

JOHN BEEBE'S THEORY

In the nearby file *Paper by John Beebe* (which is also available on the web) is an article by the noted San Francisco analyst John Beebe. John has written innumerable articles and books in a huge variety of areas of Jungian psychology. This particular article, on personality types and their possible linkages to particular archetypes is an interesting, but very personal one. You might think that perhaps it tells you more about John Beebe's individual personality than about typology in general. But the typology-archetypal linkage area is one that very few writers have dared to enter. So, if you don't agree with John's linkages, you might have fun trying to devise one of your own. Which archetype is most present when you use your dominant attitude and function.....and so on.

In his article, Dr Beebe begins with the four generally-known attitude-function combinations. As he is an ENTP, his dominant (strongest and most conscious) attitude-function pair is EN (extraverted intuition). His second preference is IT (introverted thinking), his third preference is EF and his fourth (inferior and most unconscious) preference is IS (introverted sensing). He associates these four combinations, each with a particular archetype. Thus:

1. EN The Hero
2. IT (great) Father
3. EF *Puer Aeternus* The eternal boy
4. IS The Anima

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A few notes at this point.

First, Dr Beebe accepts the concept of 'true type' (see also the file *Jung's Personality Theory*). The concept that each individual has a typology that should be the same in every situation and lifelong. I don't subscribe to this concept, as my research clearly shows that type varies with situation, but the concept is almost a dogma in much of the type community.

Second, in my opinion Dr Beebe neglects the role of the ego. As if ego consciousness were something that stands outside typology. But the ego is also an archetype: and consciousness is not always confined to the ego archetype. I would personally be happier with a first attitude-function pair that was designated as associated with the ego *in conjunction with* a currently most-favoured partner. To jump ahead a bit, it is also clear that Dr Beebe takes no account of some of the most important archetypes: the inner child, the self and the persona, for example. Inevitably, if there are only eight attitude-function pairs.

Third, it might be considered a bit unusual for the hero to be the archetype associated with the dominant personality orientation. To take a developmental viewpoint, as one goes through life, there must surely be a progression of identification with, and projection of, the most important archetypal energies. Identification with the inner child, for example, is appropriate when one is a child and projection of this archetype is appropriate when becomes a parent, or is in a similar role.

Identification with the hero archetypes most commonly occurs in youthful adulthood (say 15-30) and would surely be unusual as a lifetime orientation. Fascinating, in this example, but unusual (at least in Australia).

Finally, I have a general doubtfulness about universalist theories. Theories that propose, in part at least, the same personality orientation, for example, for everyone. As a classic INTP, I have an inherent distrust of such simplicity!

Against all these doubts is the intuitive attractiveness of the theory and the undoubted accuracy of the self-description involved. Added to the long experience and great knowledge of the author. So let us proceed.

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Dr Beebe's next point is to suggest that the four basic attitude-function pairs each have a shadow side: when the opposite attitude is combined with a particular function (IN instead of EN, and so on). He calls these combinations the Shadow Personality and associated a (different) archetype with each pair, thus:

5. IN The Opposing Personality (a new concept)
6. ET The Senex/Witch
7. IF The Trickster
8. ES The Demonic Personality (new concept, that sounds like a Grimm brothers witch)

For a detailed and fascinating description of all this, read Dr Beebe's article.

Eight Attitude-Function Pairs for an INTP

Following Dr Beebe's advice, I have attempted to apply his model to my own personality typology, dream life and limited clinical experience. The results have been most interesting, but don't really fit the model. A few brief notes on some of the results follow.

Attitude-Function Pair (AFP) 1 IT Introverted thinking.

?The Hero. No. My introverted thinking is always concerned with knowledge and could better be related to Athena or even alchemy. Athena was a protector of heroes, of course, but that is rather an unconvincing connection.

AFP 2 EN Extraverted intuition.

?The Father. Possibly. Rather the shaman or counselor. A non-judgmental openness to experience that has led to a career in teaching.

AFP 3 IS Introverted sensing.

?The Puer. Uncertain. I do have a strong puer function, that has led to a lifetime of change (career, country, friendships and all the rest), but the connection to inner sensing is hard to find. Unless it is related to all those dreams where I get lost in yet another foreign city. For me, the puer and the trickster have a claim on aspects of ego-consciousness.

AFP4 EF Extraverted feeling.

?The anima. Absolutely. The anima contains powerful feelings that can take many years to approach with any success.

AFP5 ET Extraverted thinking.

?An opposing personality. Absolutely. My extraverted thinking is slow, has the IQ of a hedgehog (and many of its behaviours) and is tyrannical, dogmatic, donnish and indifferent to the ideas of others, the which could be seen as threatening.

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That's enough. Have a read of John Beebe's paper and see how well it applies to your own experience. Or see how well it applies to characters in literature or films with which (whom?) you are familiar. Charlie in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, or C.S. Lewis in *Shadowlands* (both INTPs), for example. n.b. Beebe's paper also has an excellent list of further reading.