* Web Site Introduction *

Mytho-Logos Web Site Guide

Welcome

This site was created to explore how we know complexity in terms of singularity versus plurality. That is, we can understand things as more simplistically singular entities versus as more complexly composite, interdependent sets of relationships. The issue is also expressed as a contrast between linear and non-linear models of causation and meaning. This basic question about how human understanding is configured is variously stated and investigated here. Consequently, the design of this web site seeks to illustrate how a core set of concepts concerning pluralistic states of identity and reality are addressed across a range of intellectual disciplines and cultural traditions. The resulting perspective is referred to here as trans-disciplinary. This term is used in contrast to the notion of interdisciplinary study as engagement of two or more disciplines to examine a specific topic. Here, the project is to correlate disciplinary approaches to complexity in a philosophical continuity that does not diminishing disciplinary distinctions.

The challenge then is to articulate how we 'see complexity' by 'seeing through' multiple disciplinary perspectives *all at once*. Thus the core topic of this work is stated in both general terms, such as the 'syntactical qualities of sequential versus constellated association,' and occasionally in more specifically technical ones such as an 'epistemological issue of conservative versus radical hermeneutics,' or, 'order as an emergent property of chaotically self-organizing phenomena in complex systems.' However, because broad accessibility has been a primary goal for this presentation, the

writing seeks to minimize reliance upon specialized terminologies, relying instead on normative word meanings.

Since there is no single or unifying approach to this topic, the web site is not hierarchically ordered. There is no center, beginning, middle, or end to it. Differing approaches to the core concepts are addressed on different web pages. No single topic or approach is considered to be primary. Similar concepts are stated and restated variously. That can be frustrating. However, this 'lay out' of the site attempts to reflect the insights presented. The structure is meant to model how complex human understanding derives from constellating diverse sets of references deriving from differing methodologies into concurrently various interactive relationships. Thus the many repetitions and reformulations of concepts (variable constellations) that constitute the many texts available here are intended to suggest how awareness is broadest when we think in 'clusters' of concepts or references. This pattern of variable reiteration is also meant to allow a reader to 'enter in' on almost any web page.

An extensive **Web Site Glossary of Terms and Concepts** is provided to facilitate the reader's orientation to the diverse references cited or paraphrased in this attempt at a trans-disciplinary perspective. The glossary attempts to define and relate both the more informal and the more technical terms used. An attempt has been made in this glossary to identify authors associated with particular concepts and theories. Also note that you can click on any of the changing images in the **Home Page** triskelion centerpiece to access quotations from some of the other authors and texts that inform the work on this website. The broadest bibliography is found in the "Works Cited" text on the **Manifesting the Many in the One** page.

This **Site Guide** characterizes the emphasis of each of the site's topic-oriented pages. Each of those pages is identified with a particular icon image. For an overall description of the site's core concepts please select the **Site Introduction** link on the **Site Introduction** page. An entire outline of all site pages and links is available on the **Site Search and Directory** page, along with a key word search function. Another way of browsing the site is provided on that page, using a list of topics, each linked to related pages and texts (see "select a phrase").

Most web pages on this site present a series of subheadings that are links to PDF text, video, or audio files. These are all identified by a red, black, and white triskelion image: . "Adobe Acrobat Reader" is required to open the text files. When the files listed on a given web page form a sequence of texts that develop concepts in a progressive manner, these are successively indented across the page. In a general sense, these web pages can be divided into those presenting more theoretical perspectives versus those that are more illustrative or experiential. The icons appearing on the left side of the

Home Page represent pages focused more on experiential concerns, those on the right are somewhat more abstract and theoretical (see below).

In general, if you want an overview, begin with the "Site Introduction" text on the **Web Site Introduction** page. To begin with the basic abstract theories motivating this work, start with the **Concurrent Being** page. If you prefer to engage these concepts more visually, start with the **Seeing Through Un-Reality** page. If you prefer to begin in a more metaphoric language, try the **Stories of Knowing Otherwise** page.

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A series of very brief descriptions of web page contents is offered here, followed by one providing more detail.

More Experientially Oriented Pages

* Stories of Knowing Other Wise (pluralistic status in fiction & non-fiction prose)

* Seeing Through Un-Reality (video of images with spoken reflections on themes of this web site)

* Alchemical Yogas of Knowing (examining practices to diversify awareness and understanding)

* In for It Now—Like It or Not (interminable 'It' phrases)

More Theoretically Oriented Pages

* Site Introduction (overall orientation to website concepts)

* Psycho-Mythic-Philo-Sophic-Maxims (paraphrases of concepts from other authors that are sources of the work on this website)
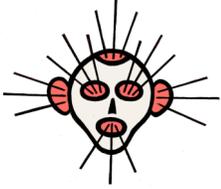
* Mytho-Logos (provides access to pages with texts of analytical writing)

* Archetypal Analytical Method (a statement on methodology and concept of "mytho-logos" used on this website)

* Various Analyses (papers & articles applying archetypal analysis to specific social and cultural topics)

* Concurrent Being (philosophy, psychology, and implications of accepting a pluralistic status of being)

* Concurrent Becoming (myth and enacting experience of pluralistic status)
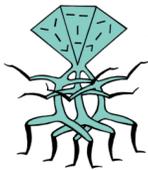
* Manifesting the Many in the One (trans-disciplinary analysis of reductive & non-reductive modes of knowing)

* Learning to Be—Variously (education examined in relation to notions of pluralistic identity, individualism, and egalitarian society)

* Arts of Precipitating Participation (art and the manifestation of more-than-ordinary reality as participation in it)

* Images and Enactments (how images and actions can manifest concurrently pluralistic status)

* **Tales, Tellings, Poetics** (discussion of how language usage and style express concurrently pluralistic status)

* **Poetic Conceptions** (theoretical concepts of concurrent plurality expressed in poetic diction)

* Web Site Glossary of Terms and Concepts (explanations and cross-referencing of terms and concepts used on website)

Reference and Resource Pages

* Site Search & Directory (two site search functions & a complete list of all web pages & file links)

* Sources, Resources, Links, Contact (guest book, reading lists, related web links, contact with site author)

* Presentation and Workshops (info on site author and how he applies these concepts in person)

* Home Page (triskelion centerpiece images are clickable links to quotations from related authors and texts—sources for which are found on **Sources, Resources Page**)

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More Extensive Descriptions of Page Topics & Contents

* * * Pages emphasizing experiential understanding * * *
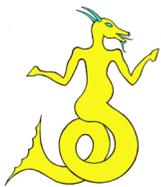
Stories of Knowing Other Wise:

This page is presented in relation to the concepts from the **Arts of Precipitating Participation** and **Tales, Tellings, Poetics** pages. It provides a few examples of prosaic narrative in more contemporary styles of language usage that foreground a pluralistic status of being and mythical mode of awareness.

Seeing Through Un-Reality:

Includes a text considering 'seeing' as a psychical phenomena that is, thereby, an 'un-real' version of reality. Various visually illustrated meditations on that psychical character of perception and self-representation are also presented in video files. These

combine a series of images with an oral rumination. These presentations are intended to engage the symbolic and emotive qualities of cognitive apprehension. Thus the format is not 'lecture style.' The concerns reflected upon here correspond with those of the more overtly discursive, theoretical texts on other pages.
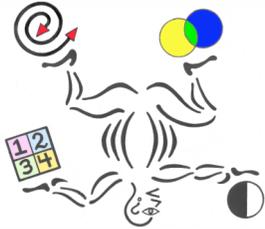
### Alchemical Yogas of Knowing:

The notion of practicing disciplines that diversify qualities of experience and understanding are considered on this page. Such effort is characterized in relation to traditional practices of alchemy and yoga. Some specific exercises, practices, and games intended to stimulate more extra-ordinary awareness and understanding are offered.
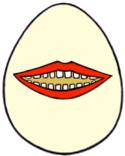
In for It Now—Like It or Not:

The curiously pervasive ways the word "it" recurs in habitual phrasing are listed on this page. The specific yet general references implied by use of this word suggest how there seems always to be 'more to the story' than we know or can readily indicate. These expressions suggest that there is often a sense of some 'It' that is inevitable, irresistible, pervasive, and mysterious.

* * * Pages emphasizing Analytical expression & understanding * * *

Site Introduction:

A broad overview of the core concepts around which the work on this web site is organized is provided: concurrently pluralistic being, radical complexity, mytho-logos or mythical logic, reductive versus non-reductive understanding, mythical knowing, enactive participation in concurrent status through art and myth, and a mythical science of complexity. In addition, it has the link to this "Site Guide" text.

Psycho-Mythic-Philo-Sophic-Maxims

Provides a list of paraphrased concepts from scholars and theorists whose works inform and are referenced in the writing on this site. These notions come from disciplines such as anthropology, psychology, philosophy, critical studies, physics, and aesthetics. This list is intended to assist readers in orienting to a trans-disciplinary sense of the logics of a concurrently diversified, pluralistic status of being.

Web Site Glossary of Terms and Concepts:

This text provides an extensive listing of terms and concepts used or referenced in the writing on this site. It will open in a separate browser window so you can refer to it while reading any other document available on the site. The glossary contains considerable cross-referencing and is worth scanning as a theoretical and disciplinary 'mapping' of this site's intentions.
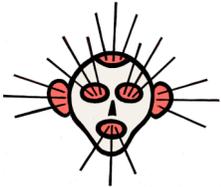
Mytho-Logos:

The pages holding the primary analytical texts of this site are listed on this page. These begin with a description of the archetypal analytical method favored here as being most appropriate for examining pluralistic or concurrent status (the manyness of oneness).


Archetypal Method:

A methodology of archetypal analysis, based upon concepts of concurrent status and the meaningfulness of radical complexity, is outlined in this text and related to notions of reductive versus non-reductive reasoning, dialectical elaboration, depth psychology, mythical logic (mytho-logos), and mythical representation.

Various Analyses:

A variety of articles are provided here examining specific phenomena in social, cultural, psychological contexts. These demonstrate application of a non-reductive methodology characterized here as archetypal analysis and derived from the principle concepts organizing work on this site.
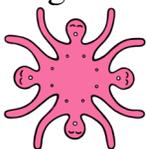

Concurrent Being:

The entries on this page attempt a broad contexting for the significance of a pluralistic or concurrently diversified status of being (as expressed in both mind and matter). Overall, this effort seeks to distinguish between singularity and plurality as contrasting and complimentary bases for meaning and being. The implied condition of being 'a manyness that is also a oneness' is posed in relation to various modes of knowing reality and identity (philosophical, psychological, epistemological, and hermeneutic perspectives). An extensive set of schematic illustrations of these concepts is available on this page under the heading "**Figuring the Dynamical Compositions of Reductive and Non-Reductive Associatio**n."

 Concurrent Becoming:

Ways in which a concurrent status of being is manifested and experienced are considered here in terms of pluralistic or diversified becoming. Understanding such a various and changing condition of existence is associated with artistic or mythical modes of expression. These ways of representation are shown to be most appropriate to expressing and thus knowing a pluralistic condition through a mythical logic of radically complex association.

 Manifesting the Many in the One:

This page provides access to an extensive transdisciplinary consideration of how reductive singularity and amplifying plurality are used to context both reality and identity. After a general introduction elaborating elements of reductive and non-reductive understanding, each chapter considers these modes of knowing in relation to related theories in various disciplines, including anthropology, aesthetics, philosophy, science, psychology, and mythology. This is the densest writing offered on this website.
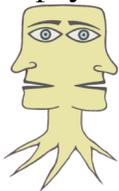
 Learning to Be—Variously:

The text on this page pursues an extensive reexamination of relationships between notions of individuality, education, and egalitarian values in pluralistic societies. This investigation is pursued in particular reference to a concept of pluralistic identity. The work explores what it means to 'learn to become one's intellectual, emotional, and temperamental diversity' in relation to such diversity in other individuals. Implications of focusing on that goal for education and schooling are considered. Reductive and non-reductive logic are also examined in relation to educating. The writing here is the most generally accessible application of the methods and concepts presented on this site.

Arts of Precipitating Participation:

Texts linked to this page elaborate an overview on how an extra-ordinary mode of representation is necessary to provide humans with a sense of overt participation in the radical complexity of concurrent or pluralistic being. Reasons are given for why this mode of expression (particularly art and myth) must necessarily transgress ordinary standards of valid reality in order to effectively represent the radically complex dynamics of concurrently diversified existence. The following three pages provide further description and examples of how such extra-ordinary expression can effect consciousness:

Images and Enactments:

Texts linked to this page consider how images, objects, and actions can constitute representations and enactments that manifest the mythically complex meanings of concurrently diversified status.

Tales, Tellings, Poetics

Texts on this page suggest how language itself is radically complex in its interminable deferrals of meaning. Style in language usage is considered as potentially manifesting the concurrently complex meanings of mythical status. Literary style is examined for its enhancements of extra-ordinary complexity and non-reductive understanding.

Stories of Knowing Other Wise:

This page presents examples of how style in using prosaic language, both as fiction and non-fiction, can manifest more radically complex meanings than are possible in ordinary usage. This quality is explored as 'telling it variously' that enables us to 'know otherwise' or extra-ordinarily. Examples are given in relation to the style of fairy tales as well as more contemporary modes.

Poetic Conceptions:

This page presents a notion of poetic diction as inherently inconclusive and multi-focal or 'ambo-valent.' That quality is related to the non-reductive understanding of mythical logic or mytho-logos. Examples of using such diction to articulate complex psychological and philosophical principles of pluralistic status in free verse stanza form are provided.

* Presentation and Workshops:

This page provides an introduction to the author of this web site and how he approaches application of the concepts articulated here. The discussions given here of how this material relates to ordinary life are organized around the concepts of extra-ordinary understanding, archetypal analysis, and mythical knowing. A five-stage process for using these to explore the 'hidden' complexities of specific personal, social, and cultural contexts is provided. The author's approach to engaging groups in the use of these perspectives through presentations and workshops is also described.