| Examples of Archetypes (Guerin, et al. 157-163) |
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| **Images** |
| **Example** | **Meaning** |
| **Water** | creation; birth-death-resurrection; purification and redemption; fertility and growth; the unconscious * Sea: Mother of life; spiritual mystery and infinity, death and rebirth; timelessness and eternity; unconscious
* River: death and rebirth (baptism): flow of time into eternity; transition in life; incarnation of deity
 |
| **Sun** | creative energy; law in nature; consciousness or enlightenment; wisdom or spirtual vision; father/masculine; passage of time/life |
| **Colors** | * Red: blood; sacrifice; extreme passion; disorder
* Green: growth; sensation; hope; fertility; negatively, death and decay
* Blue: positivity; truth, spirituality; security; spiritual purity
* Black: chaos; mystery; the unknown; death; primal wisdom; unconscious; evil; melancholy
* White (positive): light; purity; innocence; timelessness
* White (negative): death; terror; the supernatural; "blinding truth of an inscrutable cosmic mystery"
 |
| **Circle(Sphere)** | wholeness; unity * Mandala: desire for spiritual unity and psychic integration
* Egg (oval): mystery of life; force of regeneration
* Yang-Yin: Chinese symbol, union of opposing forces, the masculine (light, activity, conscious) and the feminine (dark, passivity, unconscious)
* Ouroboros (snake biting its tail): eternal cycle of life; primordial unconsciousness; unity of oppositions
 |
| **Serpent(snake, worm)** | **energy** or pure force (libido); evil; corruption; sensuality; destruction; mystery; wisdom; the unconscious |
| **Numbers** | * Three: light; spiritual awareness and unity; masculine
* Four: circle; life cycle; seasons; four elements (earth, air, fire, water); earth; nature; feminine
* Seven: union of three and four; completeness; perfection
 |
| **Woman** | * Great Mother: mysteries of life, death, transformation
* Good Woman: life principle; birth; warmth; nourishment; protection; fertility; growth; abundance
* Terrible Mother: witch; sorceress; siren; whore; femme fatale; sensuality; sexual orgies; fear; danger; darkness; dismemberment; emasculation; death; unconscious fears
* Soul Mate: Sophia (wisdom); Holy Mother; princess; beautiful lady; incarnation of inspiration and spiritual fulfillment; Jungian *anima*
 |
| **Wise Old Man** | savior; redeemer; guru; personification of spirituality; represents knowledge, reflection, insight, wisdom, cleverness, intuition, moral qualities; makes judgements and awards gifts based on those judgements |
| **Garden** | paradise; innocence; unspoiled beauty (particularly feminine); fertility |
| **Tree** | life of the cosmos; inexhaustible life; immortality |
| **Desert** | spiritual aridity; death; nihilism; hopelessness |
| **Motifs or Patterns** |
| **Example** | **Meaning** |
| **Creation** | Fundamental archetype: Most myths are based on the origin of the cosmos, nature, or humanity |
| **Immortality** | * Escape from time: "Return to Paradise" - return to a state of perfection
* Mystical submersion into cyclical time endless death and regeneration; hero submits to the eternal cycle of nature
 |
| **Hero** | * Quest: hero undertakes long journey, performing impossible tasks, battling with monsters, solving impossible riddles, overcoming insurmountable obstacles, to save kingdom/marry princess (death and rebirth)
* Initiation: hero undergoes excruciating ordeals, passing from ignorance and immaturity to social/spiritual adulthood. Three phases: separation, transformation, return (death and rebirth)
* Scapegoat: hero must die to atone for sins of tribe or nation, taking on the guilt of the majority to restore the land/culture
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Works Cited **HUM 2130 World Mythology**