



Archetype

Archetype is the word describing the original pattern or prototype from which copies are made or forms developed, and in particular the assumed ideal pattern of the fundamental structure of each great division of organised beings.

In the Platonic sense, which is the sense intended here, archetype refers to a divine thought-form or idea that exists in the divine mind, the World of Spirit.

A spiritual archetype is thus identical with what is called an archangel (*arch* means 'chief' or 'original' and *angel* means 'divine thought-form'), which are the living ideas of God. They are also known as spirits or intelligencies. These archetypes or spirits are the original or prototypical ideas on which all the various forms and processes of life in the universe are based, including the human form.

That is to say, the archetype of a human being is an archangel, referred to in Cabalistic tradition as Sandalphon ('Soul of the Messiah'). This archetype is our spirit. This is the divine idea that God has of us, which is perfect and immortal. Our souls, grappling with matter, are constantly striving to understand and manifest this perfect idea in matter, and in doing so grow in consciousness and knowledge of the divine, which is the fundamental purpose of the human soul.

The Great Archetypes are the supreme Archangels, the Great Spirits that stand before the Throne of God and are the Throne of God. They number ten in all, divided into two groups, one of Three and the other of Seven. The Three constitute what is called the Throne (or Chariot); the Seven are those who stand before it, as a sevenfold expression of the Throne, just as the spectrum of colour is an expression of white light.

The Three Great Archetypes have a fundamental expression in ourselves and nature as the Wheel of Life, the Tree of Life and the Chakra System. They form an inseparable trinity-in-unity that manifests the divine Holy Trinity. They belong to the archetypal World of Spirit and manifest themselves in the Worlds of Soul (Psyche) and Body (Nature) as these three energy patterns. Although abstract and 'mathematical', they underlie, design, promote and govern all forms of expression in the Worlds of Soul and Body.

To have an understanding of these things is to grasp something of the universal laws of life, which can then be applied more consciously and successfully in our lives.

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