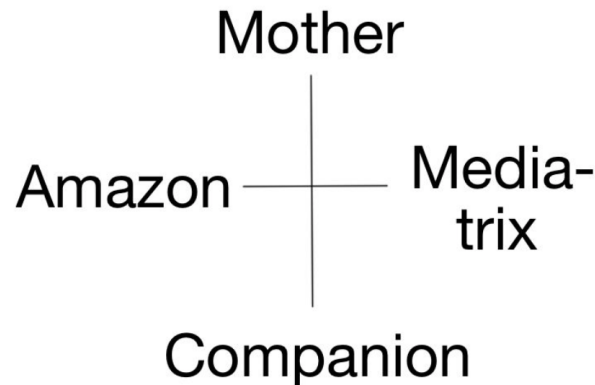


# THE FEMININE ARCHETYPES



## **Vertical Axis=values are more personal and individual. E.g. my child/my friend**

North Pole of Vertical Axis=oriented toward hierarchy and the collective/traditional good.

South Pole of Vertical Axis=oriented toward peers and the good of the individual

## **Horizontal Axis=values are more impersonal and epic. E.g. the task/the inner truth**

Left Pole of Horizontal Axis=oriented toward separation and winning. More stereotypically masculine

Right pole of Horizontal Axis=oriented toward relationship and understanding. More stereotypically feminine.

### a) **MOTHER**

#### (1) Traits

- (a) Finds identity and fulfillment in helping, cherishing, nurturing, and protecting.
- (b) She's a life-giver
- (c) Assists all who are in the process of becoming.
- (d) More people oriented than achievement oriented
  - i) Will give herself to the point of exhaustion when she feels needed,
- (e) Patience, sharing, and unselfishness are qualities she values and fosters.
- (f) Conserves and promotes family values and is a caretaker of tradition.
- (g) Doing for those in need is more satisfying than equal power peer relations.
  - i) Not usually a risk taker
- (h) Children often the focus rather than spouse

#### (2) Dark Side

- (a) Can be over-indulgent
- (b) Can be an anxious nurse
- (c) Smothering. Mothers when this is not welcome.
  - i) May try to feel needed when she's really not.
  - ii) May instruct or give advice when not warranted as in peer situations

- (d) May push her children to perform in her name, to show that she's a "good mother"
- (e) Can suddenly feel the martyr when she feels she has been taken for granted.
- (f) Can be subtly manipulative when her point of view is disputed
- (g) Dark side is seen in archetypal imagery as the witch mother
  - i) The biblical archetype of this is Jezebel
  - ii) Greek archetype is Medusa

b) **COMPANION**

(1) Traits

- (a) Finds identity and fulfillment in accompanying others and in being accompanied.
  - i) This can be intellectually
  - ii) spiritually
  - iii) emotionally
  - iv) domestically/sexually
- (b) Her quest is for union with others and her own self.
- (c) The relationship is all, & everything is subordinate to that.
- (d) Relatedness is personal and individual, not collective like the mother.
- (e) Attentive, adaptable, accommodating
- (f) Devoted companion, intriguing spouse, intense friend, passionate lover, trusted counselor, inspiring teacher
- (g) Not preoccupied with societal role or the opinion of the masses, only the individual relationship intrigues her.
- (h) Social openness, but avoids hierarchical structures
- (i) Tends to awaken a man to a life beyond his role responsibilities toward formation of his whole personality
- (j) Dislike hidden agendas. Promote depth and reality in relating.
- (k) Likes the individual personalities of her children and therefore enjoys babies less than mother types.
- (l) Less concerned with togetherness in families than the Mother
- (m) She enjoys doing **with** whereas mother enjoys doing **for**.

(2) Dark side

- (a) Can tend to be overly familiar with her children, forgetting necessary generational boundaries
- (b) Must learn boundaries in relationships--what belongs in one but not in another depending on their level of intimacy & social situation
- (c) May tend to use relationships to find herself at the expense of others
- (d) May tend to get so enamored with the new experience of relatedness that they forget the person they are relating to.
- (e) If dependent, may make inordinate demands for time and attention.

c) **AMAZON**

(1) Traits

- (a) The self-contained woman who finds her identity and fulfillment in managing the outer world.
- (b) Drawn to outer achievements, success, excellence, organization
- (c) More concerned with collective values than people and relationships
- (d) Identity springs from planning, organizing, competing, and succeeding.
- (e) Order & efficiency are strong values
- (f) Feels fulfilled when she is in control of the situation
- (g) Many enjoy managing a home, but many eventually do not feel taken up with home and relationships
- (h) Often courageous
- (i) With men, she may be the refreshing companion who is self-sufficient and makes few demands.
  - i) She & the man may act as mutual challengers

(3) Dark Side

- (a) May tend to see children in light of their ability to achieve
  - i) May tend to emphasize getting & doing over being and learning for its own sake.
  - ii) Can become an impatient mother & demanding housekeeper when needs for achievement exceed the home.
- (b) May become perfectionistic
- (c) May be over-expectant & exacting toward others
- (d) May not appreciate the efforts of others since "if you want the job done right, you must do it yourself"
- (e) May manipulate others to work on a project that enhances her own reputation.

(4) Proverbs 31 Woman

- (a) Business woman
- (b) Hard worker
- (c) Takes good care of her household
- (d) Well prepared

d) **MEDIATRIX**

(1) Traits

- (a) The highly intuitive, mystical, or mediumistic woman who...
- (b) Has access to the collective unconscious and finds her identity and fulfillment in mediating the world of the unconscious.
- (c) Permeated by the non-tangible atmosphere of her surroundings & the unfolding, latent cultural movements of her times.
- (d) Helps others see what is invisible---she can sense its presence

- (e) Uncanny sensitivity to psychological needs of others
- (f) Rarely a public person in this role
  - i) May exercise gifts in art or things thought of as esoteric
- (g) Has potentially good instincts as a listener, counselor, minister
- (h) Feels as if she lives in two different worlds
  - i) The ordinary land of the living and personal
  - ii) The non-living, the supernatural, the universal/archetypal.
  - iii) Highly intuitive with many experiences of knowing (gnosis) which she can't explain.
- (i) Often influenced by the unconscious of other people.
- (j) Often reverent toward symbols, ritual, worship, art
- (k) Often unconventional & little-concerned with how others perceive her.
- (l) Personal power & financial security of little importance.
- (m) Strong sense of the numinous & instinctual. Lives from her gut in contrast to the Amazon who is more from her head.
  - i) Mother & Companion live more from their hearts
- (n) Important role in mediating the unconscious to men, often assisting them in dying.
  - i) People often find themselves inexplicably bearing their souls to these women even in short relationships
- (o) She is the receptive container for information that originates outside herself and helps others "see" what is invisible.

(2) Dark Side

- (a) Sometimes transmit knowledge prematurely without realizing it.
  - i) May intrude her insights onto her children, frustrating their need to feel their own feelings & learn for themselves.
  - ii) May appear unfocused & vague
- (b) Prone to confusion, not knowing what are her own feelings & what are others
  - i) Must work at developing boundaries. Amazon must work at letting down hers.
  - ii) Developing a strongly discerning tough ego is harder for these women.
  - iii) May become quite tormented if strength is not developed.
- (c) May become inflated in thoughts & action as if she is so numinous and special in her knowledge.
  - i) Eg. Stereotypical artistic temperament.
- (d) If they associate their numinous experience with the will of God too much, they can become presumptuous.
- (e) She may exaggerate her abilities in order to intrigue & mystify those fascinated with the unknown.
- (f) She may even misinterpret or misuse their awareness in order to have power over people.