
Archetypes of Cyberspace

An Essay

By Walter Logeman
Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay

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Archetypes of Cyberspace
Walter Logeman
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Preface to the 2014 Kindle Edition

THIS ESSAY ORIGINALLY APPEARED on my website in 2003. I recall in about 1990 when I bought my first modem, the thrill of seeing words appear out of the ether, line after line of text flowing onto my green screen. I could Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay edit the words, reply to the writer, this is our culture, our collective psyche, I thought, it's alive! I have explored

the psych on the Internet since then. I see the whole phenomena not so much as a technical thing, but an expression of soul.

One reason I am publishing this 12-year-old paper in a Kindle edition is because I'm working on new articles on the psyche and media. However I have not done justice to this essay. This essay was important to me, but it always needed a final edit. My intention was to present it to a journal, but I did not follow through. Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay Reading on the iPad is a delight and my curiosity about publishing in Kindle led to this this edition. To my delight, just as this digital edition is going to press a Russian Jungian journal has asked if they can publish the essay in translation. I am honoured.

I've enjoyed the process of editing. Writing this essay I experienced moments of epiphany, editing and re-reading has allowed me to visit those moments again. I realise how these ideas have influenced me. As the essay becomes more accessible, so do these moments in my life. Once again I roam among the thinkers I love, J.L. Moreno, Carl Jung, Marshall McLuhan, Neal Stephenson, William Gibson and many more, some of whom are only famous on the Internet, some only in this essay! I'm drawn to how the psyche finds ways to live and transform, and it requires a medium. The digital realm is one such media and it influences the soul. I'm a psychotherapist. I don't think of psychological exploration as something related to illness. Its about truth and possibilities, Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay it's adventure.

This essay, about cyberspace and Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay written in cyberspace is a noosphere probe. The probing continues with this edition, as part of a trend in self publishing. This essay is planned as an on demand booklet edition from LuLu or Amazon and as a pdf and other ebook formats. This Kindle edition is a first effort. I am following a hunch that is in line with a theme in this essay. My personal website is not the Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay hub of the marketplace, it is not where these ideas will circulate easily, perhaps Amazon will give it a new presence. I want this essay to have a life. I'm keen to see what happens and my findings may well lead to further reflections. I'm exploring the psyche in cyberspace.

Amazon has its drawbacks. The fluidity of digital text, its very aliveness, and the ability to act on it, to edit it, to share it is impaired in Kindle ebooks. Amazon, along with hundreds of others have gone to great lengths to constrain the digital text to mimic the constraints Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay of the physical book, to make it more like a thing. Is this a bad thing? Maybe, but I am enjoying the sense of containment and integrity of the ebook format. These lines from Wordsworth on the sonnet come to mind:

Within the Sonnet's scanty plot of ground;
Pleased if some Souls (for such there needs must be)
Who have felt the weight of too much liberty,
Should find brief solace there, as I have found.

This edition is updated from the 2003 edition, the references to websites now lead to live pages

and there are gramatical and stylistic fixes. I've made the links to endnotes and references as finger friendly as I can for the touch screen, those links in turn now link back to the text. It's interactive! Other than that I have not changed the substance of the essay, it is of its time, there is no mention of Facebook, nor the rise of mobile communication. The term cyberspace is not in vogue as it has become a more invisible part of everyday life. The essay however has not been invalidated by new developments, it has been strenghtened by them. Love and hate of the various communication technologies has intensified, free sharing and commerce have both been greatly extended.

This essay is dated in one way. I refer to the dearth of writing about the psychology of cyberspace. The Spring Journal Vol. 80 is entitled "Technology, Cyberspace Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay & Psyche." (2008) Most of the articles in the Journal touch on the material of this essay. There is much about the psychology of the internet on the net. Yet the central themes do not date, archetypes do not date. Does my idea that disdain for cyberspace among the psychological professions hold? I think so.

There is another development worth noting: Kevin Kelly and the "technium". The title of his book is "What Technology Wants." (2010) That in itself is a psychological way of putting it, he has taken, at least in the title the step of role-reversing with the phenomena. The technium not the same as cyberspace but it is obliquely related, it is another member of a family conceptual probes that explores our evolving psychological environment.

One sweep of this essay is the McLuanistic idea that there is vibrant and Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay rapid evolution of the means of expression. As these means, or media evolve they influence what is expressed. Woven tightly with this idea is that psychotherapy is a media in its own right. Since I wrote this essay at the turn of the millennium psychology has become even more positivistic and the ailment of scientism it suffers has intensified. How does this relate to the rise of the the Internet? Is there a parallel decline in seeing cyberspace not as a psyber-space but a mass of plastic, wires and radio waves?

I have had discussions with colleagues in many forums, both online and off and I'm grateful for their input to my understanding, in particular to the Brainstorms Community where this essay originated in a discussion forum. (*) We learned by doing. Since the publication on my Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay website I have heard from people who have appreciated this effort for its insights into cyberspace and as an introduction to thinking imaginally. I've presented this material as a lecture and it was well received. I'm grateful for the interest and feedback.

Updating the links that were dead Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay in the 2003 edition is gratifying. I managed to find most of the originals in the Internet Archives. Writing has an afterlife. (**) A blessing. Thanks to Brewster Kale and colleagues for this amazing service.

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To see the archetypal in an image is thus not a hermeneutic move. It is an Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay imagistic move. We amplify an image by means of a myth in order not to find its archetypal meaning but in order to feed it with further images that increase its volume and depth Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay and release its fecundity.

— James Hillman [\(1.\)](#)

Who, if I cried out, would hear me among the angels' hierarchies? and even if one of them pressed me suddenly against his heart: I would be consumed in Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay that overwhelming existence. For beauty is Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay nothing but the beginning of terror, which we are still just able to endure, and we are so awed because it serenely disdains to annihilate us. Every angel is terrifying.

— Rainer Maria Rilke, Duino Elegies, opening of The First Elegy [\(2.\)](#)

Introduction

CYBERSPACE, THE REALM OF INFORMATION exchange, *invites* psychological exploration because it is a realm of meaning and interconnection. In this essay, I accept that invitation. As it is often said: The Internet changes everything. My belief is that 'everything' includes the psyche. Psyche evolves dramatically with the emergence and evolution of cyberspace.

I begin with an orientation to cyberspace. I propose the idea that cyberspace precedes the Internet. I reflect on the nature of psychological exploration and draw together threads in the psychological discussion about cyberspace. I expect the essay to lead to shared moments of insight, a collective *Aha!* if that happens we can Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay be confident Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay we are noticing an archetype. The recognition of archetypal structures of the psyche have a direct influence on clinical work.

Cyberspace is in the position the wilds of nature were once in, it took poets, pioneers, visionaries and activists enable us all to see that untouched nature had value.

Cyberspace — out of this world

YOU may have connected to the Internet and surfed a wave of ideas. While exploring you may have followed links from a story to the author's biography and then to letters and gossip. Internet experience is not linear like a book, watching TV or listening to radio. On the Net you wind your own media experience as you soak in presentations to a range of senses. You come to crossroad after crossroad with opportunity to go deeper or wider. Discussion forums may have drawn you into connections with others. Archives of old debates lead you to more links. While you read, emails arrive, feelings are aroused, more discussion develops. You reply to your Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay mother. You delete spam but can't help an occasional glance at the bizarre. You chat live. But then you look at the words of dead authors such as Plato or Shakespeare or another of the millions whose copyright has expired. You see something useful, you download a program, read the news, look at the US constitution or research your genealogy. As you Google for something, another item catches your fancy, it's a tangent, but you are engrossed in the unexpected. Music arrives, you listen. The in box has email. In a virtual community you are drawn into the life Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay drama of a birth or a suicide...

Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay

It is absurd when someone remarks Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay that all this time you have been on the computer. You have not been in this world, you have not noticed the hours go by. You have been in *cyberspace*.

Or you may not have had such experiences online, even though the Internet has been with us for decades. All of the above will be familiar from simply being engrossed in study or a good book.

A surfer once said that the ultimate ride on a wave was to simply *not* be there, to disappear. The Zen like quality is present in Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay the phrase *surfing the net*, which indeed may have originated Archetypes of Cyberspace: An Essay [\(3.\)](#) with a writer with some Zen ideas.

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