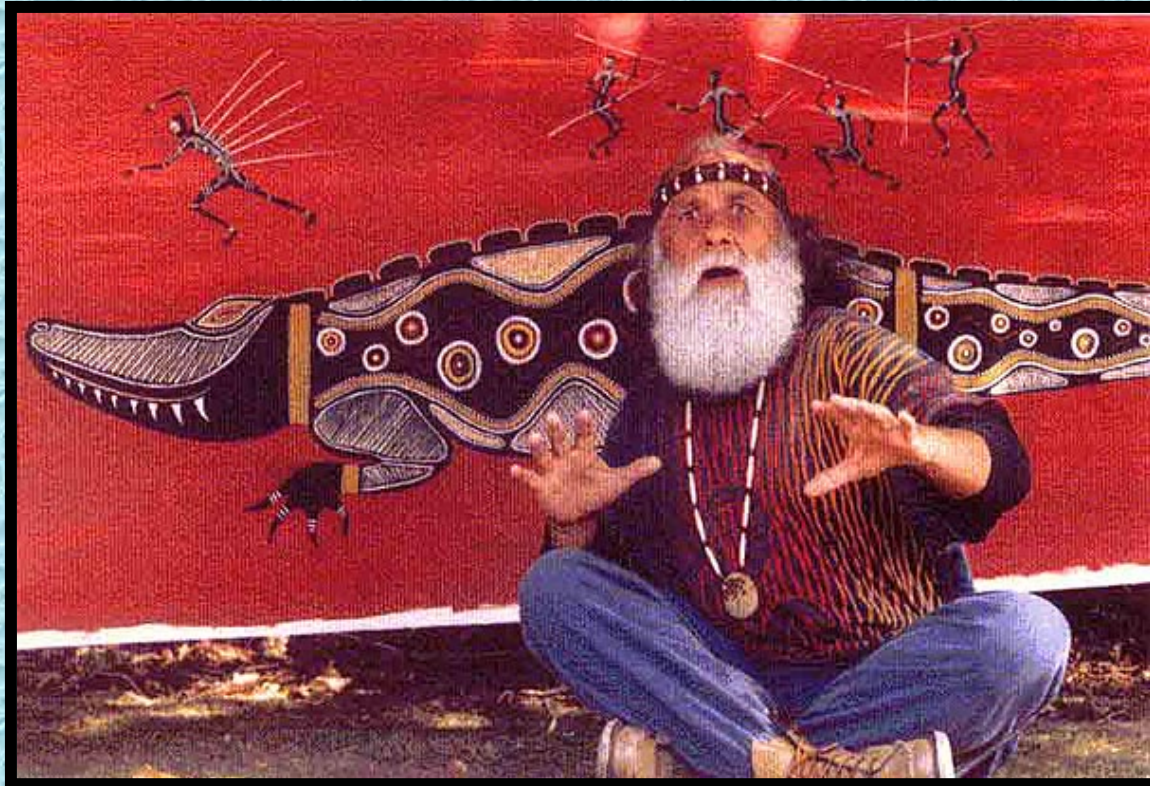
The dragon is the pathway to peace

Story



Story brings archetypes into the world of time and space. Story links minds and gives meaning.

Story



Traditional societies use story as myth to explain who they are, how they got here, why the world is as it is, why we are the way we are and what happens when we die.

Story

There are common archetypal characters and themes in the stories of traditional societies all around the world.

- a tree
- a serpent
- a male hero and/or a female heroine who must undertake a difficult task. They are often tricked into the journey
- sacrifice, death and resurrection conferring a treasure or reward.

The World Tree



- roots in the underworld
- trunk through the centre of the world
- leaves reaching into the heavens.

It is a symbol of the pathway of human development from innocence and ignorance to wisdom and fulfillment.

The serpent



The serpent is a variant of the dragon.

- negative aspect - the dreadful dragon
- positive aspect - the treasure in the dragon.

The serpent symbolises the journey towards perfection.

Myths



Adam and Eve

Myths



Osiris and the
Tamarisk tree

Myths



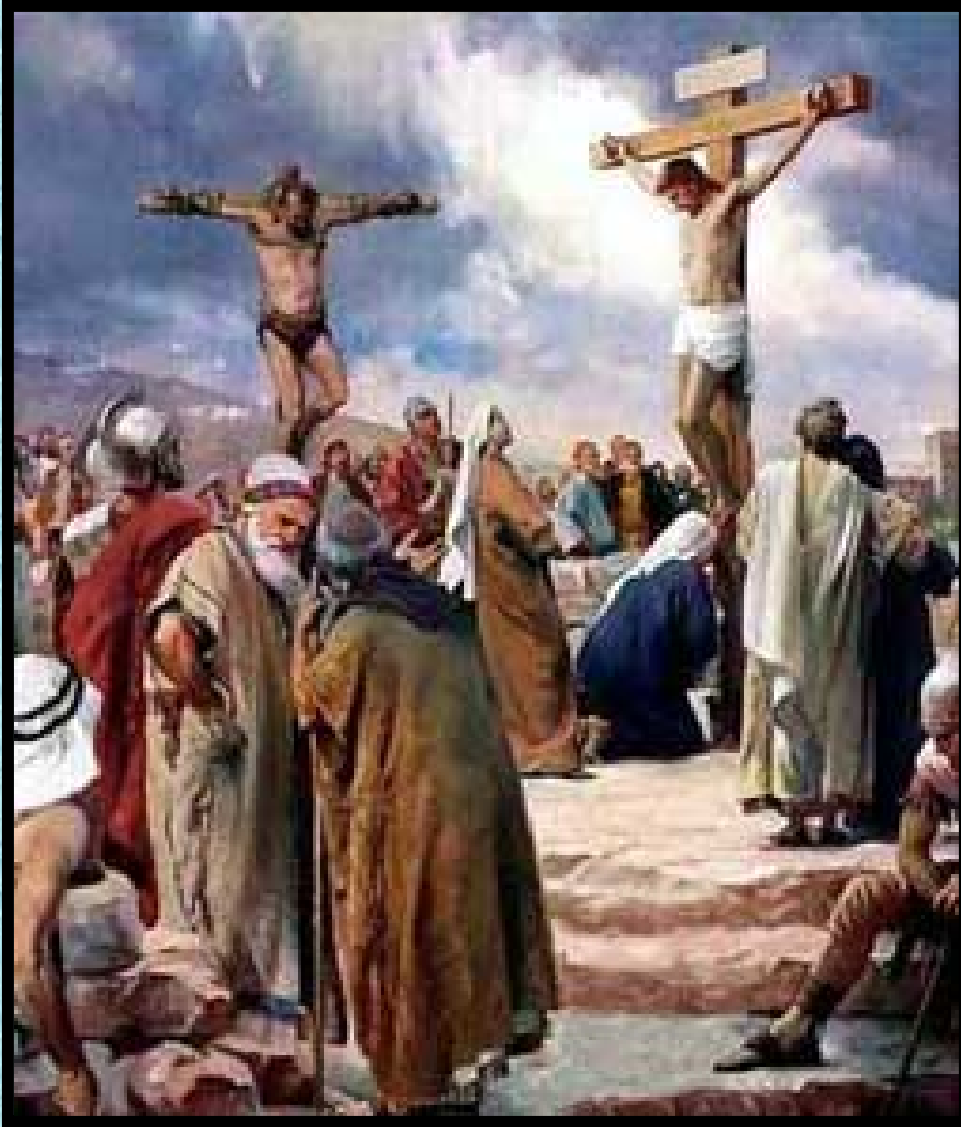
Odin and the world
tree Yggdrassil

Myths



Tane and Whiro climb to Io Matua Kore
for the baskets of Knowledge

Myths



Jesus on the cross

Myths and fairy stories



Jack and the beanstalk

- beanstalk - world tree
- serpent/dragon - giant
- Jack hero with a task (overcome the giant)
- Jack tricked into swapping the cow for the magic beans
- The death of the giant heralds a new life for Jack.
- bag of gold, goose that lays the golden egg, singing lyre - rewards

Fairy Stories



Myths and fairy stories enliven the archetypes within us and can generate emergent outcomes in our lives. They map our life's journey, imprinting a future where we "live happily ever after".

May the force be with you

