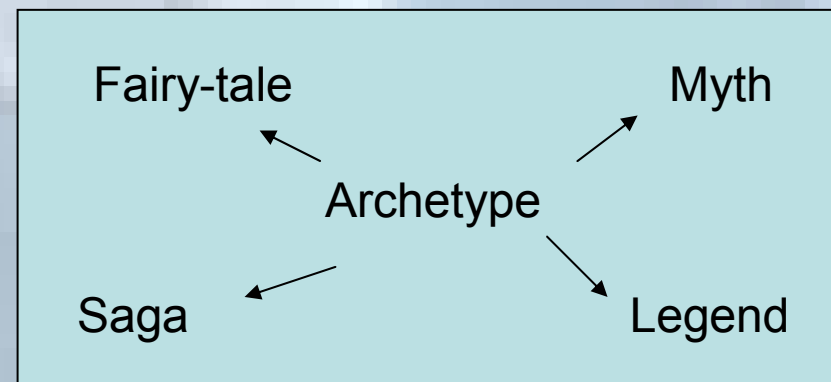


Fairy-tales and Myths

Andries Termote



Logos and mythos

Meaning of the word in Ancient Greek

- **Modern West European culture:**

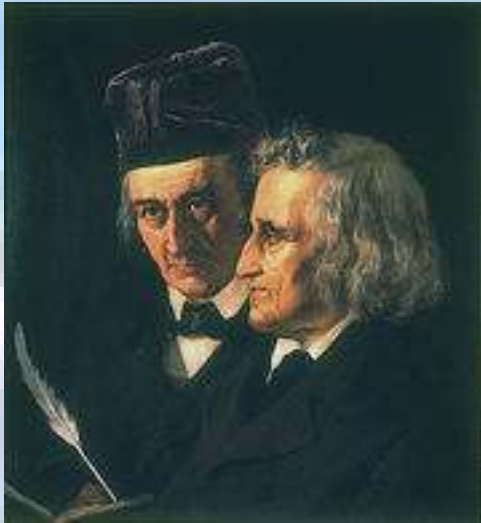
Logos oriented. Looking to the future.

- **Most other cultures:**

Mythos oriented. Looking to the past.



1. Grimm Fairy-tales



1812-1822

***GRIMM W. and J., Childrens' and house
Fairy-tales***



The wishing table, the gold donkey and the club in the sack

- Story:

- Father tailor, three sons, one goat
- Goat tells lies
- Sons chased, goat chased
- Son 1 apprenticed to a joiner → table
- Inn on his way back
- At home party but...
- Son 2 apprenticed to a miller → donkey
- Inn on his way back
- At home party but...
- Son 3 apprenticed to a turner → sack with...
- Inn on his way back but he is alert...
- At home party with the three brothers...



2. Myths and West Europe

- BLAIN M., *12 mythes qui ont fondé l'Europe. Une table ronde de grands récits*, L' Harmattan, 2007
- Dictionary:
- story of ethnological / religious origin which **reveals fundamental aspects of the human condition in a given culture**



1. The song of Roland

- Founding myth for France “*La chanson de Roland*” (11th c.)
- Based on some historical facts (Charlemagne’s army retiring from the Zaragoza siege through the Pyrenees)
- Part of the army was ambushed by the Basques. In the 11th c. version the ambushers become Saracenes. (**Time of the crusades!**)



2. The Grail

- -Stories of **king Arthur** (a war leader in the 5th c. in Britain) scarcely mentioned in the **chronicles**.
- -12th c. version by Geoffrey of Monmouth and Wace (**Angl-Normans**).
- -12th c. **French version** (Chrétien de Troyes) and **German version** (Wolfram von Eschenbach). New elements:
 - *Parsifal*
 - *Fisher king*
 - *Grail procession*



3. Tristan and Isold

- -19th C. reconstruction drawing on two versions (Anglo-Norman and Norman, about 1170).
- -Elements from Persian and Arabic tales.
- -Theme of passion, cf. *Love's Death* in Wagner's opera
- -Divinization of desire?



4. *Dante and Beatrice*

- -**Dante** (1265-1321) met **Beatrice** (Bice) Portinari in 1274.
- -He composed in Italian the poem ***La Commedia*** (later called ***La Divina Commedia***). It is a long journey through **hell** and **purgatory** to **heaven**. First the Roman poet **Virgil** is the guide. In purgatory he has to go by himself. In heaven **Beatrice** is the guide.
- -**Mediaeval cosmography**.
- -Theme of **love not to be fulfilled** here?



5. *Don Quijote*

- A **novel** written by the Spanish writer **Cervantes**.
- 3 adventures**. The first one is short. Every time he leaves his castle, goes on adventure but in the end is taken care of by his servants. In the second “outing” he meets **Sancho Panza** (his **squire**). They go and look for **Dulcinea del Toboso**.
- Parody of chivalry books!
- The hero finds his place with difficulty!



6. *Don Juan / Don Giovanni*

- -Historical figure from an aristocratic family in Seville (Spain).
- -1630: ***El burlador (The deceiver)*** by Tirso de Molina. In the end he is converted.
- -1664: ***DomJuan ou le festin de Pierre*** by Molière. Big success but not prolonged under the influence of strict catholics. Here there is no conversion.
- -1787: Mozart's ***Don Giovanni***. Here he is an improviser, he likes the smell of women, the courting rituals.



7. *Robinson Crusoe*

- -Novel published in 1719. He stayed 28 years on the island. For every day he makes a scratch on a stick.
- -He recuperated objects from the shipwreck (also a **bible**). He is a protestant (puritan).
- -**Capitalist myth: man as (self-)entrepreneur.**
- The success in your work marks your election (by God).
- = **Start of modernity!** He makes his own tools (his own **industrial revolution**).
- -Only males (a native, seamen from a mutiny...).



8. *Faust*

- A person from **South Germany** (about 1480-1540) with a sulphureous reputation: astrologist, healer, alchemist, interest in boys, pact with the devil...
- The British playwright Marlowe (1563-1593) wrote ***The tragical history of Dr. Faustus***.
- The German poet **Goethe** (1749-1832) wrote ***Faust*** (two parts). In the second part he takes part in court life and becomes an entrepreneur. (He runs a company to drain the wetlands...).
- Theme: **The obsession by knowledge (= power)**...



9. Kurtz

-**Joseph Conrad** (1857-1924), a British writer from Polish origin, wrote ***Heart of Darkness*** (1900).

It is the story of the shipper Marlowe who has to sail inland along the Congo river in order to pick up Kurtz.

-Kurtz is the **other side** of **Robinson Crusoe**. The sailing is a **descent into the self**.

-Cf. the Vietnam movie ***Apocalypse now***.



10. K.

-The German Czech writer of Jewish origin **Kafka** (1883-1924) had a job in an office. His work ***The trial*** (1925) can be read as the trial of the **father figure** and of the **women** in his life.

The main character Joseph K. is simply called K. in his next work ***The castle*** (1926). K. is somewhat more active than Joseph K. and also tries to achieve his goals through women.

-Religious interpretation?

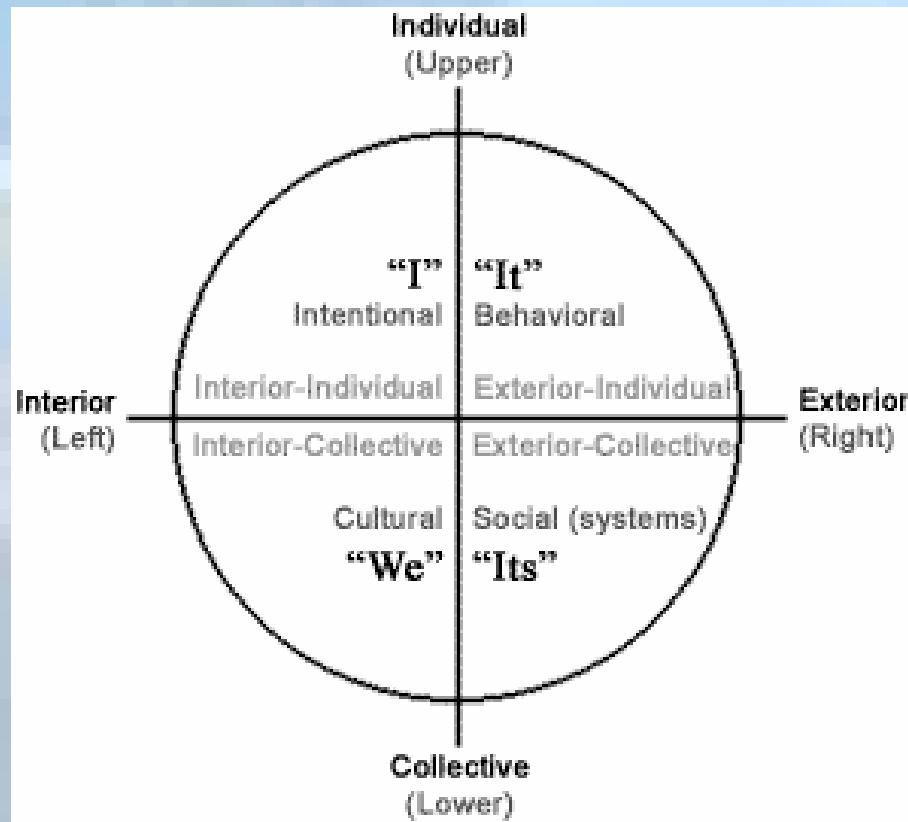
-Philosophical interpretation?

-.....?

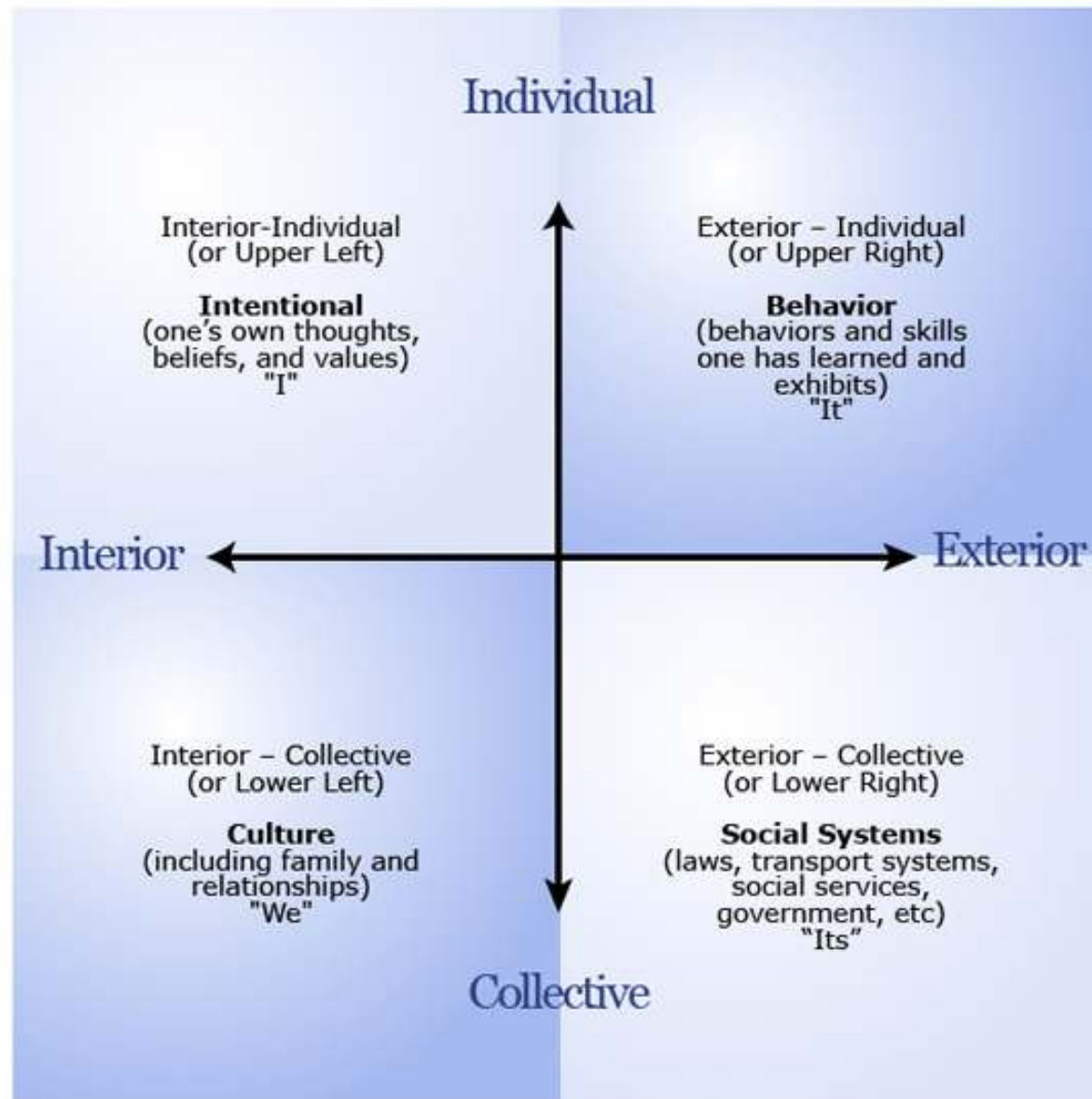


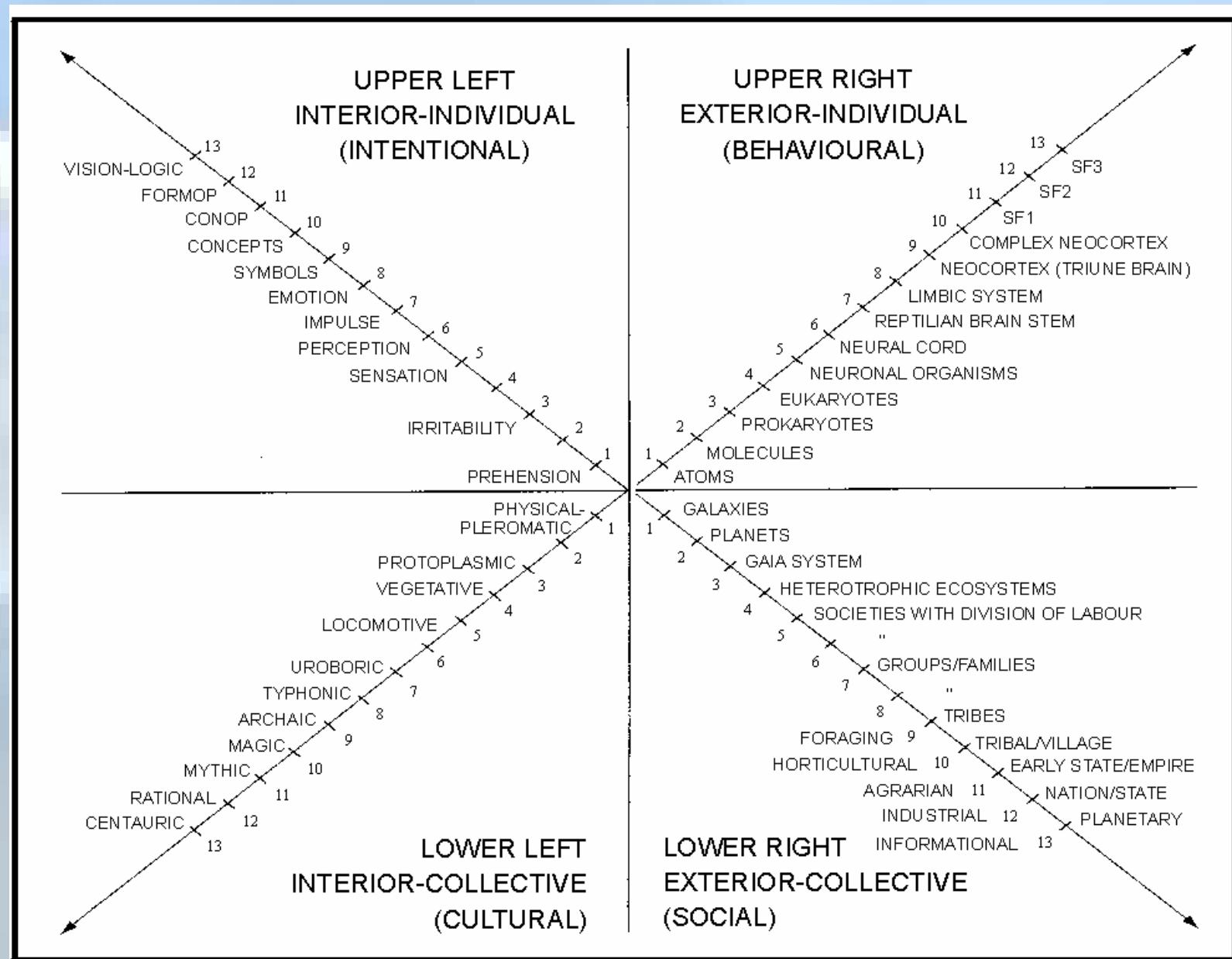
3. Framework of Ken Wilber

A brief history of everything, 2007



KEN WILBER' AQAL MODEL





4. Fairy-tales about anxiety

The boy who went away in order to learn what fear is...



5. Fairy-tale about symbiosis

Jorinde and Joringel

