

**MASCULINE JUNGIAN ARCHETYPES OF J.K. ROWLING'S *HARRY*
POTTER SERIES**

Ms. N. Jothi,

PhD Scholar, PG & Research Department of English, V.O. Chidambaram College,
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli, India

Dr. V. Chanthiramathi,

Research Guide & Associate Professor, PG & Research Department of English,
V.O. Chidambaram College, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University,
Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli, India

Abstract

Fantasy is an imaginary story with magical and supernatural elements. J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* Series is a Contemporary Fantasy as it clubs together an imaginary and magical Harry Potter World with the realistic world especially London. In 1990 when travelling in a train from Manchester to London King's Cross Station, J.K. Rowling got an idea of the blue-eyed spectacled boy with a scar on his forehead, Harry Potter. In 1997, with the release of the first book of the *Harry Potter* Series, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, Harry Potter took the world by storm. His magic was evident beyond the books and soon Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, Hermione Granger, Hagrid, Albus Dumbledore, Severus Snape, Sirius Black, Voldemort along with other magical beings and creatures and their world of magic, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, revolutionised fantasy literature and fantasised its readers. It gained immense popularity and became a critically acclaimed, young adult literature winning accolades, awards and recognition for both the author and her work. Carl Gustav Jung was a Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who established analytical psychology and advanced the ideas of personalities, archetypes and the unconscious mind. The present paper tries to analyse Masculine Jungian Archetypes of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* Series.

Key Words: fantasy, magical, supernatural elements, psychiatrist, archetypes, unconscious mind and psychoanalyst.

The Gods and Goddesses of myth, legend and fairy tale represent archetypes, real potencies and potentialities deep within the psyche, which, when allowed to flower permit us to be more fully human - Margot Adler.

Fantasy is an imaginary story with magical and supernatural elements. J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* Series is a Contemporary Fantasy as it clubs together an imaginary and magical Harry Potter World with the realistic world especially London. In 1990 when travelling in a train from Manchester to London King's Cross Station, J.K. Rowling got an idea of the blue-eyed spectacled boy with a scar on his forehead, Harry Potter. In 1997, with the release of the first book of the *Harry Potter* Series, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, Harry Potter took the world by storm. His magic was evident beyond the books and soon Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, Hermione Granger, Hagrid, Albus Dumbledore, Severus Snape, Sirius Black, Voldemort along with other magical beings and creatures and their world of magic, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, revolutionised fantasy literature and fantasised its readers. It gained immense popularity and became a critically acclaimed, young adult literature winning accolades, awards and recognition for both the author and her work.

Carl Gustav Jung was a Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who established analytical psychology and advanced the ideas of personalities, archetypes and the unconscious mind. His ideas though stemming out of psychology has reverberations that reflect beyond psychiatry extending into literature, art and religion. Jung proposed the existence of archetypes in the human mind. Archetypes are patterns of human behaviour that are stored in the collective unconsciousness of the human mind. In Paragraph 254 of Book V of *The Collected Works of C.G. Jung*, Jung describes archetypes as "identical psychic structures common to all which together constitute the archaic heritage of humanity". Archetypes combine universal patterns of human personality with the individual ones creating a commonness amongst all human beings across all nations, languages and culture. An archetype is like a coin on whose other side lives the shadow. The shadow is the opposite of the archetype and its coexistence with the archetype within the human mind adds hues to human behaviour, response and character. Based on Greek Mythology, Victoria Lynn Schmidt in her book *45 Master Characters: Mythic Models For Creating Original Characters* tabulates the masculine archetypes as Apollo - the Businessman and its shadow the Traitor, Ares - the Protector and its shadow the Gladiator, Hades - the Recluse and its shadow the Warlock, Hermes - the Fool and its shadow the Derelict, Dionysus - the Woman's man and its shadow the Seducer, Osiris - the male Messiah and its shadow the Punisher, Poseidon - the Artist and his shadow the Abuser and Zeus - the King and his shadow the dictator.

This paper titled "Masculine Jungian Archetypes of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* Series" studies the characters of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* Series through the psychoanalytic lens of Carl Jung's Archetypal Theory. The archetypes are described and then

the *Harry Potter* characters that exhibit the characteristics of Jungian Masculine Archetypes are briefed in the current study.

The first archetype in study is Apollo -the Businessman and it's shadowthe Traitor. Victoria Lynn Schmidt in *45 Master Characters: Mythic Models For Creating Original Characters* describes the archetype as:

Underneath the brilliant shining sun, strides the god Apollo along the beach. . . His logical mind makes him the dispenser of justice, and his strong willpower allows him to accomplish any goal he sets for himself (101).

The Businessman is an archetype who is always concerned about their profession. He is a great team player and a trustworthy employee. He is immersed in his work and avoids family life. He sets his goal and sets high standards for himself. The Businessman's assets are blending in a team, strategic and logical thinking, image conscious, great analyst, passions on his work, trustworthy and loyal. The Businessman's flaws are his obsession with work, inability to expand beyond work environment, arrogant and inflexible. For the villainous side of the Businessman - the traitor, all things revolve around his work. For him, his work is God. He goes to any extent for the success of his work. He's a perfectionist and expects everyone to fall in line with him. When betrayed, the traitor will not settle until he teaches the betrayer a lesson. He always views others as pawns and uses them to accomplish his goal.

Percy Weasley, the brother of Ron Weasley – the best friend of Harry Potter can be quoted as an example of Businessman archetype. Percy is a thorough professional for whom profession comes before his own family. He set his goal as joining a high rank in the Ministry of Magic, Ron himself declares, "Course, he's very ambitious, Percy, he's got it all planned out... he wants to be Minister for Magic (Rowling *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* 58)" and succeeded in rising up to a high rank in the Ministry of Magic. He was image conscious and for the sake of his profession and ambition, he went to the extent of disassociating himself with his own family. His inability to expand beyond his work environment is evident from the fact that because of the Ministry of Magic not favouring Harry Potter, Percy condemned his family for aiding and befriending Harry Potter. His trustworthiness speaks volumes as he chose the Ministry of Magic over his own family.

The second archetype in study is Ares -the Protector and it's shadowthe Gladiator. Schmidt describes the archetype in the same book as:

High on the hill overlooking the battlefield, all of the gods watch the war taking place below except for Ares. In full armor, he delightfully joins in the fight. He fights to satiate his lust for blood rather than to win a noble cause.

Everything physical is joyous to him, and his passion leaves all in his wake breathless. He is known as the protector of the community and of families, but any reason to join in a brawl is a good enough reason for him (110).

The Protector as an archetype is a man who lives to fight. He is protective, loyal, great lover, and is a seeker of risks and adventures. The Protector's assets are his physical strength and calibre, relentless attitude, fight for loved ones and good cause and love for thrills and challenges. The Protector's Flaws are his spontaneity to attack without thinking, merciless demeanour and risky way of living. If the evil side is dominant, then the villainous side of the protector - the gladiator, becomes engrossed in lust for power, pleasure, blood and war. He takes risks and puts in danger the life of others but doesn't claim responsibility for his risks. He becomes impulsive and unpredictable.

Albus Dumbledore, the principal of Harry Potter's school, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, aptly fits in the Protector archetype. Albus Dumbledore was the most powerful wizard whom even the vilest wizard Lord Voldemort feared, "Dumbledore's . . . the only one Voldemort ever feared" (Rowling *Harry Potter and the Half - Blood Prince* (92)). Albus Dumbledore was a great lover of thrills and challenges as it was, he who found out the deathly hallows and in his young age sided with Grindelwald in the quest to unite the three Deathly Hallows to become invincible. But the loss of his dear sister Arianna brought him back to reality and he lived the rest of his life fighting evil supporting the good cause. His good nature is revealed in his obituary, "he was the most inspiring and the best loved of all Hogwarts headmasters cannot be in question. He died as he lived: working always for the greater good"(Rowling *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* 20).

The third archetype in study is Hades - the Recluse and its shadow the Warlock. Schmidt describes the archetype in her book *45 Master Characters: Mythic Models For Creating Original Characters* as:

Dwelling in the dark underworld, unable to find light, Hades lives inside his head. He has no need for friends or acquaintances, but instead prefers to linger alone. His life is full of the richness of the imagination as he goes about his daily activities. His mind is always somewhere else (118).

The Recluse is the archetypal man who is creative. He lives in his own fantasies. He seems psychic and his readings make him philosophical. The Recluse's assets are his philosophy and intelligence who with the right woman learns to be passive. He is a faithful and reliable person. The Recluse's flaws are that he is pessimistic, inexpressive and finds it hard to communicate and socialise. The shadow or villainous side of the Recluse, the warlock, uses

his power to wreak havoc on others. He is dominating in nature and wishes to ascertain his supremacy and once established starts testing his esoteric ideas. His isolation makes him a schizoid. He favours occult and all things that discern normalcy. He is antisocial and is focussed on his gains alone.

Sirius Black is the god – father of Harry Potter. During school days, he was an intelligent student. Sirius Black was the best friend of Harry Potter parents and was wrongly accused for their death. It is later revealed that he is indeed a true friend, “I never betrayed Lily and James. I would have died before I betrayed them” (Rowling *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* 313). Realising the truth, Harry Potter developed a close bond with him and was very close with him. He was faithful and reliable and gave his life to save Harry Potter. He is very brainy as well as he along with his friends became unregistered Animagus capable of shifting shapes for the sole purpose of protecting his friend Remus Lupin. Later after being falsely accused and abandoned by his friends his life became psychic as he struggled to evade Dementors and led his life in hiding. He was the sole prisoner capable of escaping the Prison of Azkaban alive. All these factors point out that he can be associated with the Recluse archetype.

The next archetype briefed is Hermes - the Fool and its shadow the Derelict. Schmidt describes the archetype in her book *45 Master Characters: Mythic Models For Creating Original Characters* as:

Dancing through life, the fool lives without a care in the world. He exists between the world of adults and the world of children. All of life is simple, light, and amazing to him. He wanders from place to place looking for a new playmate—whether it be a person, a dog, or a game, it doesn't matter to him. His heart is full of love and laughter. He is the most playful of all the gods and often acts as a messenger between humans and the gods as he loves adventures and travel (126).

The Fool is an archetype who is a boy inside. He is someone who is loved to hang out with. He is playful and jolly – go in nature. He doesn't constrain himself within romantic entanglements. He doesn't hurt others. He is friendly in nature. The Fool's assets are spontaneity, inquisitive, easygoing, playful and adventurous nature. He is imaginative and loves to be around children. The Fool's flaws are that at times he is reckless and impulsive. The villainous side of the fool, the Derelict draws people towards him using his charm. He isn't serious about the consequences of his actions. The Derelict hates authority. He turns into an arrogant, self-centered, irresponsible and confrontational person.

Rubeus Hagrid perfectly fit this archetype. He was playful and adventurous. He always befriended monstrous creatures and was friends with dangerous beings. Hagrid was friend with Aragog – monster spider, dragons, and even grew werewolves as pet,” Hagrid, in trouble every other week, trying to raise werewolf cubs under his bed” (Rowling *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* 268). He always loved hanging out with kids and Harry Potter and his friends were very close with him.

The fifth archetype explained is Dionysus - the Woman's man and its villain the Seducer. Schmidt describes the archetype in her book *45 Master Characters: Mythic Models For Creating Original Characters* as:

Underneath the full moon, Dionysus dances with the women from town. . . He brings out the best in them and shows them the best in himself. Together they experience moments of ecstasy and joyous madness (134).

The Woman's Man is a man who loves everything about women. He sees them as equal or better than him. He worships them and maintains strong friendship with women. He is a woman's best friend and strengthens their self esteem. His search in woman is for an ideal wife and mother but doesn't commit himself to anyone. The Woman's Man's Assets is that he is gentle, loving, chivalrous, sensual and supportive person who shuns away power and money. The Woman's Man's Flaws are that he wishes to be surrounded by women always and finds it hard to live along with fellow men. The shadow of this archetype is the Seducer. If hurt, betrayed or abandoned he starts seducing women and creates problems in their life. He becomes obsessive and shows excessive emotionalism. He turns into a stalker and becomes intolerable.

Ron Weasley, the best friend of Harry Potter is a woman's man. He treats all women equally. He falls in love with Hermione Granger the other member of Harry Potter's Trio gang and marries her. He found his ideal partner in her and settled with her. He supports her right from school days in her fight for the rights of house elf and stands by her as her friend, lover and husband.

The next archetype briefed in this study is Osiris - the male Messiah and its shadow the Punisher. Schmidt describes the archetype in the same book as:

Surrounded by light, Osiris walks across the earth carrying transformation and wisdom wherever he goes. He illuminates all he comes in contact with. He is the divine child and the divine consort. . . He loves humans so much that he sacrifices himself every year, giving the earth his body in winter and being reborn again in spring. He is life and death (143).

The Messiah is the archetype of androgyny who paves way for love and enlightenment. The Male Messiah's Assets are that he is disciplined, spiritual, ready to sacrifice themselves, unmaterialistic and courageously questions authority. The male Messiah's flaws are that he is blatantly truthful and strict disciplinarian. As the shadow of Messiah is the Punisher - a harsh critic who pushes people beyond their boundaries for their betterment.

Severus Snape is the Messiah of Harry Potter. All along until his death, he sided with the evil Lord Voldemort to aid Albus Dumbledore in the mission to protect Harry Potter. Albus Dumbledore credit Severus Snape as "To give Voldemort what appears to be valuable information while withholding the essentials is a job, I would entrust to nobody but you" (Rowling *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* 684). Severus Snape loved Harry Potter's mother Lily Potter deeply. It was he who informed Albus Dumbledore of Lord Voldemort's plan to kill Harry Potter. He was broken on knowing about the death of Lily Potter and pledged his life to save Harry Potter. All along he seemed to be a task master in disciplining Harry Potter and he saved Harry Potter's life many times. It is revealed at the end after his death that Severus Snape was a great man who gave up his life and everything for Harry Potter. He was indeed Harry Potter's Messiah saving him all along and in the end gave up his life as well.

The next archetype discussed is Poseidon - the Artist and his shadow the Abuser. In *45 Master Characters: Mythic Models For Creating Original Characters*, Schmidt describes the archetype as:

In the depths of the sea, Poseidon forever sets the course of fate on waters of emotion, raging waves one moment and calm tides then next. He is unpredictable, dangerous, and intriguing all at the same time. . . He can give abundance from the sea's riches or take your life for venturing across his waters (151).

The Artist is an emotional man who effectively channels them into his creative works. He is aggressive, passionate and intense in his feelings. He is nature loving and is very instinctual. The Artist's assets include his love to create something new. He is passionate, creative and abounds in intensity. The Artist's flaws are that he finds it hard to control his emotions and begins imagining things in real life as well. The Abuser is the villainous side of the artist. As the abuser, he becomes unpredictable, harmful, revengeful, aggressive, vindictive, antisocial, unlawful, reckless, erratic and irritable person.

The Weasley twins – Fred and George Weasley – are the artist archetype. They were very creative and mischievous enough to establish a business of their own with their magic

tricks. They were true artists and brilliant pranksters. Their audacity is explained by their sister Ginny Weasley as, “The thing about growing up with Fred and George, is that you sort of start thinking anything's possible if you've got enough nerve” (Rowling *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* 550).

The next archetype in study is Zeus- the King and his shadow the dictator. It is described by Schmidt in the same book as:

High up on the mountain, Zeus surveys his land and castle. He looks down on those around him, making sure everything is in quiet order. Everywhere one turns, his watchful gaze can be felt; his power lingers long after he has left the area. He fills the sky with his image and demands respect. . . He can be your best friend one minute and your worst enemy the next (160).

The King is a very strong person who is authoritative and bossy. He is highly skilled and a good strategist whose ventures are always successful. He is devoid of emotions and guilt. He is a provider and protector. The King's Assets are his skills in forming alliances, decisive and confident nature. The King's Flaws is his controlling demeanour, stoic and quiet nature. As a villain, the King turns foe and becomes the Dictator. He becomes obsessive, controlling, and plays the role of a demigod. He becomes a tyrant. He executes his own laws, becomes extremely judgmental and instils fear in others.

The protagonist Harry Potter is the King archetype. He yields his authority and becomes the most powerful wizard by defeating Lord Voldemort. Harry Potter also succeeds in mastering and uniting the Deathly Hallows making him the most powerful person with enormous power at his reckoning. He strategically plans his quest to trace the horcruxes, manages to destroy them and succeeds in his task of destroying evil and saving both the real and magical world. His strength, love and good nature makes him a hero to reckon across ages.

This paper titled “Masculine Jungian Archetypes of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* Series” has analysed the *Harry Potter* characters through the Jungian Archetypes solidifying the presence of archetypes in human collective unconsciousness. The archetypes exhibit their presence in literary characters and gives the readers a wide range of characters to relish and enjoy. The study analysed through the lens of Jungian archetypes also establishes the literary supremacy of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* Series.

Works Cited

Jung, C G, et al. *The Collected Works of C.G. Jung*. Princeton University Press, 1973.

Rowling, J. K. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Bloomsbury, 2014.

---. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Bloomsbury, 2014.

---. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. Bloomsbury, 2014.

---. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. Bloomsbury, 2014.

---. *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Bloomsbury, 2014.

---. *Harry Potter and the Half - Blood Prince*. Bloomsbury, 2014.

---. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Bloomsbury, 2014.

Schmidt, Victoria Lynn. *45 Master Characters: Mythic Models For Creating Original Characters*. Writers Digest Books, 2012.