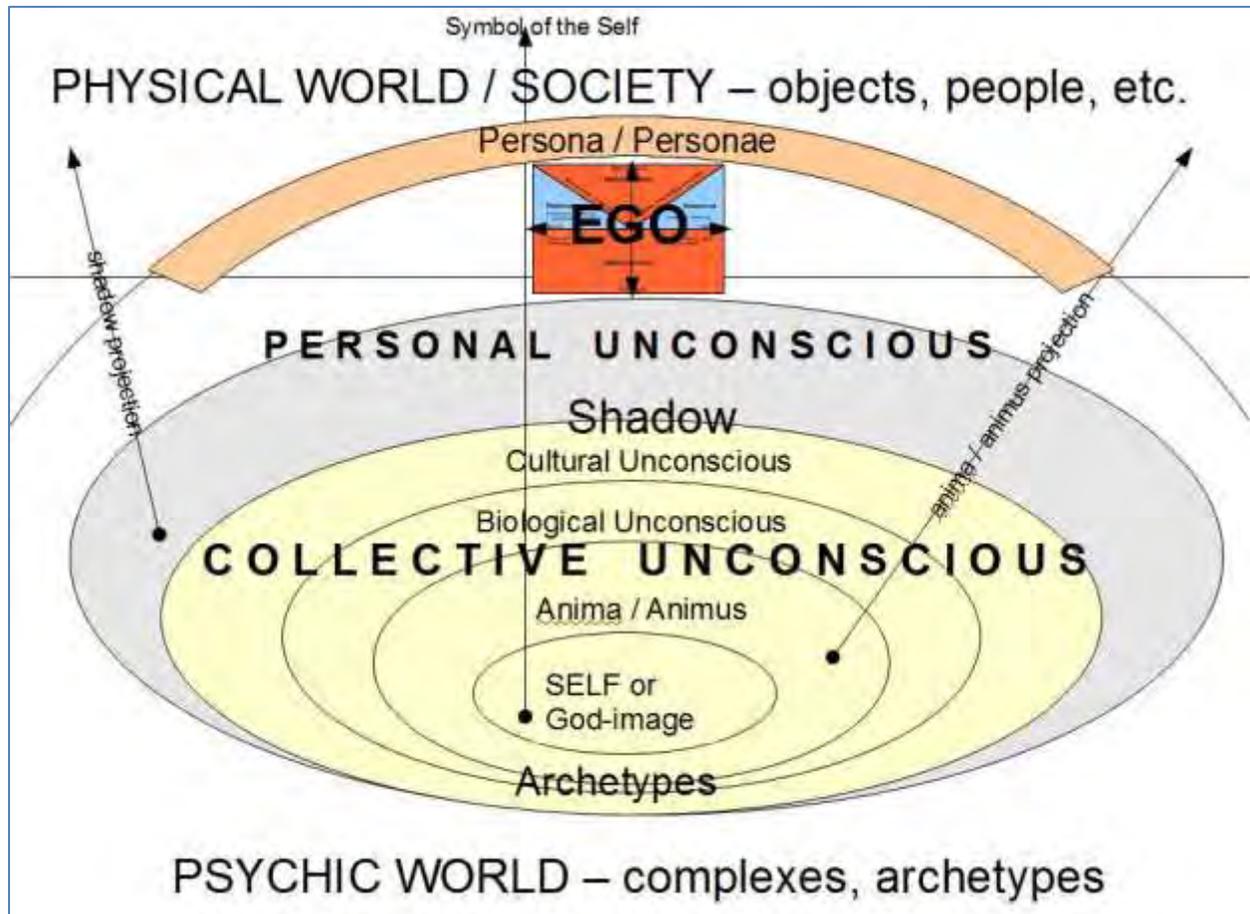


Ego is not the self. In addition to ego, there is the unconscious, ideas

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"Happy are those who have overcome their egos; happy are those who have attained peace; happy are those who have found the Truth." - Gautama Buddha.

EGO: Ego is not the self. In addition to ego, there is the unconscious, ideas - Platonic or Jungian archetypes, the soul, the collective unconscious, cultural unconscious the shadow and differences in how mind works as male and female differ substantially - CG Jung calls these differences Anima and Animus, meaning the structural psyche is different for male and female. Current neuroscience shows specific difference particularly the gender functions and developments kick in. There are complex neuronal differences from testable studies but this Brain Difference article might suffice as a starter.

In the Seminary, we ran a couple of tests on academic work and gender. What we found revealed sisters were incredibly good at memory and detailed information. What brothers were good at was good academic research but in understanding what ultimate meaning and consequences were. In simple terms, there was the difference and what worked best was co-operation so that work contained complimentary positions regarding the material being explored by sisters and brothers.

Men and women are different. The book, Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus by John Gray is a

bit dated and can be criticized but it points to the simple fact that men and women are different. In other areas, we read of men holding to a 'Vertical' position and women to a 'Horizontal orientation. In theology, this simply means vertical heavenly ideas and functions require horizontal earthly and relational skills as transcendence and immense need each other if we are to talk of reality. This is not about one being superior to another rather how complimentary works best and where one needs another - it is a principle for life. Additionally, this one is a bit like Yin-Yang where two come together to form one dance in life and where there are functional differences yet in togetherness, creativity is mastered and gives birth to the new. One as a single proposition does not do this - even God has been described as manifesting 'His' nature as 'Them' and it is them, Adam and Eve, man and woman in Genesis, who create the future by creating family and children. So it all starts with two.



Figure 5: Jung's Model of the Psyche

unconscious, however, links us to the collective unconscious and to God and all the transpersonal dimensions - this is so for Jungians, transpersonal psychologists, Maslow, Integral thinkers and psychologists such as Wilber, Grof and many more who examine the human psyche, its transpersonal dimensions and the relational world which is called the "Connected Body" in the chapter on Ontology in Unification Thought.

If anyone is promoting ego constantly there are questions. There are the feminine mind and its proclivities, the masculine mind and its proclivities. There is the shadow (part of fallen nature) which ego does not define. There is the intuitive creative dimension which the ego does not entertain. There are the spiritual dimension and soul which ego foregoes, there are spirit, anima and animus, and there are historical realities which also tell us ego is not to be trusted. This one is common to Eastern thinking where Buddhism, for example, tells us to beware of illusion (Ego-Anatta). This is the same as ego failing to discuss the foundation of the self which lies in the unconscious and in transpersonal propositions. An egotist is not a spiritual person by definition. Then by the other definitions of dual characteristics and yin-yang, we have to ask of males and females who talk a lot about ego - what their marriages are like or what is their relationship to the opposite sex?

There is a place for everything and dual characteristics are the prerequisites for creativity. This is so in man and woman, yin and yang, yab-yum, conscious and unconscious, spiritual and physical, wave and particle. Without wave and particle, there can be no light. The idea of harmony within the self or in marriage is important. Why? Kant is still accepted as a preeminent philosopher who asks what the self is but also emerges as a dualist. He was never married, walked around the block daily and gave us the rational mind, then proposed a spiritual mind (Intellectus Archetypus in his 3rd Critique) could not be examined, so he left it alone. But many others took this problem up and in the end through German Idealists, came up with the unconscious - that is to say within the psychological world the self, came to be described as rational consciousness and the personal /collective unconscious. See the diagrams.

The ego functions as rational consciousness, is a single agency of a more complex self and mostly operates in the physical world - the intuitive