

Archetypes and Psychological Development

"The reason why conscious exists, and why there is an urge to widen and deepen it, is very simple: without consciousness things go less well." CGJ

"As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being." CGJ

A knowledge of archetypes and archetypal patterns is a kind of blueprint, or background tapestry, against which our individual complexes are played out. True healing does not happen in the head; it occurs through feeling-toned realizations in response to lived experience, encountering archetypal dimensions of one's personal and collective Unconscious.

The archetypal elements in the personality are innate dispositions to react, behave and interact in certain typical and predictable ways. They are inherited and not acquired, and they belong to each human being by virtue of being born human. They are experienced in everyday life through the experiences of complexes.

Archetypes are systems of readiness for action, and at the same time images and emotions. They are inherited with brain structure – indeed they are its psychic aspect."

It is not...a question of inherited ideas but of inherited possibilities of ideas. Nor are they individual acquisitions but, in the main, common to all, as can be seen from their universal occurrence. Archetypes present themselves as ideas and images, like everything else that becomes a content of consciousness.

INSTINCTS

Physiological: body symptoms
Instinctual perceptions, etc.

ARCHETYPES

Psychological: spirit, dreams
conceptions, images,
fantasies

Like any archetype, the essential nature of the Self is unknown and possibly unknowable, but its manifestation – archetypal images of the Self – are known to us all, in one form or another, as the content of dreams, myth and legend.