

PSYCHO-QUADRATIC IVB: MYTH (Mono-)

JUNG'S (CAMPBELL'S-LUCAS') MYTH

With the cost of making elaborate, sci-fi/fantasy films in the pre-CGI era being prohibitive, George Lucas realized that his expensive entry, "Star Wars", would need to make money all around the world. Fortunately, through Joseph Campbell's, "Hero with a Thousand Faces", he also realized that, if he modelled his plot on the story that resonates with all '1,000 cultures', the film could run a profit. "Star Wars" tale is that of the culture-bringer i.e. the hero struggles with and overcomes sterility and/or chaos because he has 'gifted' access to the archetype of fertile order. In addition, Campbell saw that, in virtually all of these stories, the hero is born into danger because the soon-to-be-defunct, sterile powers are intent on remaining in sterile power (e.g. killing the first born sons), he is often fostered (e.g. Moses, Oedipus), there is often an important relationship with a twin (e.g. Romulus & Remus and, of course, Luke & Leia) further 'threshold' dangers await him after he leaves his foster family (e.g. Perseus), he needs to overcome the seductive powers of the 'Mothers' before he can overcome the sterility of the 'Fathers' (e.g. Siddhartha Gautama in the garden of delights, Odysseus) a need, of course, that indicates the hero's talent for staying near his "centre"... the anti-hero who cannot stay near his "centre" doesn't see that, in trying to overcome the 'Fathers', his eye is taken off the 'Mothers' whom, in the longer run, become the cutters, weavers & spinners of his fate (e.g. Achilles, Oedipus). Campbell called this "the monomyth".

In a 'psycho-quadratic' context, however, we must ask: was Joseph Campbell 'over-reductive'? i.e. given Jung's view that the hero "individuates", is it better to view the hero myth as a 'multi-(billion)-myth'? or, at least, in looking for 'balance' between the one and the many, is it better to view the hero myth as a 'quadro-myth'?

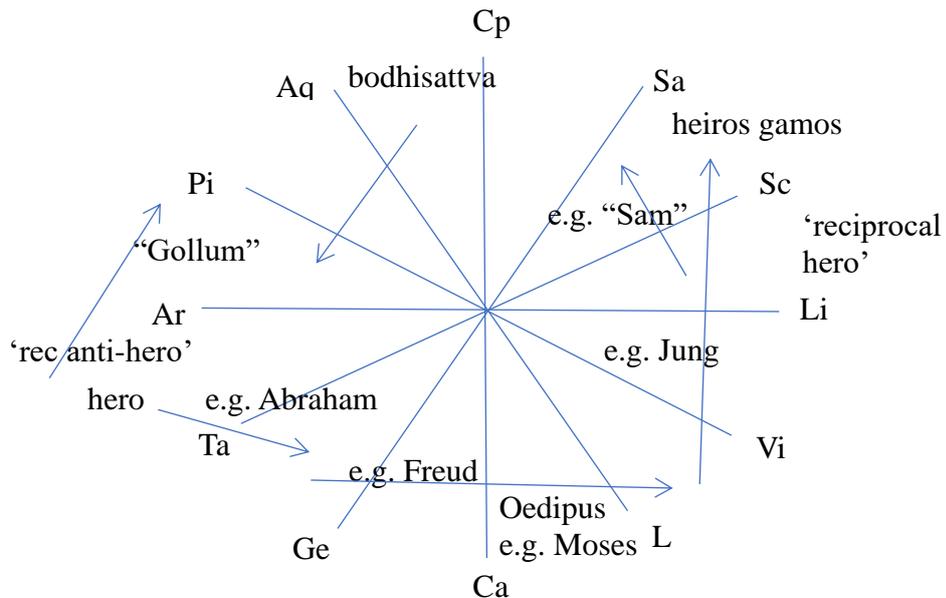
Before we go to the zodiac, we can make the proto-astrological point that the centre of our solar system, the Sun, has strong symbolic links to the hero and, in these post-Copernican days, the daily/yearly rising and setting of the Sun tells us to conceive a Sun-Earth axis (rather than a mere Solar centre) and, so, with this, the monomyth expands to a 'duo-myth' wherein the Sun rises as the Earth sets (the Earth rises as the Sun sets). And, with the Sun's fire being "functionally" opposed to the Earth's earth, we get a sense of the hero-antihero. In other words, it is on Earth that it is difficult to see the 'Mothers' that sit behind the 'Fathers' and, in turn, cause the hero to either (i) give up, or (ii) double up efforts in the same direction (NB*pop psychology's definition of insanity – doing the same thing over and over while expecting a different result – is relevant here) e.g. the 'spiritual' analysand who redoubles his/her Jungian effort when s/he would be better off looking at his/her 'fleshy' Freudian predicament; the 'fleshy' analysand who redoubles his/her Freudian effort when s/he would do better to look at his/her 'spiritual' Jungian predicament.

At this point, some astrologers may complain that the 12 geometric oppositions (the 6 diametric pairs) are always the same gender so, how is it that we can talk about the Earth(y) 'Mothers' residing behind the Solar 'Fathers'? FA's answer was provided in our earlier essays on gender i.e. the "matriarchate", especially when "regressive", is the home of 'puppet fathers'; the "patriarchate", especially when "progressive", is the home of the 'spiritual feminine'. But, more importantly...

ASTROLOGERS' MYTH (Mono)

The Sun-Earth axis' "progression" through the zodiac means that, by his 30th birthday, the hero has experienced both genders and all four functions (and, if we add the input of the "progressed Moon", he will have had experience of the whole zodiac). To take the example of (arguable) Sun-in-Aries Abraham, he would have experienced his "Sun progression" into Taurus and "Earth progression" from Libra into Scorpio by the time that he was 'ordered', in a rather sterile way, to sacrifice Isaac. During his first 30 years, Abraham's Moon, wherever it was placed at birth, would have run from Aries, down through Cancer (this 'doubling' of '4' would have seen him challenged by the 'Mothers'), and up to Scorpio (to help him with his "Earth sign progression").

Fast-forwarding to the 20thC, we could 'reciprocate' the story of Abraham with J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" i.e. the hero, "Sam", an occupier of "Middle Earth" (e.g. centrovverted Libra) dreams only of marrying "Rosie", something he will do in Scorpio but only after he supports his friend, "Frodo", through the "narcissistic" kingdoms. The "Gollum" is a symbol of the Taurus-to-Aries "regression". To sum this up in the zodiac...

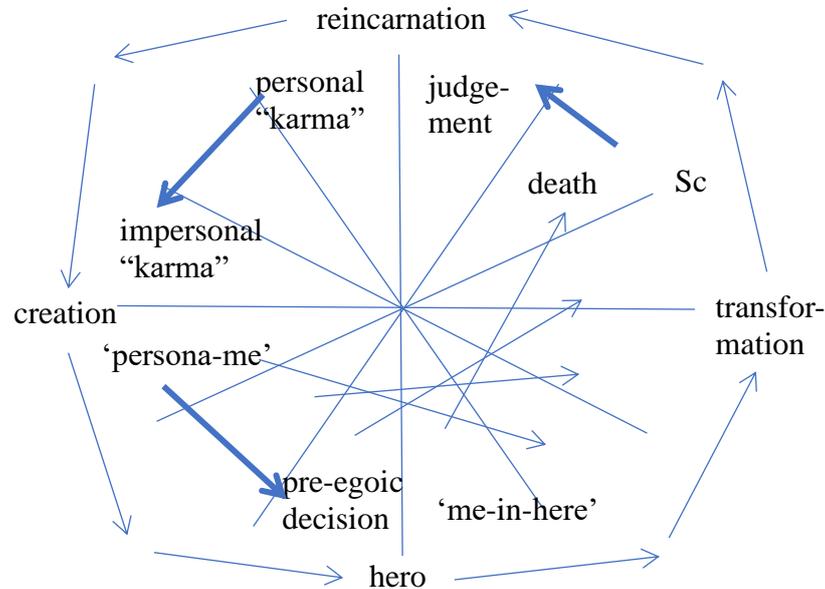


... we include Freud & Jung to give pause for thought for those who 'see' Freud & Jung as heroes who, by virtue of their longevity, have experienced the progression of their respective natal Suns through a full quadrant i.e. Freud's and Jung's 'culture-bringing' became obvious in the works that appeared in their twilight years. (To be sure, some will argue that Freud was anti-heroic insofar as he was over-focused on the 'Fathers' to the point that he failed to see the importance of the 'Mothers'... but, for FA, his focus on instinct was 'good enough' to inspire followers such as Melanie Klein and D.W. Winnicott into fertile realms of the Great Mother).

The reason that we exemplify Cancer via Moses is, in part, because his "Earth" would have been '10 Capricorn' i.e. a Freudian critic of the Commandments is correct to point out that they aren't worth much without a prior analysis of the superego...

FREUD-(JUNG)-ASTROLOGERS' MYTH

Longstanding readers will already know that we have asked Plato's question, "One, Two, Three – but, where is the fourth?", in respect of Erich Neumann's survey of "The Origin & History of Consciousness" (1949). These readers will also know that our answer was to bring in Eastern religion. In other words, in being 'over-Western', Erich Neumann was 'over-reductive'. Newer readers may want another reproduction of our elsewhere-presented zodiac schema...



... and, in examining it, see that what we had been calling 'reciprocal heroism' (scroll up), we are now calling 'reincarnation'. And, with this schema's overlapping character, we are also calling the 'middle' of the '7-8-9-10-11-12 reincarnation myth' (i.e. Capricorn) the 'beginning' of the '10-11-12-1-2-3 creation myth'.

The most obvious bone of contention with this 'religio-quadratic' patterning is that the primary Sun-h/Hero of the Piscean age, Christ, by virtue of his natal '10 Sun' and h/His fatal '1/7 Sun/Moon transit', aligns more to the (4th) reincarnation/creation quadrant than the (1st) hero/creation & (2nd) hero/transformation quadrants. For FA, there is no significant contention here because (Freud)-astrologers use the zodiac that the Sun h/Hero 'creates' and, if Christ had simply run about preaching a whole lot of platitudes without the events that coincided with the Moon's passage through the signs of "ego consciousness", h/He would have rightly been interpreted as no more than a Creator-God... but, as it stands, h/His Resurrection does bring up the issue of the Sun h/Hero's transformation. Further, the worthiest extension of Christian mythology was instigated by the Cathars in the early 2nd Millennium i.e. the "Sacred Marriage".

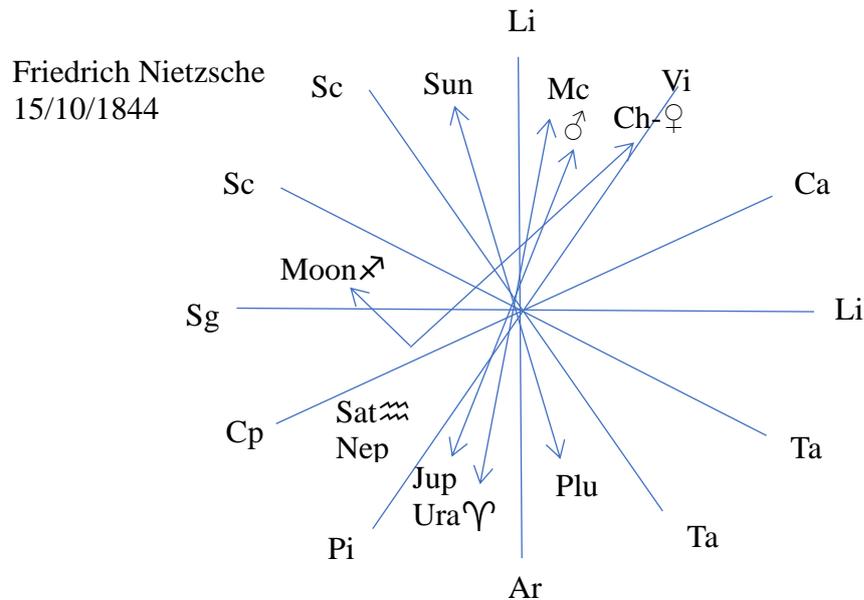
We also see significance in the fact that the Cathars included reincarnation in their mythology and, in including so, they make a 'quadratic' out of the Neumann's 'triadic'. And, with "consciousness", (i) being a psychological-religious-philosophical problem, and (ii) being defined differently in the East (e.g. transcendental) and in the West (e.g. ego), we need to add two chapters in this direction. But, first, a question...

WHAT ABOUT THE “TRAGIC HERO”? EX.IX

Can we trace ‘psycho-quadratics’ to the pre-Christian era? The answer, “yes”, is well-exemplified by Plato’s discussion of good-evil that was eventually updated by Machiavelli...

appears good; is good	appears bad; is evil
appears good; is evil	appears evil; is good

... Plato’s key point being that the most admirable individuals are those who appear evil yet are good i.e. appearing good/being good lacks the “test(s) of character” that, in a superficial world, come the way of the most admirable. In the wake of Plato and Machiavelli and fast-forwarding to the 19thC we come to another philosopher who hinted at ‘psycho-quadratics’...



... insofar as he “split” the h/Hero into the dyad of “successful” culture-bringer (with or without resurrection) and “tragic” (the paradigmatic example being “Hamlet”, the prince whom, in the mind of W.B. Yeats, would have qualified as one of “the best (who) lack all conviction”).

Astrologers who have studied Nietzsche may have already noticed that we have adjusted his birthtime – giving him Sagittarius rather than Scorpio on the ascendant – because, in his “Psychological Types”, Jung makes a good argument for Friedrich’s ‘root type’, “introverted intuition”, generating a “shadow” of “extraverted sensation” agitated by his natal Saturn and Neptune in his 2nd house. Other reasons for assuming Sagittarius rising are (i) his natal Venus-Chiron/Mars-Mercury conjunctions landing in his ‘philosophical’ 9th house (ii) his natal Moon in his “oceanic-ally submerged” 12th house (in part, his mental breakdown of 1889 traces to transiting Pluto running into

a hard-square aspect to his Venus-Chiron-Moon “complex”) (iii) his natal (close) Sun-Pluto opposition landing across his ‘10th-4th parental’ houses and, perhaps most of all, (iv) his sense of grandiosity... being a fire sign, Sagittarius is predisposed to believe in “free will” and, when ‘blocked’, it takes “free will” into superman-ish directions, even if such a superman has every chance of discovering that this same free will turns out to be the source of his damnation. Yet...

Whatever his ascendant, Liz Greene (see prior essay) would likely have looked first to Friedrich’s natal Moon-Chiron for his inner lack of ‘reality’ that caught up to him in midlife. The irony of it all is that the woman upon whom Friedrich “projected” his “anima”, Lou Andreas-Salome, would, in time, become one of depth psychology’s most prominent practitioners... as Marie-Louise von Franz (see final essay) describes the philosophy that Friedrich help inaugurate, existentialism, “the existentialists walk right up to the door of the unconscious, and then refuse to open it!”

As also noted in the prior essay, ideas directed to diagnosis quickly lead to ideas directed to treatment and, given our note on the “progressed” Moon in the prior essay, the FA-er (if one had existed in Freud’s lifetime) would have counselled Friedrich that the best ‘therapeutic window’ would have been 7yrs prior to his breakdown year i.e. in 1882, the Moon “progressed” into his 4th house and, over the subsequent 2 years, it rolled across to its (2nd) “progressed” full Moon across the Sagittarius-Gemini axis. If he had made the most of this year – when he met and, then, “fell in love at first sight” with Lou – he would have likely gone on to make the most of his Lunar “progression” into Cancer i.e. during the year or two coming up to Pluto’s incursion into the degrees occupied by Venus and the Moon. If Friedrich had come up against “deterministic” Freud in the 1890s, he would probably have found it impossible to deal with Freud’s preference for “fate” over “free will”. But, who knows, Lou Andreas-Salome may have been the catalyst to make a quadratic out of this oh-so-tired philosophical dyad?

If Friedrich had lived in an era wherein he could have received the “container” that, as a neonate, (his illness makes plain that) he never had, he could have avoided his breakdown. If it was syphilis that was behind his breakdown (this is disputed), the astrologer would ‘expand’ into outer life to point out that Friedrich’s p/Psyche would have (yes, mysteriously) arranged circumstances to the point of guiding him clear of the fatal whorehouse.

After a period of examining the Moon’s natal placement and its “progression”, psychological astrological attention turns to the Sun as a symbol for a different ‘level’ of the “feeling of being real”... the ‘level’ of meaning. And, examining Friedrich’s Sun in Libra in the 10th house in concert with his (philosophical) interest in aesthetics, we are given a picture of the Sun’s “progression” i.e. as the Sun “progresses” from Libra through Scorpio, we get a sense of the individual being able to differentiate the Venus-ruled signs, even if Taurus is accessed diametrically (through, as it were, “progressed” Earth). With this differentiation, the Sun’s subsequent “progression” into Sagittarius affords a chance to ‘9 philosophize’ in respect of 30+years of retrospection. Friedrich’s “progressed” Sun entered sign of the Archer in 1882 i.e. he had 6 years of Sagittarian retrospection before the (transiting) Pluto Venus-Moon caught up to him. In light of the fact that his mother cared for him during his last 10 years, FA-ers can argue that his Sun was still providing its whiff of meaning. God wasn’t quite so dead, then.

