

# Evolution, Jung, and Theurgy

## Their Role in Modern Neoplatonism

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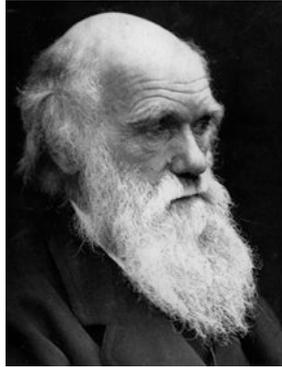
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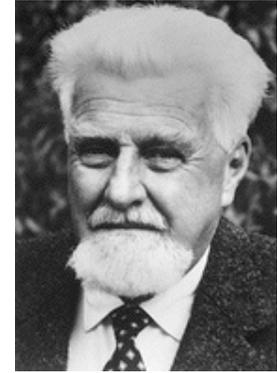
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# Overview

- Cross-connections between
  - Neoplatonism
  - Jungian Psychology
  - Evolutionary Neuroethology
- Not materialist / reductionist!
- Integrate: physical, psychical, spiritual



# Evolutionary Neuroethology



- Instincts: perceptual-behavioral structures characteristic of a species
- Environment of evolutionary adaptedness
- Life-cycle pattern of each member
- Phylogenetic pattern expressed ontogenetically in environment
- *Homo sapiens* too...



# Jungian Psychology

- Archetypes are psychological aspects of instincts
- Dynamic forms shaping perception and behavior
- Collective unconscious
- Archetypal situation is numinous and compelling

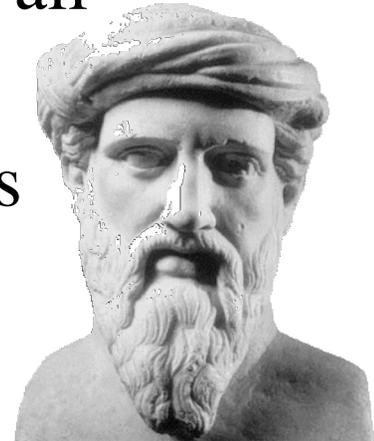


## The Archetypes as Gods

- Archetypes as fields of structured potentiality
- Personified archetypes experienced as gods
- Empirical, stable, public, i.e. *real*
- Give transpersonal meaning to life

# Numerical Archetypes

- Archetypal if psychical and common to all humans
- Any natural law with psychical aspect is archetypal
- Unpersonified archetypes
- The most fundamental archetypes are numbers
- E.g., dyad ~ dichotomy, differentiation, opposition



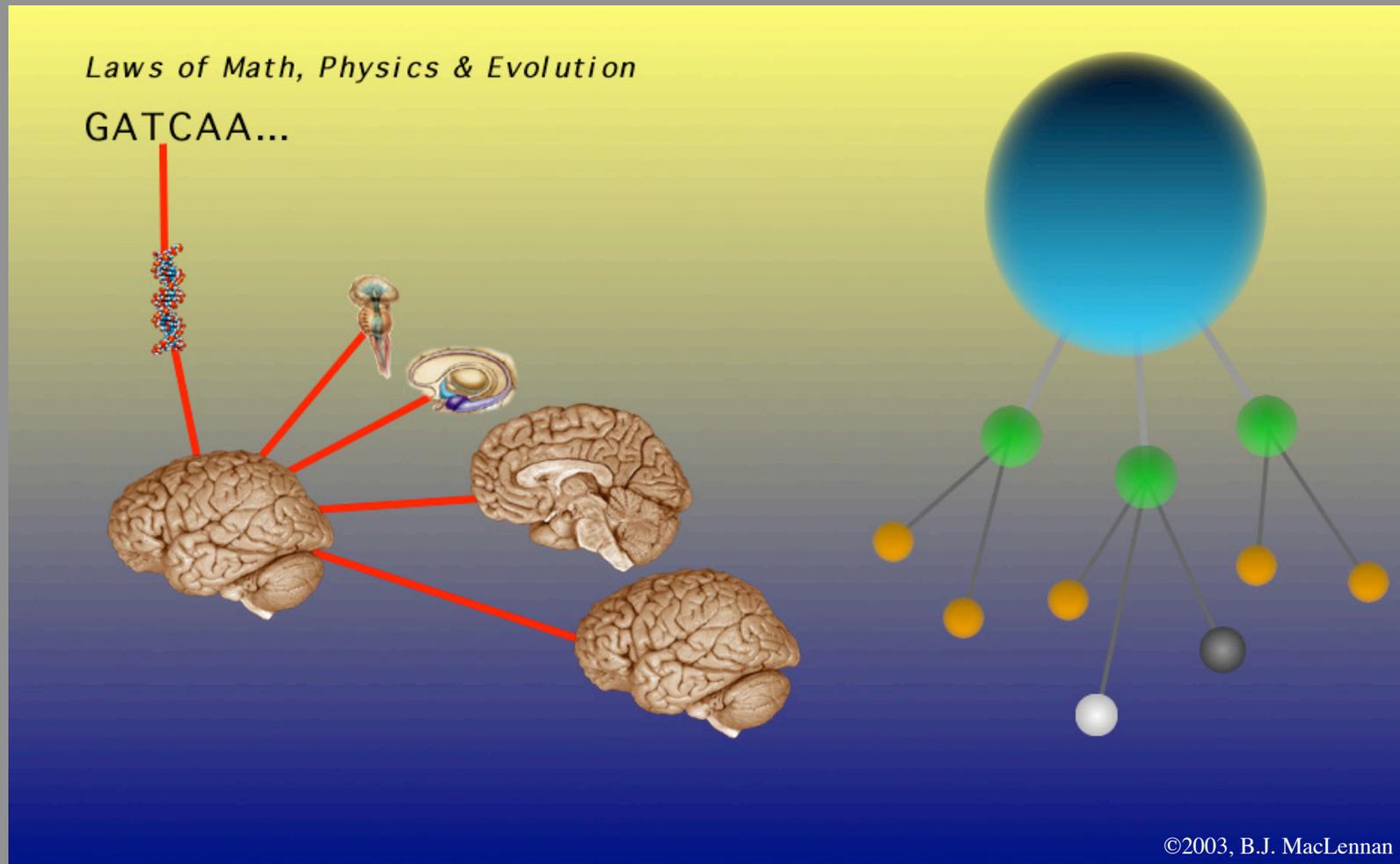
# The Primal Nous & the Noetic Order

- Implicit in human genome
- Henads are “all in all but each separately”
- Genome ~ εἶδος εἰδῶν
- *Paradeigma* of archetypal world
- *Noêta* exist in τὸ αὐτοζῶον
- Primal Nous, Pure Nous, First God, ...

# Individual Variation

- Human genome is an abstraction
- Each genotype is slightly different
- The gods present a slightly different face to each of us

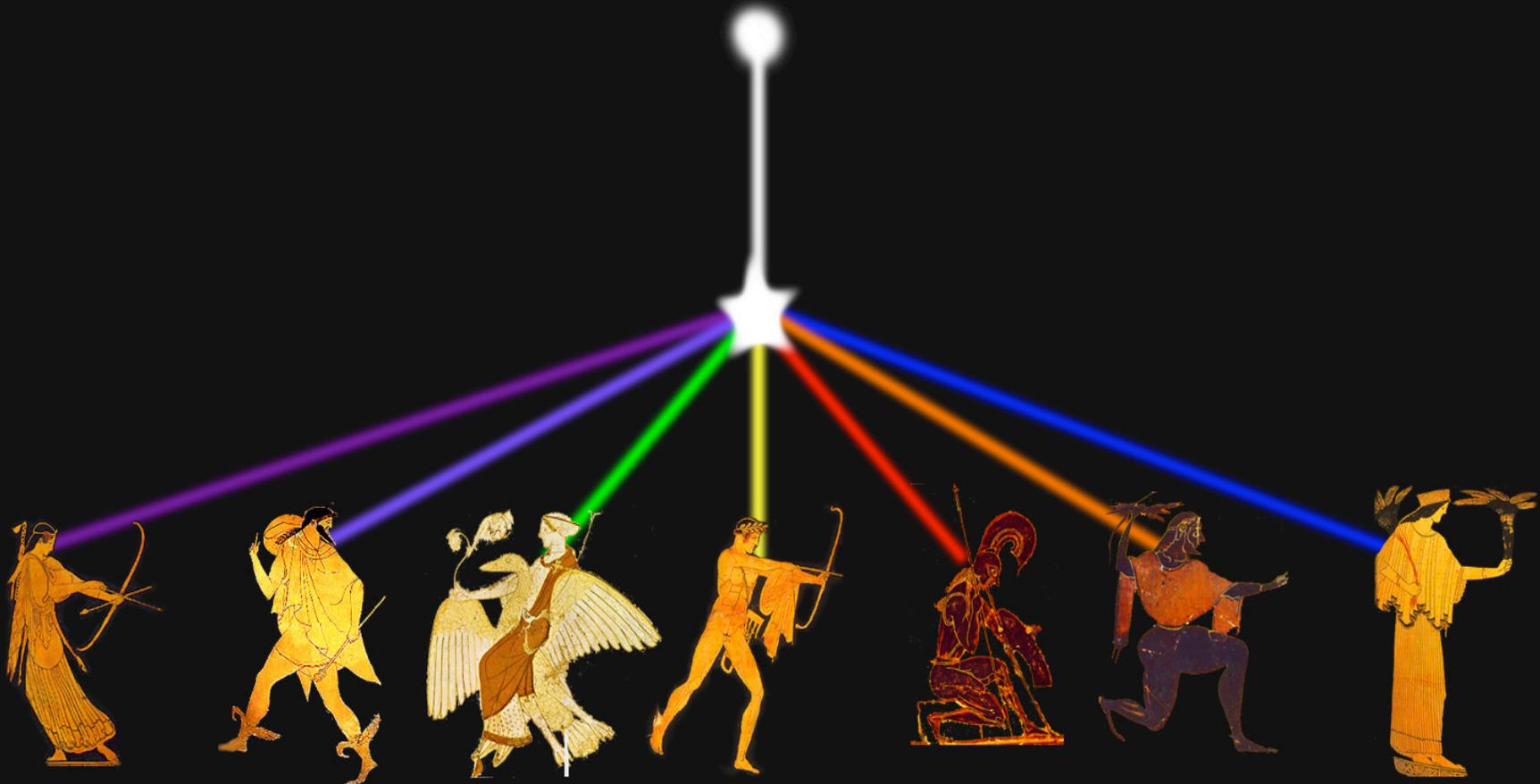
# The Descent of the Soul



# The Demiurge & the Noeric Order

- Archetypes embodied in brain structures
- Correspond to *noera* articulated as Logos of Demiurge
- Not independent of environment
- □ Gods present differently to each of us

# Articulation of the Archetypes



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# The World Soul & Individual Souls

- *Noera* manifest in consciousness as dynamic patterns of perception and behavior
- Ψυχὴ brings them into space & time
- Mediates between eternity & time
- ἡ Παντὸς Ψυχὴ is transcendent model of relation between noerics and their temporal expression

# Does the Soul Descend Completely?

- *Noêta*, in genome, are inaccessible to mind
- Articulated *noera* in brain may be activated & manifest in experience
- Spontaneously or by design
- Our souls are rooted in *noera* & incapable of direct access to *noêta*

# Impassivity of Gods

- Gods are impassive because personal experiences do not affect genotypes
- They do not change in response to us
- Do not remember us
- Know us only as members of *H. sapiens*
- But: they enter our lives in different ways
- Mediated by World Soul

# Complexes as Δαίμονες

- Complexes as webs of associations around an archetype
- Normal & necessary parts of psyche
- “behave like independent beings” (Jung)
- Belong to a god’s *seira*
- Your *daimones* know you intimately...

# Possession & Projection

- Subject of archetypal relation may be “possessed”
- Projects archetypal role onto object
- Mutual possession / projection
- Possession is not necessarily bad



# The Higher Self

- Higher Self = totality of archetypal field
- ≠ conscious ego
- Psychical correlate of genome
- The archetypal "Ανθρωπος"
- Defines *Pronoia* governing *H. sapiens*
- Paradoxical & contradictory
- □ symbolism required

# The Anima/Animus as Psychopomp

- Incorporates unexpressed contrasexual aspects of psyche
- Anima in man, Animus in woman
- Nearest archetype
- Natural Psychopomps
- Muses, Heroes, etc.

# The Evolving Archetypes

- Genome evolves □ archetypes evolve
- “Essentialism” superceded by “population thinking”
- Genome as a statistical average
- Personified Ideas (gods) change slowly
- Unpersonified Ideas (e.g. numbers) are eternal

# Are the Gods Good?

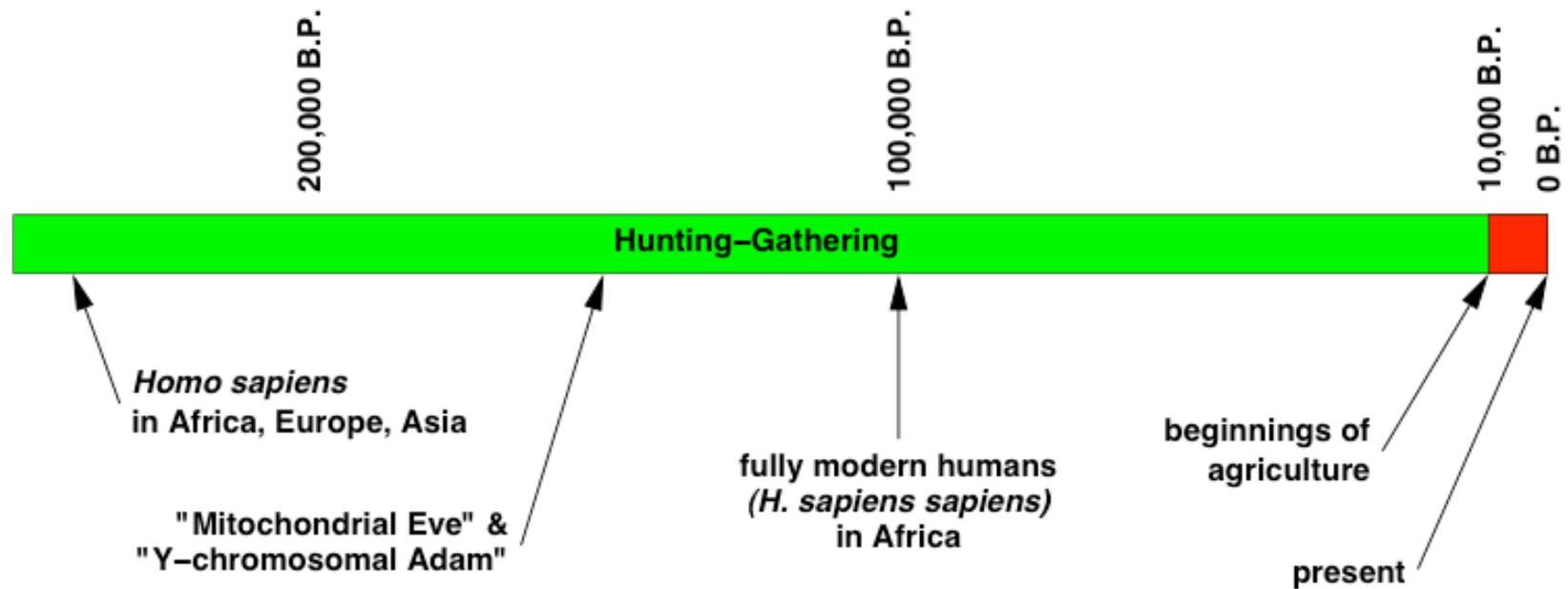
- Personified archetypes have conferred selective advantage on *H. sapiens*
- Unpersonified archetypes not necessarily good for *H. sapiens*
- “Beyond good and evil”
- Conflicts among gods and *daimones*
- How to live in harmony with Providence?



# Who are the Gods?

- Which pantheon?
- 99.5% of *H. sapiens*' history as hunter-gatherers (Stevens)
- Our gods are the gods of Paleolithic hunter-gatherers
- How do we live in harmony with these gods?

# Timeline

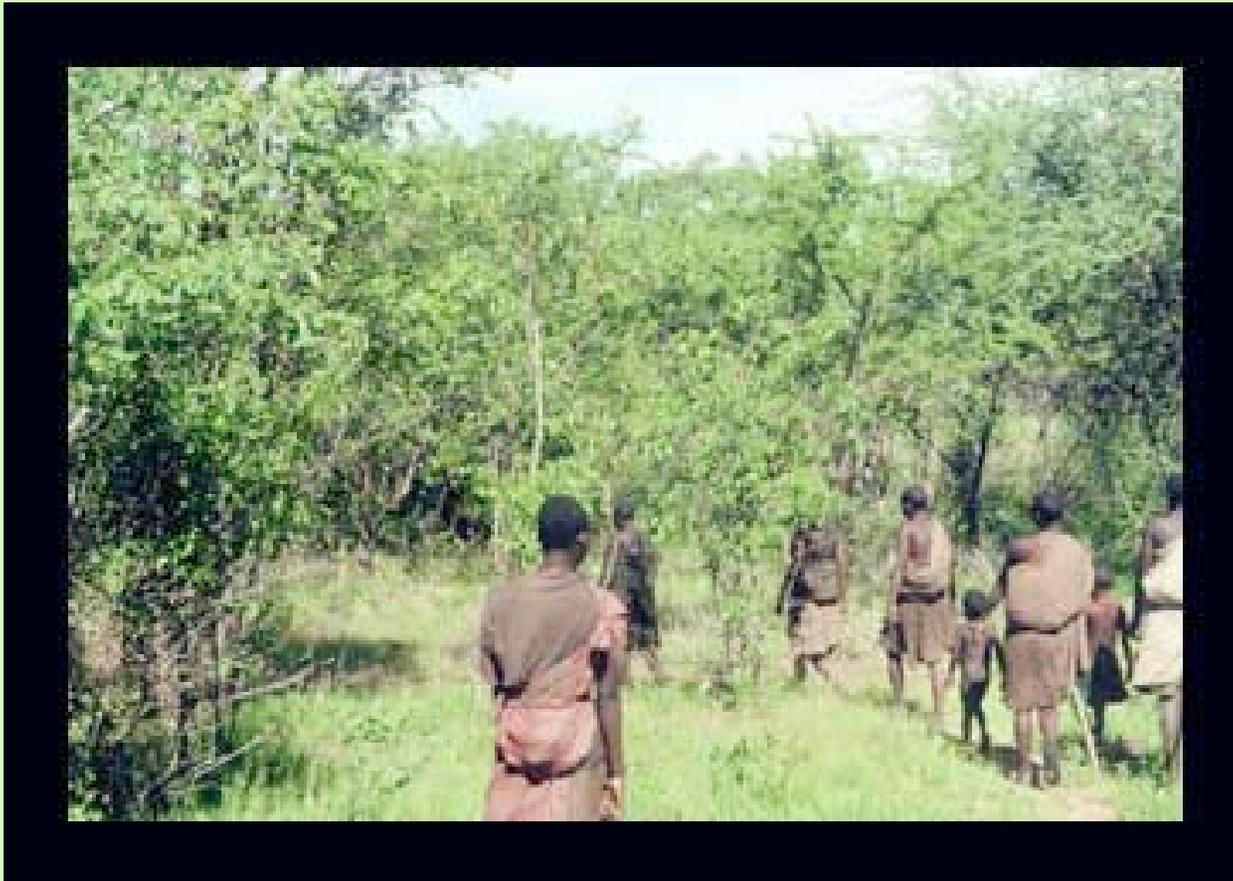




# Paleolithic Hunter- Gatherers

A nineteenth century  
view...

# Contemporary Hunter-Gatherers



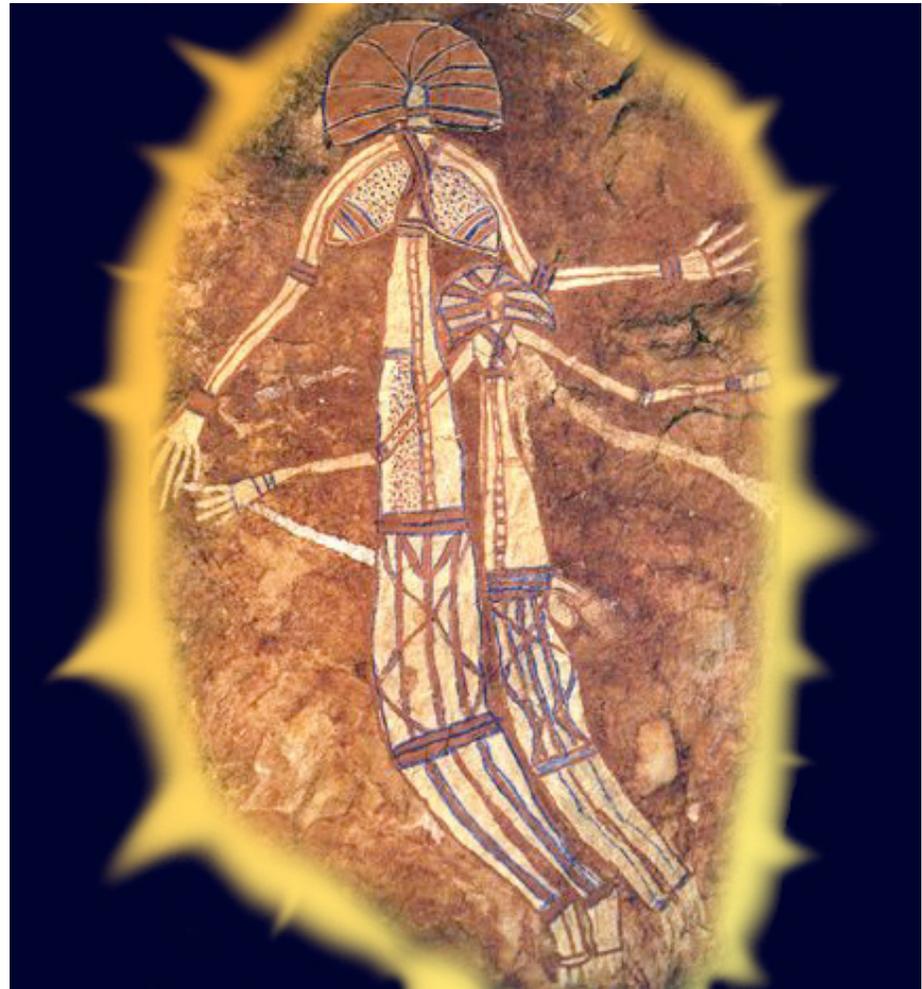
*Dorobo tribe, Tanzania.*

*(The people of Tanzania seem to have genotypes most similar to our common ancestors.)*

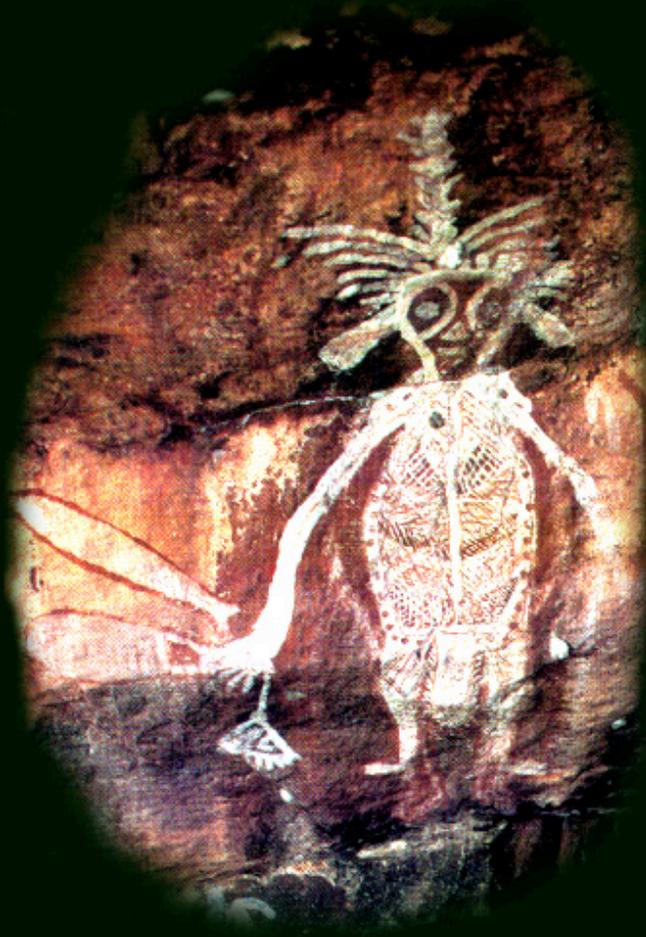
# Our Ancestral Gods?

- Rhea and Kronos?
- The Indefinite Dyad and the Monad?

*Ubirr Rock, Arnhem Land,  
Australia*



# Our Ancestral Gods?



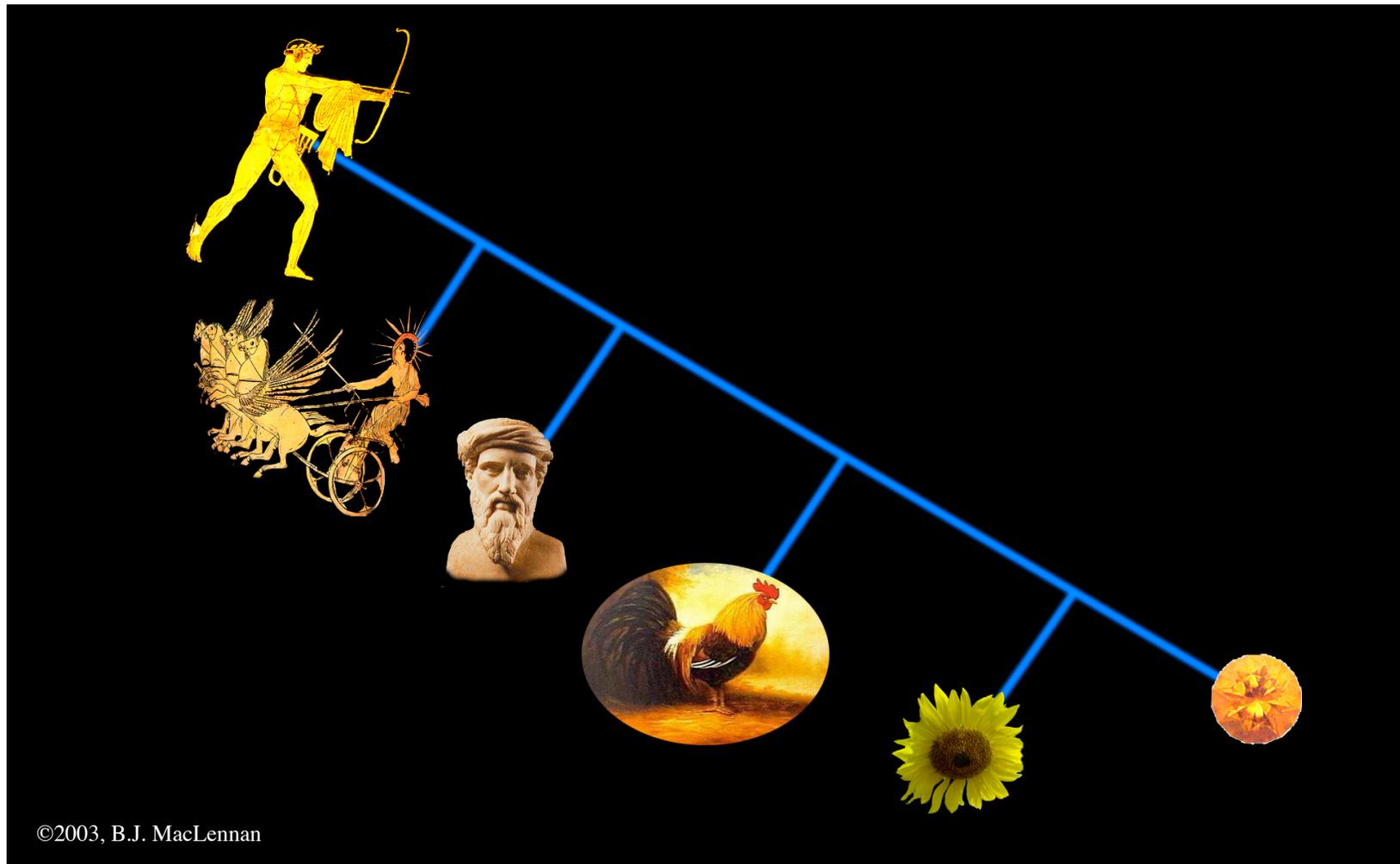
## The Paternal Nous?

*Paleolithic rock art, 7-9000 B.P.,  
Arnhem Land, Australia*

## *Sunthêmata and Sumbola*

- Releasing-stimuli that activate archetype & cause it to manifest
- “Unconditioned”: part of *seira* of a god
- “Conditioned”: mediated by a *daimôn*
- Invoke gods & *daimones* and invite them to possess or project

# The Seira of Apollo



# *Telestikê*

- *Empsukôsis* of sacred image
- Material *sunthêmata*
- Immaterial *sunthêmata*
- Does not compel god or *daimôn*
- Preparation of suitable *dokhê* to receive projection of god
- Creates archetypal relation

# *Desmos*

- God or *daimôn* invited to possess a human receiver
- Like *telestikê*,
- But a human receiver can embody a personified archetype better

# *Sustasis*

- “Active imagination” in Jungian analysis
- Establish a liaison with a god or *daimôn*
- They may not be truthful
- For learning about archetypal realm
- For entering into *energeia* of a god
- For acquiring a *paredros*

# Anagôgê



- Ascent to union with a god, Demiurge, or ineffable One
- “Like knows like”
- Separation as symbolic voluntary death
- Participation in *energeia* of Death-and-Resurrection archetype

# Ἡ Πρόθεσις



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# Conclusions

- Mind and matter are two sides of same ineffable One
- Jungian psychology & evolutionary neuroethology are mutually informing
- Both compatible with & reinforce Neoplatonism

