

THE FUNCTION OF SYMBOLS
AND THE PROCESSES OF SYMBOLISM

The astral and telepathic sheaths all share one thing in common, according to occult legend. They are made up out of the same "stuff." Another way of putting this is that spirit-Lights, in their greater aspects, have been in communion with each other from the "beginning."

R Yet another way to express this commonality is through the very ancient occult saying: "As above, so below."

latter
This ~~third saying~~ has to do with how the cosmos and everything in it is designed within the far greater concepts of infinity and eternity. For all achieved occultists will hold that the cosmos IS designed, exactly as today's cosmologists are beginning to intuit. In occult terms, the first and immensely greater part of this design is called the Macrocosm, ✓

while the energies and forces that have individuated within the macrocosm are called Microcosms. "Macro" means larger, "Micro" means smaller.

There can be nothing in a microcosm that does not already exist in the macrocosm. There is only one macrocosm, but a plentitude of microcosms within it. Microcosms are built out of the designs already inherent in the macrocosm, and nothing in a microcosm can change the designed nature of the macrocosm. On the other hand, if the general design of the macrocosm should change, then many, many aspects within the microcosms would follow suit.

In the West (Europe and America), this organization has become reversed. Western thinking holds that "As here below, so it must be above." This may be true to some degree, but seldom does any given microcosm hold ALL the keys to the greater design above.

~~For the occultist, the smallest microcosm that can exist is the human ego-me which is/actively and does not contain within it any/elements that are hooked into the greater design. All other things, inanimate and animate (including the human body) are hooked into elements of the greater design.~~

For the occultist, the smallest microcosm that can exist is the totally despiritualized ego-me that assumes consciously that it does not contain any active elements that are hooked into the greater design, or even hooked into other microcosms. According to occultology, this is the "supreme human folly." All things, inanimate and animate (including the human body itself) are hooked into elements of the greater design.

The greater design, the Macrocosm, is an enormously vast holism that works with a delicate but extraordinarily strong order and influences all things within it, whether these things be the physical universe of matter, or the invisible energies and forces within it. The various energies fluctuate throughout the whole, while the lesser individuating forces cycle their way through the energies. As we have seen earlier, any given power-force-cycle is totally dependent upon energies deliberately or inadvertently being fed into it.

It takes spiritual energy to animate anything, whether this be the human body, a new weapon or a new philosophy. In occultology, the greatest "error" that can occur is to use spiritual energy to activate the destructive patterns of negative force-cycles. As tragic as the results of these destructive patterns can be, even these do not for long destabilize the greater holism. When the pendulum swings

too far in one direction, the elasticity of the whole pulls it back into balance.

This cosmic balancing act is always sensed by spirit, whether or not a given ego-me existing within its illusion-boundaries is aware of it. When the ego-me does sense the greater whole or parts of it, it is said to be "attuned." If the ego-me only has its attention on force-games, it is said to be "tuned in", as if only to a given radio frequency or TV channel. These analogies might be simple. But they effectively convey occult truths. We can be tuned in to channels, but the channels themselves ~~are~~ are existing in the greater whole.

One of the greater goals of occultology is to raise conscious/^{ness} (expand it enough) so that it can be attuned to the elements of the greater whole. Legend has it that in the East, meditation is one of the vehicles through which this attunement can be achieved. But we must bear in mind the general cultural outlooks of Oriental countries. We have seen that in those cultures, more especially those ancient cultures, the basic cultural imprinting consisted of being able to think from the greater whole to its lesser aspects. This cultural grounding permitted attunement far easier than does the Western grounding which is the reverse of the Orient.

Our Western grounding (imprinting) teaches us to form our thinking from ourselves outward, predisposing us to becoming trapped within our own invisible frames of references and personal illusion-boundaries. For this reason, meditation ~~frequently~~ is not an effective tool for the Westerner seeking enlightenment because even in meditation frequently we/cannot locate our illusion-boundaries that are already more easily /visible to the mystical Oriental.

The Westerner, embarking upon the Path, must find other/^{additional} tools for "getting outside" himself, his frames of references and his illusion-boundaries.

Western occultology teaches that, for the Westerner, one of the most efficacious ways of doing this is to learn the nature of symbols and study the interplay of symbolisms.

The function of symbols

Traditional occultology and contemporary dictionaries agree precisely on a definition of "symbol" and "symbolism." a symbol is a visible sign of something invisible. The function of symbols is, therefore, to render something visible to consciousness that is otherwise invisible to it.

The processes of symbolisms

A "symbolism" is defined as the art or practice of using symbols AND investing things with a symbolic meaning or by expressing the invisible or intangible by means of visible or sensuous representations. Both symbols and symbolisms are "invested" with a meaning that is otherwise invisible to consciousness.

A symbol "hides" or "occults" a set of invisible meanings. A symbolism "hides" or "occults" the interactions between two or more symbols.

How symbols and symbolisms become "invested"

In our Western ego-me thinking, there is a natural tendency to attribute ego-me values to symbols, to invest them with a meaning peculiar to each ego-me which is arranged within given frames of references and illusion-barriers that are personal. The Western ego-me then tries to offer up his personal symbol-sets to others as a form of communication about the invisibles he, as an individual, is appreciating.

To some degree, because of cultural and value imprinting, these personal symbol-sets might become shared to a degree. But it is far more likely that they will not be shared generally, and if the symbol-sets are too personal, they will not be shared at all.

Western modern art, in the service of the individual ego-me, is a good example of this. The clarion cry of the modern artist is "let me portray realities as I (the ego-me) perceive them." And so he does. There is nothing really wrong with this, except that it leaves behind the greater proportion of society that can find no identity of theirs in these intensely individualistic expressions.

Furthermore, modern art was born out of revolution and anarchy in Europe (and not in the United States) by individuals fatigued with the shallow values they perceived in their bourgeoisie which "controlled" society. In Europe, the emerging modern art tradition had value and the symbolisms evoked by European modern artists had a recognizable meaning.

When the modern art tradition was imported into the United States, whose society was not controlled by a bourgeoisie but by the working man, the art of revolution and anarchy fell short of the service it performed in Europe. Instead, it invested only a small priesthood of American pseudo-revolutionaries who wished to establish the tradition in America.

There was some justification of this because there are some pockets of American capitalism that have been notoriously heartless -- and perhaps still are. But the overall American fabric was totally different from that in Europe. Americans always have been relatively free, whereas in Europe

all individuals were caught in a netting of an entrenched hierarchical culture in which no one was free, not even the dynastic thrones. European culture needed destabilization. America only needs revitalization from time to time.

With only a few exceptions, the American conception of the force of modern art was to show society how ugly it was, and because America generally guarantees the integrity of each little ego-me in it, the American modern art movement became a project of intensely personal symbolisms concentrating upon the theme that unified them -- ugliness.

The revitalizing effect of modern art is very dubious today, as is so succinctly pointed out by the art critic, Suzi Gablik, in her wonderful revelatory book Has Modernism Failed? X aside from its probable failure as art, But/the modern art movement failed utterly in occult observing a very important/axiom: if you pour energy into ugliness, you get more of it.-- as we all now can perceive.

The highest goal of art is to revitalize, and to bring forth those symbols and symbolisms that will contribute to it. The early forms of European modern art, so closely connected to the energies that informed it, served ^{in Europe} as a revitalizing art. The American version of it did not, because the energies needing transformation were not the same at all.

This slight digression was used to illustrate, in a way, the processes of a negative symbolism at work in one ~~form~~ of the forms we are all a little familiar with. American modern art has served little real purpose within the American fabric, save perhaps to invest itself with pseud^o-status among an elite that has assumed the proportions of yet another power-force-cycle. The greater American fabric, if a little insulted, has been left virtually untouched by it.

The question then arises: what symbolisms do touch the greater fabric and revitalize it? Any occult answer would turn upon the traditional premise of the necessity to symbolize or re-symbolize positive energies, while at the same time withdrawing energy support from the negative poles holding it in a destructive or deadened state.

Symbols that are uniquely personal seldom revitalize anything at all, not even the ego-me that is utilizing them to objectify its own invisible values. It is only through a reconnection to the ~~greater~~ energies in the greater whole that a catharsis, a purification, can take place, after which, and only after which, a revitalization is felt. The highly-achieved occultist has always observed that these energies are already inherent in the greater design, and exist ^{unconsciously} in the astral and telepathic sheaths.

has sought to detach itself from any involvement with symbols and their meanings under the false hypothesis that they were mere superstition, just useless baggage to rationalism.

How great a mistake this was can only be comprehended by understanding the work of symbols and symbolisms in the personal and collective unconscious. To give a basic reality about this work, let us take a rather blunt approach.

If you want to demoralize a friend (for some reason), you only have to criticize the way the friend is dressing. This criticism ~~g~~ can be gross: "You look like a pig..." or it can be subtle: "That color doesn't suit you...". One's mode of dress -- aside from utilitarian values -- is also a cloak of symbolism the person is using to express himself whether he knows it or not. The criticism immediately sets in action a chain of events that can lead, in the extreme, to ~~was~~ local warfare.

The entire substrata of the human psychic-physiological entity can and will go into revolt as a result of an insensitive or deliberate tampering with its expressed symbols. When one nation conquers another, the very first thing the victors do is to destroy the symbols of the defeated, the goal being to further demoralize ^{what remains of} the ~~fallen~~ conquered. ~~who were not killed in the actual conflict.~~

Covert warfare (prevalant today) requires the destruction of a nation's symbols, often within its own territory. A nation without respect for its own symbols is a nation verging on doom. If a computer company should deface the logo of another computer company, the result might at first be only one of amusement by the offended. But if ~~it~~ ^{the defacement continues,} kept up, the result could easily grow in proportions analogous to what happens when a swastika is painted on a Jewish synagogue.

Each society -- as well as each individual -- develops its own set of symbols. The wise parent soon learns not to interfere too much with its teen-age child's developing symbols. Negotiating nations soon learn, if they are wise, to consider each other's symbols with respect if they wish negotiations to continue at all. Conflicting religions, when they finally decide to try to co-exist peacefully, must first of all ensure each other that the symbols of each will be respected. Conflicting generations must do the same if they want rapprochement.

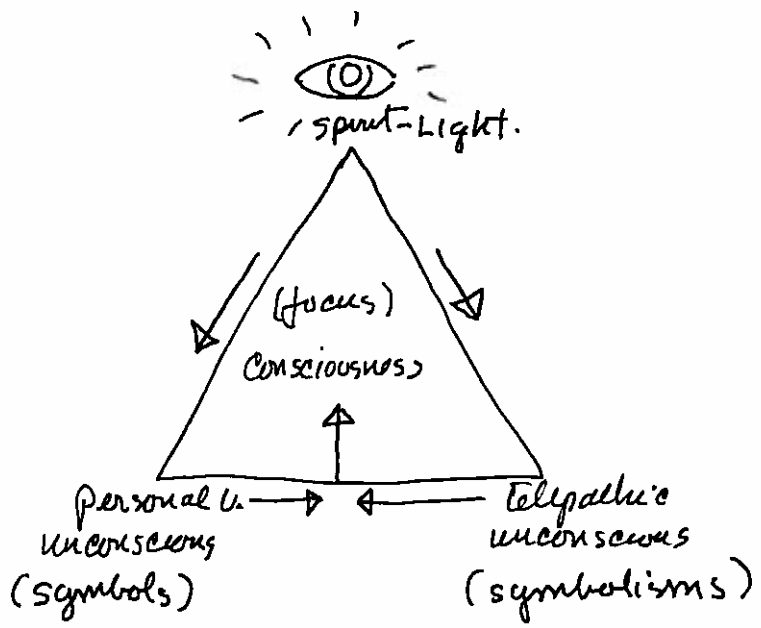
We all know, whether it is logical or not, one's home is one's castle. It may not be all we want, but it is symbolic of what we have. Our home may be inferior to that of someone who is visiting us. We may know that and the visitor may know that. But the visitor must conduct himself appropriately while in our home.

If the home is a castle, one's symbolisms are a palace by comparison. The castle is the place that gives shelter and status to the physical aspects of the body. The palace construction of symbolisms, the is the metaphysical/edifice in which and through which "Man, consciously or unconsciously, lives, works, and has his being..." (Carlyle).

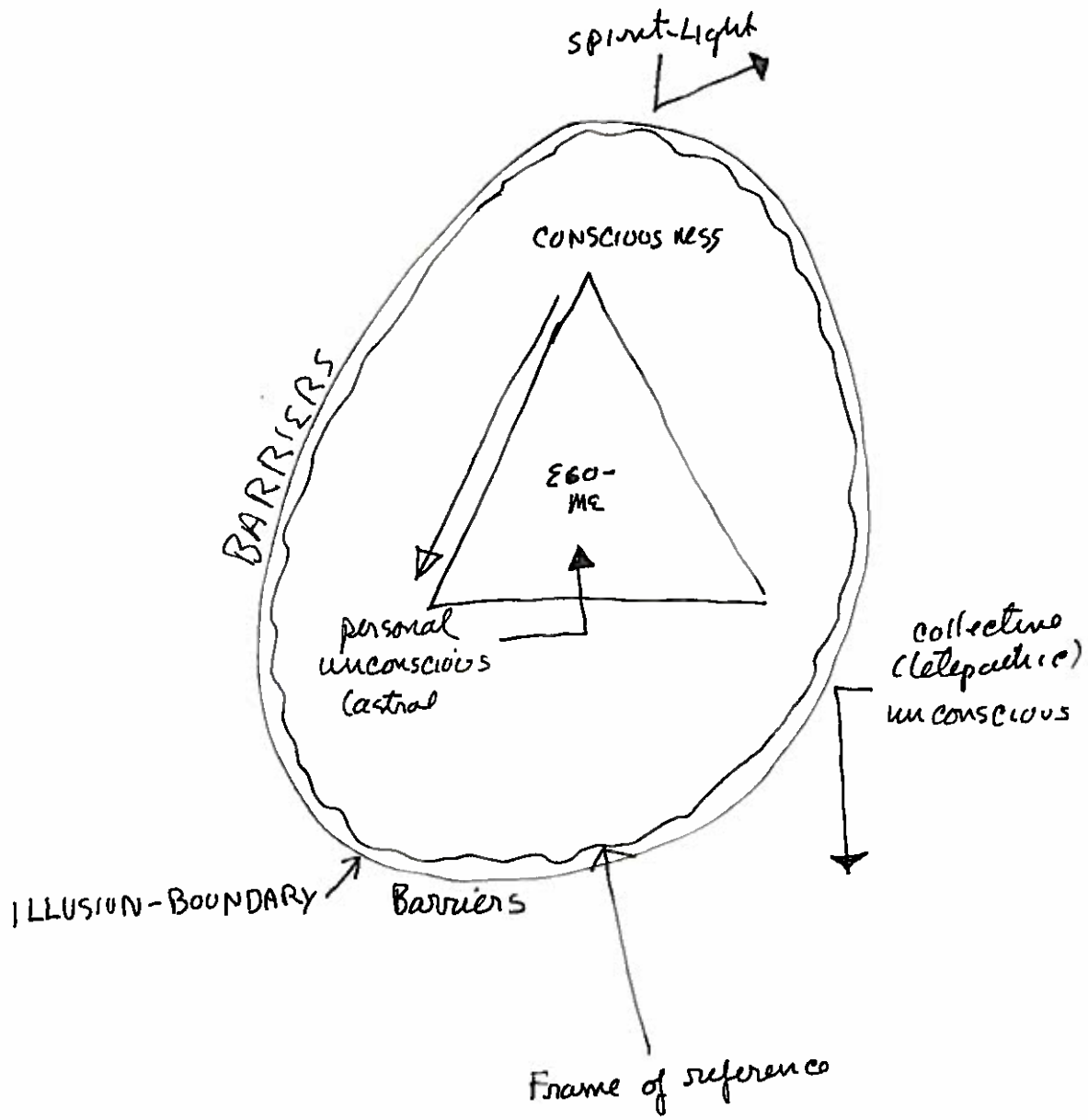
The holistic mind triad

The occult traditions picture the "mind" in a number of ways, the most basic forms being some kind of a triad -- that is, made up of three distinct parts, but unified by spirit-Light. These three parts are the consciousness, the personal (astral) unconscious, and the collective (telepathic) unconscious.

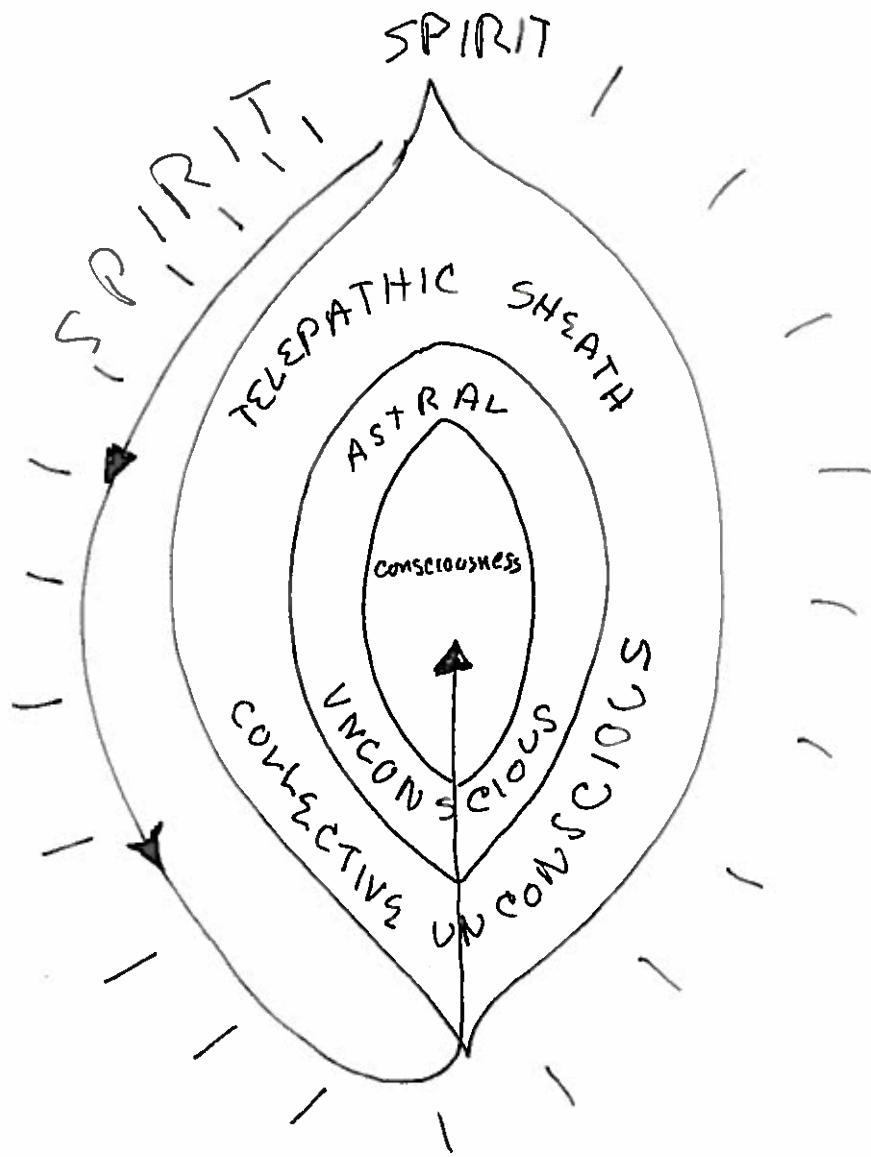
The triangular picturization of this triad can have any of several forms. The most ideal arrangement shows spirit-Light frequently symbolized by the "all-seeing eye." at the top in the dominating position. But actually, the adept understands that he must be able to change the focus as needs arise, and whichever faculty is shown in the center of the triad represents this focus.



This type of triad is actually very workable and useful as a subject for reflection and meditation. For example, in the case of the confirmed materialist whose illusion-boundaries and frames of reference prohibit any sense of spirituality, the holistic mind triad can be pictured encapsulated in the barriers. The barriers deflect spirit-Light and probably the collective (telepathic) unconscious.



Rather than utilizing the stylized triangle (itself a symbolism), the same holistic mind triad can be illustrated as a series of sheaths. It is perhaps more useful to do this, but it is true that the traditional triad triangle is a symbol recognized in the collective unconscious.



But we must remember that consciousness is always surrounded first by its frames of references and illusion-boundaries. These might keep out altogether spiritual and psychic qualities that will otherwise quickly be integrated into consciousness.

Symbols reflect AND activate energies or forces

Symbols reflect AND activate energies or forces

For the occultist, symbols serve two spiritual functions. They are first "mirrors" of the energies or forces being reflected (projected) by them. Secondly, it is known that they can also act as a stimulus, an activator, for energies and forces that are dormant in the personal and collective unconscious.

For instance, if we consider an erotic symbol, we can see that it is a projection or a mirror of someone's sexual desires (whether conscious or unconscious), but this same symbol can activate similar sexual desires in others who see it.

EROTIC SYMBOL

Joe produces
an erotic desire
symbol



SYMBOL reflects
back Joe's desire

BUT
ALSO



Mary



SUE



RICHARD

see symbol
and symbol activates
similar desire in Mary,
Sue and Richard

Symbols of national identity, and symbols of spirit serve the two functions in the same way. When people don't like the feelings (activations) they are getting from a symbol, or don't like what they already know it represents (mirrors), the symbol itself is rejected and/or attacked. The universal rejection of the Nazi inverse swastika is an example. Entrenched materialists attack any serious manifestation of the astrological Zodiac because it is the greatest symbol of all things occult. As mentioned before, nations burn and deface the symbols of other nations, the sole purpose being to demonstrate to the morale and unconsciousness that these symbols have been made impotent and powerless. They have, in other words, been deprived of their energy and/or force.

The occultist works with symbols and studies them in a creative way. In the collective unconscious, the same meanings and values have been attached to the same symbols for aeons. The occultist will hold this to be a fact, and the work of C.G. Jung confirms that the forces and energies represented by symbols have an ^{intense} ~~excess~~ traditional verity.

The occultist holds that there is nothing new under the sun, or in heaven or hell, even if a current generation or individual is busy manufacturing symbols they think are new. A professional grounding in the extensive traditional

values of symbols and symbolism will quickly reveal the historical and ancient energies and forces at work, even within the most modern of times. For example, red has forever been the symbol of aggression, as has the symbolism of Mars. White has been the symbol of peace and trust. Yellow has symbolized intellect, green has symbolized growth. The ocean has symbolized the telepathic collective unconscious itself, lakes the personal unconscious, streams have represented telepathy, rain has symbolized the distilling of spirituality, while empty space symbolizes spirit.

The raised clenched fist symbolizes force, radiant light symbolizes energies, the Yin-Yang turning symbol of red and blue symbolizes the balance potentials of the collective unconscious, the five-pointed star symbolizes materialistic as does the number 5, man, while the seven-pointed star represents ~~spiritual man~~ the spiritual man, as does the number 7.

As the writer Thomas Carlyle stated, (quoting him again), "Man, consciously or unconsciously, lives, works, and has his being in symbolisms..."

In the telepathic sheaths, all these ancient symbolisms together with their meanings and values are shared in the greater fabric of humanity in general. These same meanings and values are incorporated in the astral sheaths, and their collective heritage is projected in all its manifold forms into the/ego-me, providing the erected barriers

their collective heritage is projected into consciousness, even though that consciousness might not be totally aware of the heritage or the unconscious states out of which they arise.

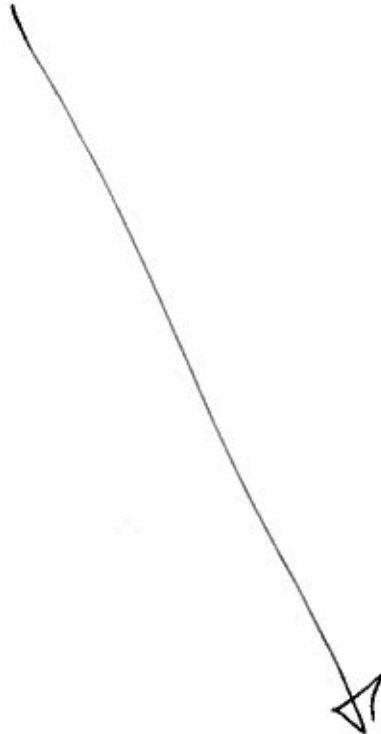
Once the occultist has gained an in-depth grounding into the functions and ~~xxxxxx~~/meanings of symbols and symbolisms, he can then study the ~~phenomena~~ phenomena around him, the phenomena that are active in the present. In this way, he can isolate the particular energies and forces at play in his given society or even in an individual.

The fact that the great part of the meanings and values of the symbols is unconscious is irrelevant to the occultist, whose work anyway is to penetrate into these invisible areas. If you want to get to know yourself better, just isolate and recognize your symbols and then go into a good lexicon of symbols and study their traditional meanings. The occultist has long understood that this is one very good way of making certain invisible aspects quite visible.

But in doing this, it is good to bear in mind that although are more or less/standardized in the personal and telepathic collective unconscious, this standardization is only approximate. One of the difficulties the various formalized "occultisms" get into is their failure to acknowledge the approximate nature of symbols. When one of the occultisms ~~make symbols too rigid~~ the meaning of ~~xxxxxx~~ makes/its symbols too rigid, they often fail in their purpose. Some symbols seem more

permanent than others. For example, the "sun" is almost always a ~~MASCHINE~~ symbol representing ~~the~~ masculine principles, while the moon is traditionally feminine. As a given symbolism gets more complex, its meaning may be less permanent or transitory, or more involved.

A good rule of thumb is to always observe that energies and forces and their symbols usually only relate to general ideas. ~~but often~~ ^{they often} In their details in any given expressions of them, ^{they often} become too specific and temporarily "loose t^hough" with the traditional collective meanings. ~~Thus,~~ ^{exact} attempting to give more and more/meanings is one of the traps of ~~by~~ the various occultisms, that is, attempting to evolve a hard-and-fast system of/allegories for their symbols.



The dominance of the collective telepathic unconscious

The achieved occultist knows that, to a great degree, the collective unconscious is somewhat passive until an imbalance or a need activates it. Then all hell can break loose. This is specially observable when some form of the power-force-cycle/^{triad} seeks to dominate the collective for too long. The collective is an evolving entity, albeit a slowly evolving one, and when its evolutionary movement is thwarted, it convokes its awesome power, projects new symbolic demands and satisfactions and soon obliterates the power-force-cycle triad game that had been seeking to control it.

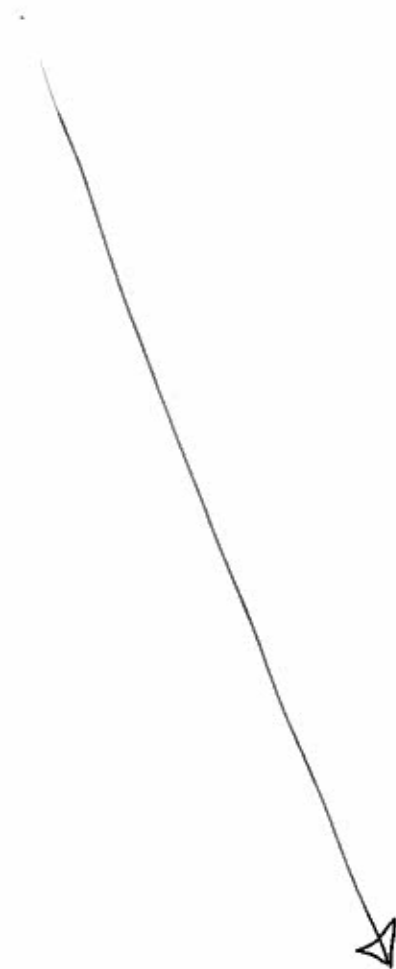
For the occultist, the condition of this awesome power is directly pendant to the symbols being produced or accepted by the collective. When thwarted, the collective will begin rejecting the symbols of the older order.

The "superior" and "inferior" attributes of symbols

Like the two divisions of the astral and the telepathic sheaths, divided into energies and forces, traditional occultism holds that each symbol serves the components of both energies and forces. That part of the symbol that reflects or activates energies is called "superior," while that part which reflects or activates forces is called "inferior." The force symbol is normally just an emotional or intellectual inverse of the energy symbol.

For example, hate is the inverse of love. Hate generates force, while love generates energy. The symbol of the key, for example, very clearly demonstrates the inverse principle. ~~As keys can be used to lock up or open~~ The key as an energy symbol portrays its power to open, while as a force symbol portrays its power to lock up and control. The king-symbol equates to the power of informed leadership as an energy principle, or reveals the ~~king~~ autocrat plunging his followers into totalitarianism. In astrology, the superior attributes of Jupiter relate to expansion, while the negative inferior attributes relate to dissipation. The positive symbolism of fire ~~is its~~ represents its energy to transform, the negative its power to destroy.

The occultist holds that only energies are creative in the long run, while forces are non-creative and ultimately destructive, even though they might at first have the appearance (or illusion) of being creative. ~~From this concept, the occultist holds that creative energies leads "upwards" and outwards to expansion, while non-creative forces lead "downwards" to contraction and smallness.~~

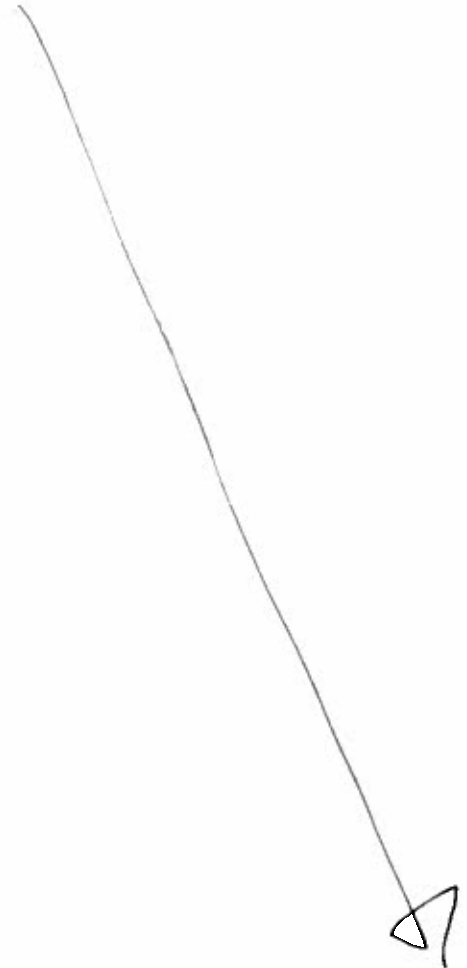


For example, LOVE, as a symbol can reflect or activate either of the two types of love traditionally associated with it: the sacred or the profane, each of which is a major archetype. Sacred love is characterized by creative benevolence. Profane love is characterized by lust which leads to destruction. Lust is an "in-drawing" principle that leads to ^{non-productive} possessiveness. Creative benevolence is an "out-going" principle that leads to productive kindness.

Sacred love and profane love each have many sub-symbols that are recognizable to the personal unconscious and the collective unconscious. These can all be drawn together under the age-old and traditional symbol of Venus which embodies the duality of spiritual love (the sacred) and that of mere sexual attraction (the profane.)

As an other example, the Eagle has been the chief symbol and emblem of the United States. In its higher order attributes it is a symbol of height, of the spirit and of the spiritual principle in general, each of these being creative energy principles. The eagle is characterized by its daring flight and speed and signifies heroic nobility. But its lower order significance must always be borne in mind, since the eagle symbol can reflect or activate lower order destructive principles in the collective. In this case, it is depicted as carrying a ^v victim, and this is always an ✓

allusion to the sacrifice (or murder) of "lower" beings to the victory of the forces of power. Only the power-force-cycle triad can conceive of "victory," since it implies conquering another power-force-cycle by force. This is often necessary in the universe of power-force-cycles, but in the high-stage occult interpretation of things, all such activities are inferior and the Light Body needs to free itself of its desires to be in power-force-cycle games.



The Zodiac as the major symbol of spiritual involvement
in energies and forces

As a final example, here, we can briefly consider what is probably the greatest symbol in the collective unconscious and subsequently the symbol of primal precedence in high-stage occult tradition. This is the Zodiac.

The Zodiac is a symbol for both the potent-energy-flux triad and the power-force-cycle triad, as we now understand these to be the superior and inferior manifestations of the collective.

The high-stage occultist understands the Zodiac to be the house or platform of ~~virtually~~ almost all the major energy-force archetypes. It is exceedingly complex and in addition has become severely over-simplified, ~~forced~~ and degraded by modern conceptions of it, and what it is supposed to be used for as a ~~magic~~ tool-symbol.

Despite its complexity -- and its total rejection by modern scientific thinking -- it has been and remains one of the most widespread symbols. It is of immense antiquity and its source antedates recorded history. The occult surmise that it is a ~~key~~ recovered remnant of the lost Atlantis is probably not incorrect, but the method it incorporates is probably extraterrestrial in origin.

The traditional occult understanding of the Zodiac probably dates from the time of king Sargon of Agade ~~12~~ (2750 B.C.). During the time of ~~Hammurabi~~ Hammurabi in 2000 B.C.,

the occult study of the Zodiac began to assume ~~xxxxxx~~ the form in which we generally have it today, although historical opinion differs on whether or not this form should be traced further back than the tablet of Cambyses (c. 600 B.C.)

We must set aside our contemporary ideas about the Zodiac in order to entertain its meaning in occultism.

The Zodiac is a working plan of the invisible energy-forces to which the collective ^{telepathic} unconscious responds. It represents the process by which primal energy passes from its potential state to the virtual (into essence), from unity or oneness into multiplicity. This is to say, from the non-formal into the world of forms. At first, these are idea-forms, but from them are projected physical forms which, in occult understanding, are the ^{physical} result of idea-forms. Through these idea-forms, the spirit "descends" into matter, and then retraces the path back again.

If this path stays illuminated (undarkened) the path is obviously meant to be a communication line between spirit and matter. When it becomes darkened (by mis-experience in the power-force-cycle triad), the path is lost and spirit finds itself trapped in matter without a clear view of the path itself.

Traditional oriental teachings hold that the universe is composed of two complementary phases -- spirit and matter. These phases remain complementary / (thus illuminated) until
and in balance

spirit desires to be more in matter than in the spiritual. This is a difficult to conceptualize. The only word that serves well is "fascination." Most of us have gotten into a situation, to our later regret, because it fascinated us. There is first a desire to know more about it, then, once in it, its manifestations fascinate us. Soon we find it hard to extract ourselves from it.

Our energies to get out of it have failed us, and soon we find ourself exhibiting the forces that are holding on to us, virtually imprisoning us. In occultology, "fascination" specifically means to hold or keep in thralldom by powers of charm, pleasure or force. Here we can remind ourselves of the definition of force -- the capacity to persuade or convince through strength brought to bear.

The next step downwards from desire-fascination is compulsion. Soon we are compelled by that which at first only fascinated us. Next we begin to personify the power-forces and totally identify with them. These then artificially create our frames of references and install illusion-barriers.

Occultology teaches that the descent of spirit into matter follows much the same line, except that the issues are greater and consist of a spiritualized orientation far beyond the ken of those of us who are astral-bound. At any rate, this "descent" into matter through becoming

"fascinated" with it is called "the Fall." It is a fall into matter, not unlike a fall into alcoholism, sexual addiction, into money-power, or/a severe ego-me, in which spirit is as much a victim as a participant. The path up and out is to locate the energies that can restore us, and deprive the forces fascinating us of those self-same energies. These energies, of course, have not "gone", but simply receded into the unconscious realms.

With the spirit-Light "trip" into matter, what has happened is that spirit has become fascinated with the trip itself, and focused on the various power-force-cycles inherent within it. Many of these experiences have been dismal, become repressed through many life-times, and so the Light Body has collected sheaths of darkened experience (repressed) around itself.

The supreme belief of ~~the~~ occultism is that the Zodiac represents the schema of the energy-fluxing of the universe and that when the energy-fluxing is reduced to force-cycles the inferior qualities of spirit are produced, but as negative copies or "reversals" of the superior energies.

This gives rise to the occult maxim "as above, so below," with the exception that the "below" is a reversal of the "above."

The Spiritual Zodiac represents the spiritual path

traditionally

The universe (spiritual and material) [↑] has twelve major energy-fluxes which are identified by the occultist P.V. Piob as follows:

The urge to create and transform -- Aries.

Undifferentiated magnetism -- ~~Taurus~~ Taurus.

Creative synthesis or imagination -- Gemini.

Gestation and birth (of ideas) -- Cancer.

The will to individuate (individuation) -- Leo.

Intelligence -- Virgo.

Equilibrium -- Libra.

Histolysis (breaking down ^{*or breaking apart*} of ideas) -- Scorpio.

Coordination and synthesis -- Sagittarius.

Ascesis (self-disciplin) -- Capricorn.

Illumination (or re-illumination) -- Aquarius.

Mystic fusion ^{*(rendering plastic)*} -- Pisces.
^

The force-cycles are, of course, the ^{immense}~~reverse~~ or opposite of the energy-fluxes.

The urge to destroy or conform -- Aries.

Differentiated magnetism -- Taurus.

Non-creative dispersal or closure of imagination -- Gemini.

Decline and death (of ideas) -- Cancer.

The desire for the collective (non-individuation) -- Leo.

Stupidity -- Virgo.

Disequilibrium -- Libra.

Collapsing ideas into each other -- Scorpio.

Non-coordination and separateness -- Sagittarius.

Non-self-disciplin -- Capricorn.

Blackness (non-illumination) -- Aquarius.

Physical solidity -- Pisces.

In the event spirit loses contact with the positive energy-fluxes of each step -- by becoming overly fascinated with one of them -- it becomes entrapped in that step, and soon dramatizes the negative power-force side of the energy.

The sub-processes of the spiritual Zodiac

The pattern of the Zodiac energies and forces applies not only to the ongoing cosmos in the broadest sense, but also to specific phases of any sub-process within it -- for example, a period of climate or gross natural change, a period in history, the lifetime energy-forces of a race or a society, or of an individual.

If

~~When~~ the ~~the~~ traditional occult double attributes of the twelve energy-forces of the Zodiac are not adhered to, the Zodiac, ~~as a plan and a tool for penetrating~~ the plan, becomes meaningless very fast. If we study the two listings above, we can see that the ~~tw~~ twenty-four different major qualities represent recapitulations of ~~the~~ ~~human~~ processes that go on within the human mind, and within human-spiritual awareness. The listing for the energy-fluxes is, indeed, a very sophisticated description of the ~~creative~~ processes encountered in any creative endeavour, while the listing of the force-cycle is equally sophisticated with regard to processes of internal and external ~~dissolution~~ ^{destruction}.

The collective unconscious responds to the energy-fluxes of the spiritual Zodiac

The collective unconscious responds to these cadences or rhythms of the traditional Zodiac. ~~The~~ ^{high} stage occultists observes this, and can watch the collective unconscious flux as the different energies ~~emerge~~ undulate or the different forces cycle ~~through~~. The collective unconscious -- the telepathic sheath -- is always a mix of these energies and forces, and it should be clear by now why the individual must seek to rise above the collective unconscious if he can -- at which time, as we shall see in the next lesson, he becomes an ascended master.

The astrologer adds the symbols of the planets into the Zodiac, since these too signify ~~additional~~ additional archetypes accepted by the collective unconscious which can and do reflect or activate additional energy-forces not originally included in the ~~primary~~ primary Zodiac. But the horoscope of ~~an~~ ^{an} individual or society can also have added into it other symbols that are operative ^{at the time of their emergence} ~~within them~~. ~~These symbols are always sub-symbols of the twenty-four greater symbols.~~

For example, it is important to know the ~~major~~ symbols governing the culture in which an individual is born, since the child will ^{eventually} accept or reject the cultural imprinting of that culture. It is also important to know the symbols that are prominent at the time of puberty, which is the time of value imprinting for each individual.

And it is important to know which symbols (i.e., energies and forces) will be surfacing during the lifetime of the individual or the future of a society so as to be able to predict likely compatibility of all elements that will be involved.

At this present time, the energy-fluxes of Aquarius (illumination) are ~~starting~~ ^{awakening} are ~~starting~~. The collective unconscious, indeed, is beginning to demand illumination. We can already see that all those elements not compatible with the ~~goal~~ Aquarian goal of illumination are beginning to be ~~rejected~~ ^{ad} by the collective unconscious, and telepathic union between all the new-age groups is already becoming manifest.