

COVID-19— THE CONTEMPORARY POISONED APPLE: A REFLECTION ON CONTEMPORARY COLLECTIVENESS THROUGH THE SYMBOLIC MEANINGS IN *SNOW WHITE*

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzed the symbolic meanings of images presented in *Snow White* from the perspective of psychologist Carl Jung's analytical psychology. The context of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic was used to reveal the implications of collective unconscious for contemporary humankind. The paper first introduces the fundamental concepts of the psychological analysis of fairy tales and then discusses the qualities and four development stages corresponding to *yin* energy, anima, and *yang* energy, animus. The five *yin* archetypes—girl, maiden, mother, grandmother, and goddess—and five *yang* archetypes—boy, young man, father, grandfather, and god—are subsequently introduced. The symbolic meanings of 13 images presented in *Snow White*—biological mother of Snow White, king, stepmother, colors (red, white, and black), magic mirror, huntsman, forest, cottage, seven dwarfs, secret chamber, apple, transparent coffin, and marriage to the prince—are then discussed. According to the results, the connections between COVID-19 and *Snow White* reveal the possibility of individuals balancing and integrating their group identity and inner self. From the perspective of inner gender energy, COVID-19 is collectively generated by every individual, with localized outbreaks potentially reflecting the devouring of our inner self by anima or animus. Finally, through adopting the poisoned apple as a metaphor for COVID-19, the analysis highlighted how COVID-19 may confer a sense of peace on contemporary humankind, much like Snow White when lay in her coffin, encouraging people to integrate their gender energy, balance their inner selves, and reflect on the collective actions of humankind.

Keywords: COVID-19, analytical psychology, *Snow White*, fairy tale, symbolic meaning.