

THE SIGN OF 4 :

THE QUEST TO DISCOVER GREAT STORY-STRUCTURE !

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AMAZING ARSENAL OF ARCHETYPAL ACES !

Nice to have you back - and a very warm welcome to this second volume . . .

A ton has been written on this chapter's theme- but not like this.

When we all see a great play on stage - or on the silver-screen - or simply

read about, a great cast of story people – it causes us to wonder - *How do you make a good cast ?*

In fact, any cast ?

For the truth isn't about the actors who make a great cast – nor characterization.

It is about the fact that they are an **E N S E M B L E** - and composed from many **P A R T S** !

Why can't we write a story about - A BUTCHER, A BAKER, and A CANDLE-STICK MAKER ?

Those people are just meaningless entities – whose occupations are just boring **ROLES**. And those things are just dull-as-dishwater **J O B D E S C R I P T I O N S**.

Who are these people really ?

What are their character types ?

Robert McKee said – *STORY* is nothing but **ARCHETYPAL**, and not **STEREOTYPICAL**.

Bad-advice tells you to avoid the ARCHETYPE at all costs !

Many agents complain - *Those characters are all wrong. I don't know who they are !* In a situation like that, it's down to the characters not being justified into the special ARCHETYPES.

ARCHETYPES help us all to understand their precise inter-relations within a cast. We must feel we know each character - and also what they stand for.

A : Seen any 5 year old three-legged pirates, who are part-time university lecturers about ?

B : Not lately, and I don't think I'll ever will !

That's because they don't exist in real-life. They don't serve any literary function either. Not a HERO or a REASONER - for example.

A : But what about a ex-university lecturer turned Indonesian drug-runner ?

B : Don't know any off-hand, but I'll bet I'll see one on the television news tomorrow.

One could exist – and could serve some literary function – not least, as a VILLAIN or ANTAGONIST. Not all these archetypes are evil VILLAINS – they could be your BEST FRIEND . . .

Funnily enough, ANTAGONISTS don't always have to be people. They can be animals or man-made objects – like a car or train. And they don't have to be something you can see or touch. It could just be a troublesome long-running problem !!!

SIGMUND FREUD – THE PSYCHOANALYTICAL MIND THEORY

It comes from one of the biggest popular thinking ever.

I'm extremely proud of this achievement, which I remade on the evening of 23 rd August 2021 – two days before my birthday. Though I had realised this circa 1995 .

Remember that great ground-breaking 1956 *M . G . M.* production – *FORBIDDEN PLANET?*

If you have never watched it – then you must. For the sci-fi classic, dealt with *THE CREATURES FROM THE I D*. After a thousand years of evolution, the race of aliens on Altair IV could achieve true greatness – they could move mountains across the whole of their gigantic planet just by using the power of the mind. Yet, they forgot one major detail . . .

They had been flesh-and-blood creatures – with a primitive untamed unconscious. From deep within their own minds, *THE I D* created a series of nightmarish creatures that attacked the Krell, who all perished in a single night.

We all have *CREATURES FROM THE SUBCONSCIOUS* buried in our human psyche, much just like those fated alien beings. Strangely however, these primitive-apes just love LITERARY-THEORY. And it is to the MIND-MONKEYS that our stories must appeal to. For our conscious mind cannot easily discover what a story is !!!

THE INDIVIDUAL CONSCIOUS MIND

Here the term CONSCIOUS means – that even asleep your mind is whirring away keeping your heart and breathing going.

If our FOUR STORY ANIMALS are not capable of work – than you are DEAD !!!

From our last volume, we now possess FOUR BOTTOM A 4 SHEETS.

We can write out F-O-U-R more - that *H O V E R* above - creating twin layers.

S N A K E THE GREAT INDIVIDUALIST - can be written down as :

LOOKS AFTER : *THE SINGLE* - “ I ”

ULTRA PERSONAL VIEW - *inside the single mind*

GOOD FUTURE ACTIONS based on BAD PAST DECISIONS

CONCERNED with : T H E P A S T

Archetype : THE SKEPTIC

Traits : Grumpy / Pleasant

SNAKE - THE SINGLE :

SUPER – EGO NEGATIVE

BAD FEELINGS

“ Grumpy & Out Of Sorts ”

SUBCONSCIOUS - the inner-most depths of awake thought

ELEPHANT - THE GROUP :

Snarky SKEPTIC + 2

Regular SKEPTIC - 4

Emotional REASONER - 2

Heroic COMPANION - 1

EXCUSE : *I/We can't/can do it !*

LION - THE RELATIONSHIP :

THE PROBLEM PEOPLE

“I perceive these individuals helping to solve the problem ”

RELUCTANT HERO - TRAUMATIC TRUTH

EMOTIONAL WORLD - TEMPORARY ACHIEVEMENT

Once upon a time – a hero was in peril . . .

A great plan with lots of good luck !

GIRAFFE - THE WORLD STAGE :

STYLE & APPEARANCE

Perceptions of GOOD / BAD style

Comments on FASHION – *clothing, decoration, music* etc.

Values of *Sartorial Elegance* - gangsters beautifully and expensively
attired . . .

GROUP ACTOR ELEPHANT - can be written down as :

LOOKS AFTER: *THE GROUP* - " We "

INTER PERSONAL VIEW - *helping people, one at a time - one day at a time*

GOOD / BAD DECISIONS / ACTIONS based in THE PRESENT TIME

CONCERNED with : THE PRESENT

Archetype : THE VILLAIN ?

Traits : Saint / Sinner ?

SNAKE - THE SINGLE :

THE TROUBLE double minus

BAD EMOTIONS

“ The Tricksters ”

PRECONSCIOUS battling with a *SUB* “*ID*”

~~ *when the answer is at the back of your mind / on the tip of your tongue !*

ELEPHANT - THE GROUP :

REBEL with heart + 3

Naive Gullible AID + 4

Magician / Prankster + 5

IMPULSIVE

ACCUSE : “ *amidst all the accusations* ”

We won't / will do it !

LION - THE RELATIONSHIP :

EVASIVE ENEMY ACTION

“ I consider this to be in poor taste ”

THOUGHTFUL HERO - SECRET SILENT TRUTH

NEWSWORTHY WORLD - INEQUALITIES OF LIFE

Education & inquiry to prove there is more than meets the eye . . .

Solve environmental problems - and to understand people better !

GIRAFFE - THE WORLD STAGE :

Things are considered in GOOD / BAD t a s t e . . .

Simulated experiences - IMITATION of WORLDS ~ *fact and fiction*

“ This is my world famous impression of a standard lamp ! ”

- says the man standing to attention . . .

RELATIONSHIP L I O N - can be written down as :

LOOKS AFTER: *THE RELATIONSHIPS* - “ *Us together* ”

SUPER PERSONAL VIEW - *between small groups & their surroundings*

GOOD FUTURE DECISIONS based on BAD PAST ACTIONS

CONCERNED with : T H E C H A N G E S

Archetype : GOODIE & BADDIE

Traits : Charming and Intelligent - *for different ends...*

SNAKE - THE SINGLE :

EGO - THE REALITY plus & minus

GOOD EMOTIONS

“ The HERO ? ”

CONSCIOUS battling with UNCONSCIOUS “ID ”

ELEPHANT - THE GROUP :

STRONG MORAL - DREAMER neutral rated

INSECURE with FALSE BRAVADO = *several roles*

Fallen GUARDIAN + 6

Sociopathic VILLAIN + 7

Psychopathic VILLAIN + 8

BEST FRIEND to change destiny + 1

BLAME :

We / they shouldn't do it !

Frankly, I blame the parents !!!

LION - THE RELATIONSHIP :

ALLIED ACTIONS

“ This experience makes sense – I can relate to it ”

UNCERTAIN HERO - SUSPECTING THE TRUTH

UNCERTAIN WORLD - PERSISTANT SKILLS

Forget the bad past, and just go forward with renewed hope

Safe in your new found knowledge - on an ever changing planet !

GIRAFFE - THE WORLD STAGE :

ULTILITARIAN PLEASURE or DIS-PLEASURE

Uniforms – dominance hardship – objects used

Students wearing traffic cones on their heads . . .

And jumping in the public fountains !!!

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