



Archetypal Patterns in Fairy Tales

Marie-Louise von Franz

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Features in-depth studies of six fairy tales—from Spain, Denmark, China, France and Africa, and one from Grimm—with references to parallel motifs in many others. Unique insights into cross-cultural motifs and individual psychology.

Archetypal Patterns in Fairy Tales Details

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Ting Tong says

Absolutely fascinating discussion of the archetypes of the collective unconscious that are displayed in the stories we've been telling each other for millennia. I've always wondered about the stories we tell, that have been passed down from parent to child, and what motifs and messages they contain to enrich our current lives. Using Jungian analysis, it becomes clear that they indicate a way to understand our own unconscious and what we need to do to survive the reality of conscious life. It's interesting that I should read this at this time in my life as a lot of it currently resonates with me. I have been experiencing a cyclic repetition of catastrophes, accompanied by many synchronicities and the discussion of how the unconscious seeks it in response to a repression is very interesting. The discussion of how isolation can result in an almost drowning in the unconscious and how in haste the shadow is allowed to surface its evil, acted as a caution to me as I now realise that my solitude has been leading to inflation and neurosis. I've also been frustrated at others lack of self-insight when it is not for me to show them what I see as that will do them no good in the end; they must come to it on their own. It also made me reflect on how people respond to things they do not understand and how every experience in life is to bring you closer to consciousness and thus it is what you need at that time; to judge the messenger is to learn nothing. Your behaviour could even be a function for someone else's future enlightenment. Definitely worth a read if you're in a place to face your shadow.

Susan says

As I said, meandering. She wanders all over because I think the stories chosen are very poor representatives in the spirit of being multi-cultural. Some, like the Spanish one with 3 carnations, are abominable. The best was the African Story. It was a poor outing.

Roya says

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J. Keck says

An analysis of various fairy tales from a Jungian perspective. Informative and helpful to those who find value in a Jungian approach. I found artists of various backgrounds and pursuits particularly receptive to the psychoanalysis.

Sandy says

This is my second time through this book and I'm learning so much more than the first time. Take this quote on individuation as an example of Von Franz's accurate, yet broad definitions: "the process of individuation results in an incredible hardening of the individual against others, while consciously working on the problem of individuation and the problem of transference leads to humanization, to greater consciousness, wisdom and relatedness. Some stupid people reproach Jungian psychology, saying we are making people into solipsistic individuals. In fact, it is just the other way around. The further the process of individuation goes, the more socially adept and positively related a person becomes." She's a brilliant woman and with such warm understanding of the human condition that she has reached across continents and time to change my life.

Carolyn says

Found another in the series of psychological readings of fairy tales and was trilled. MLvF is brilliant as ever in her examination of these Danish, Spanish, Chinese, French, African and Grimm Brother tales.

Bridgett says

A telling of some fairy tales from all around the world and then an analysis of them from a Jungian psychological perspective. I learned some new things, read unfamiliar stories, and enjoyed seeing interpretations based on Jung's ideas because I love Jung.

Abdulrahman says

Phenomenal analysis
