

Type and Androgyny

With help from a Martial Maid



John Baldock

Rediscovering the long-lost archetype of the Androgyny

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'I live to serve the anima!'

This unusual confession from a 66 year old male reignites the quest for a long-lost archetype, the *Androgyny*, presently locked in the unconscious. Androgynous thinking depends on a state of fluidity, suspension and flux in order to bring the pure energy of the Androgyny into consciousness.

Jung contended that the human psyche is unknowable in itself, but can be understood to the extent that it reveals itself in images. These images are expressions of energies that Jung called *archetypes*. One of these is the *Androgyny*.

For all his genius, Jung was like every other human being in being limited by time and place. The best image he could deal with was *dream* image. His thinking still informs us today, by extending the meaning of the image by a process that Jung called *active imagination*. This process can expand the level of consciousness, if the unconscious is contacted in a way that plumbs its depths and treats those depths as the treasure house of the psyche.

Each individual psyche is huge in time and space, extending back to the beginning of the world, and forward into eternity. The human mind cannot grasp this infinity, except through an understanding of the myths and legends that surround it.

For those born in the Western world, their heritage is bound up in the Christian story. Here lies the memory of perfection, encompassing perfect health, perfect wealth, and perfect relationships. But today, we are so far removed from this memory that our relatively tiny consciousness holds the opposite, and we think that illness, depression and divorce are the only realities.

At Alpha Studios we extend Jung's work to include daydreams and visions, creating inner images concretised in material substance—paint and clay; heat, light and sound; poetry and metaphor. These are subject to reflection, where active imagination gives them the propensity to inform, advise, exhort, and even prophecy. Their power resides in the moment they break through into consciousness: usually in very unclear and confused ways.

In the Christian story this is how God speaks to mankind—not in the thunder and drama, but in the still, small voice of an expanding consciousness. In his extremely limited consciousness, Man demands a clear and easily-understood image, and so his world is awash with outer images of advertising and other propaganda that have no power to attain the psychological health so necessary for the memory of perfection.

Once birthed, inner images can be coaxed with concentrated energy to attain the level of fine art as an expression of clarity we all seek: but this is not necessary for the process of consciousness to work.

In spite of good intentions, the MBTI limits itself to the integration of functions in a predominantly *word-alone* process that tends to catalogue people into boxes—which, of course, they resist. Using inner image, the process is more fluid. It can encompass psychological conclusions that hint at the integration of gender differences, in order to birth into the world a new being called the Androgyny.

Psychologically, it is necessary to move away from the bisexual 'hermaphrodite' toward the ambisexual 'androgyny', noting that *bi-* is the Latin prefix meaning 'two', while *ambi-* means 'both.'

We can fathom
the slimy depths
of the psyche and
bring forth images

In Greek mythology Hermaphroditus, the son of Hermes and Aphrodite, merged with the nymph Salmasis to form one body. While *hermaphrodite* is thus composed of the names of gods, *androgyne* is human, with its components referring to a gender integration of two becoming one.

This imaginative thinking influences the idea of Christian marriage, where two are exhorted to become one flesh. In practice this ancient archetype is so locked into the unconscious that its pure energy can not be released, and so divorce is endemic.

Using inner image with true type, the archetype can be released into consciousness, with tremendous benefits.

For example, a middle-aged mother presented as a client with complex problems with work, and especially with her 15 year old son, who had got into bad company and was on drugs. Her psychological readiness to contact psychic energy and express in inner image meant she became herself for the first time in her life.

This released her from depression, and her self-confidence grew to the point that she started her own consultancy business and regained a happy relationship with her son. As she became herself, her son found his mother again as the life that conceived him. His search for a substitute in drugs was over.

'Being herself' had integrated a powerful personality, attractive to do business with, and her professional life grew stronger. One could say that she had integrated the androgynous archetype, where *anima* and *animus* energies combine in awesome power. By dint of hard psychological effort in time and money, she had regained the memory of perfection and claimed as her birthright perfect health, perfect wealth, and perfect relationships.

The invitation to do so is available to all.

Jung defined the Unconscious as all that is repressed, forgotten or unknown. How it comes into consciousness is varied and complex. For example, the more we learn the more conscious we become.

Blockages to consciousness range from over-specialisation to lack of self-esteem to depression. There are so many that, in spite of technological advances, mankind can be described as unknowing. So, the Unconscious is the larger part of the human psyche. In our relatively tiny consciousness fear of this unknown preys on our awareness and further closes the process with constricting angst.

This is not the way it should be, and not the way intended. The only safe way to explore the Unconscious, and to retrieve the treasure from the psyche, is to learn to attend to the inner images that emanate from the deepest parts of the psyche—that part that Jung called 'slime.'

Firstly, one must know oneself. To do this scientifically is by understanding type. From this comes an ability to energise, for there can be no heroics without energy. This is the mark of the Warrior and the Martial Maid.

Next, collect data relevant to one's individual hardwiring. I'll collect *my* data, *you* collect yours. That way we will see the world differently, and you show me things and facts that I would never find on my own.

From the data we make decisions. For my part, being a particular type, I prefer to make decisions based on logic. For *your* part, you may base your decision on harmony and human values. Whatever it is that I don't prefer, I have to integrate anyway within my lifetime, so I'm never going to criticise you, no matter how much I don't understand you. Together we will work it out.

Using the process of inner image based on type, we can now fathom the slimy depths of the psyche and bring forth images that act as catalyst to memory that up to now has rested in the fluids of the body, just waiting for release. Images so released unveil the memory of perfection.

In this area of perfect relationships lies the long-lost archetype of the Androgyne. Fortunately, psychic energy does not atrophy, but simply retires to wait for another day. That day has come. Striding into consciousness comes the power of the Martial Maid.

The European example of a Martial Maid is *Joan of Arc*, whose life and death testify to the challenge of Androgyne. Her moment in history, however brief and tragic, demonstrates the consequences when a form of the Androgyne archetype invades the conscious world. The records of Joan's trial show that neither religious heresy nor political intrigue constituted her main offences: she was tried for having shorn her long hair and put on men's clothing.

Of the magnificent women who currently present as Martial Maids in contemporary society, your time may be cut short by the tiny consciousness of Mankind, which will try to consign you to oblivion. But be strong as Joan of Arc was, for the power is with you. The androgynous archetype becomes the individual's mantra: 'I will prevail!'

Jung's thinking on archetypes extended to the concepts of *anima* and *animus*, the male and female expressions of primary energy. The beauty of the *anima* is its nurturing capacity, and the strength of the *animus* is its providing and protecting quality. Any expanding consciousness of the *animus* will see it serve the *anima*, allowing it freedom to take on many forms, from virago to goddess, as well as claim the warlike power of the Martial Maid. Joan of Arc is the embodiment of this power.

For all his genius, Jung reflected time and place, with all the attendant prejudices of his age. As such, he was both ambivalent and tentative in contacting the androgynous archetype. For example, he constantly reminds his followers that his perspective is rooted in traditional masculine psychology that treats women as second-class and regards the *anima* as less than the *animus*.

The evolutionary thrust of consciousness is slow and ponderous, for few men are willing to shed their time-honoured prejudices. It is the Martial Maid who dawns a new consciousness to the sound of beating war drums. The shaping battle plan is with male ego, whose elaborate concealing strategies keep captive the androgyne.

Included in the battle plan is the process of inner image, so essential to the new consciousness. Image must reinvigorate

the power of words to upgrade language, so that a communication system is put in place that is more efficient and relevant.

Only image can adequately reveal the androgyne where, in separate and distinct genders, the male and female energies are united. Blockages to this idea include the unisex idea of the obliteration of sex differences and the assertion that one must become neuter. This is anathema to the androgynous concept. Incomplete detachment from the hermaphrodite denies the energy needed in order to integrate gender opposites such as *anima* and *animus*.

The only alternative in all of this is the total identification of masculine and feminine principles with male and female anatomy. The androgyne requires moving between masculine and feminine structures of consciousness, with *anima* in the primary role and *animus* secondary in either a male or female anatomical structure.

In contemporary society's tiny consciousness, this seems incomprehensible. It is not often done, but using inner images according to type sees the rewards as immense in terms of psychological health. At its core lies human transformation from limited energy to holistic energy, and from limited to expanding consciousness, all within a meaningful framework of scientific research. This research is always empirical, with the life of the individual paramount.

The contemporary Western world is enmeshed in illness and depression, bankruptcy and divorce. If it is to survive the dark forces of dualism now ranged against it, it now needs to integrate Androgyne as a concept whose time has come.

Much can be done. For a start, a man can cease saying to a woman, 'I love you', and leaving it at that. He will realise he must love the woman not according to his ego, but according to her type and hardwiring. He should volunteer to be a woman's slave by recognising the *anima* as primary and the *animus* as secondary. By setting the *anima* free, he can receive and enjoy the nurturing energy when and if it comes back to him.



Joan of Arc, a Martial Maid

Of course, such an idea is rejected by the left hemisphere of the brain in both men and women, because the mind has become enmeshed in the distorted memory of the last 2000 years of religious and secular orthodoxy. What is wrong in the past must now be abandoned, and what must be remembered is the memory of perfection.

In this context, the Androgyne shows perfection in the balance of male and female elements. In the fluids in the cells of every body lies the spark of memory waiting to be ignited. For women, the archetype will provide the catalyst to become a Martial Maid.

According to William Yabroff

both type and imagery draw on the inner resources of people to guide them towards self-understanding and empowerment; and when the two are used together, they are doubly informed and energised.

Historically, the Martial Maid has been called *virago*, *amazon*, *virgin*, *goddess*, *queen*, *huntress* and *maiden*, with adjectives ranging from *fair*, *bella*, and *lovely* to *proud*, *haughty* and *fierce*. The Martial Maid is all of these. No form is as lovely as this maid who strides purposefully to a martial beat into her destiny as leader of the Western world.

References

This article is based on the research of Carol Schreier Rupprecht, 'The Martial Maid and the challenge of androgyny', in *Spring*, 1974.

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*It was a dirty job, but somebody had to do it,
and I was the man for the job – or, rather,
I was the androgyne for it.*

– David Bowie



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