

A JUNGIAN PERSPECTIVE ON CLIMATE CHAOS

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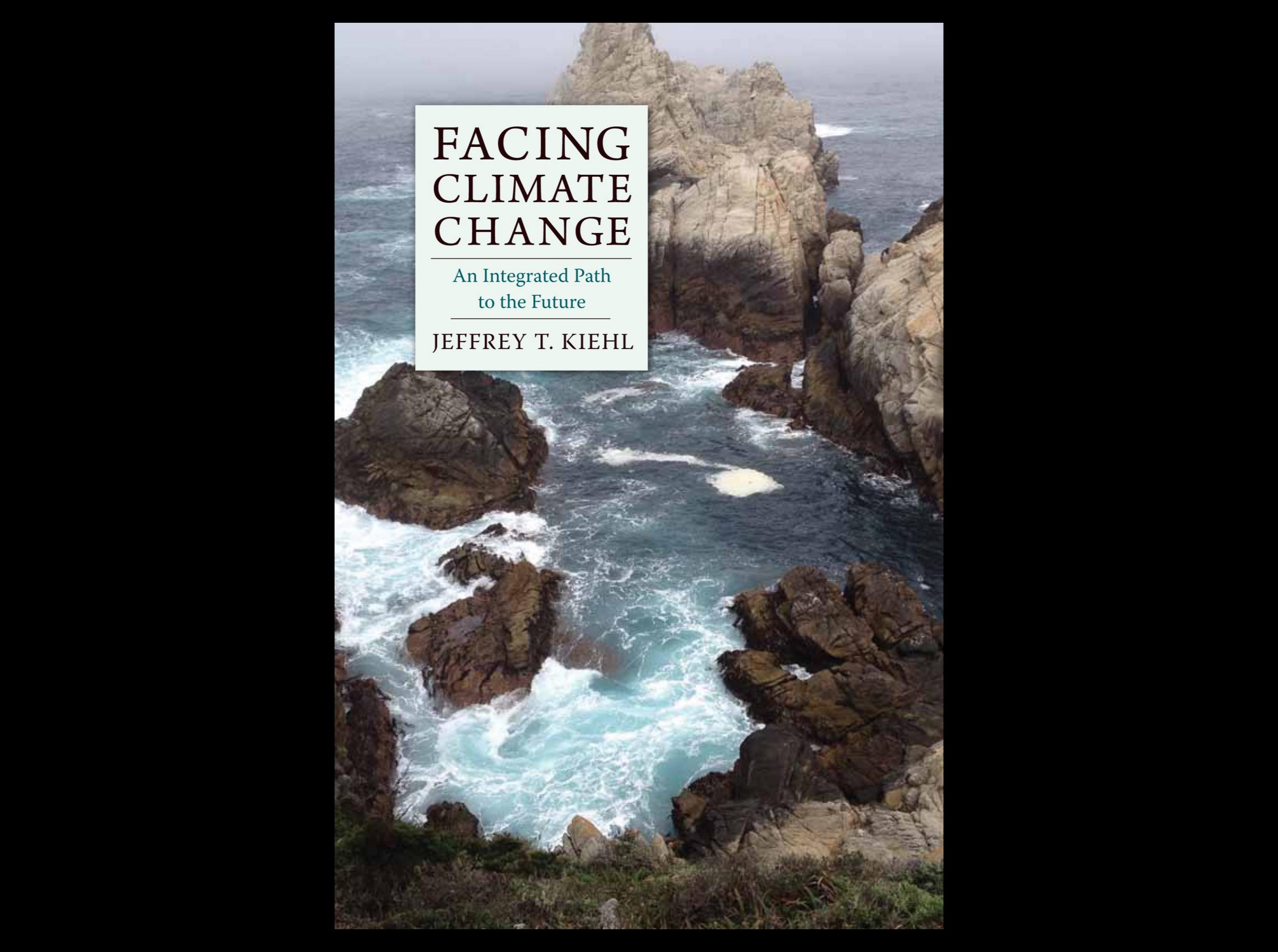
"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late ... We may cry out desperately for time to pause in her passage, but time is deaf to every plea and rushes on. Over the bleached bones and jumbled residue of numerous civilizations are written the pathetic words: 'Too late...'"

Martin Luther King, Jr.



"We are living in what the Greeks called the *kairos* - the right moment - for a metamorphosis ... of ... fundamental principles and symbols. ... Coming generations will have to take account of this momentous transformation if humanity is not to destroy itself through the might of its own technology and science."

C.G. Jung (CW 10, par. 585)



FACING CLIMATE CHANGE

An Integrated Path
to the Future

JEFFREY T. KIEHL

OUTLINE

- Where Are We? Where Are We Going?
- Ego, Complexes & Defenses
- Cultural Complexes
- Archetypal Aspects of Climate Chaos
- Psychoid & Unus Mundus



Esalen



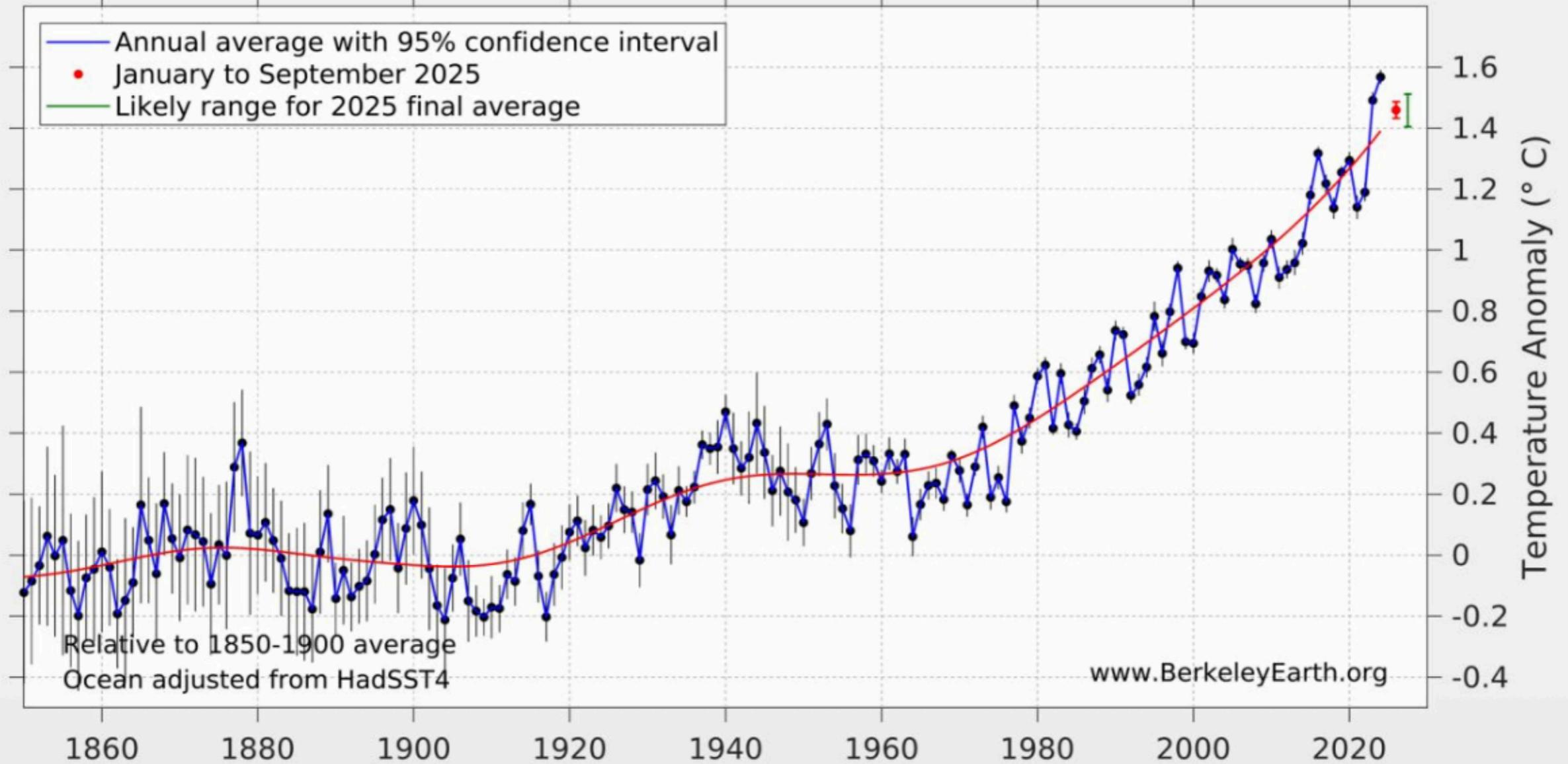
WHERE ARE WE? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

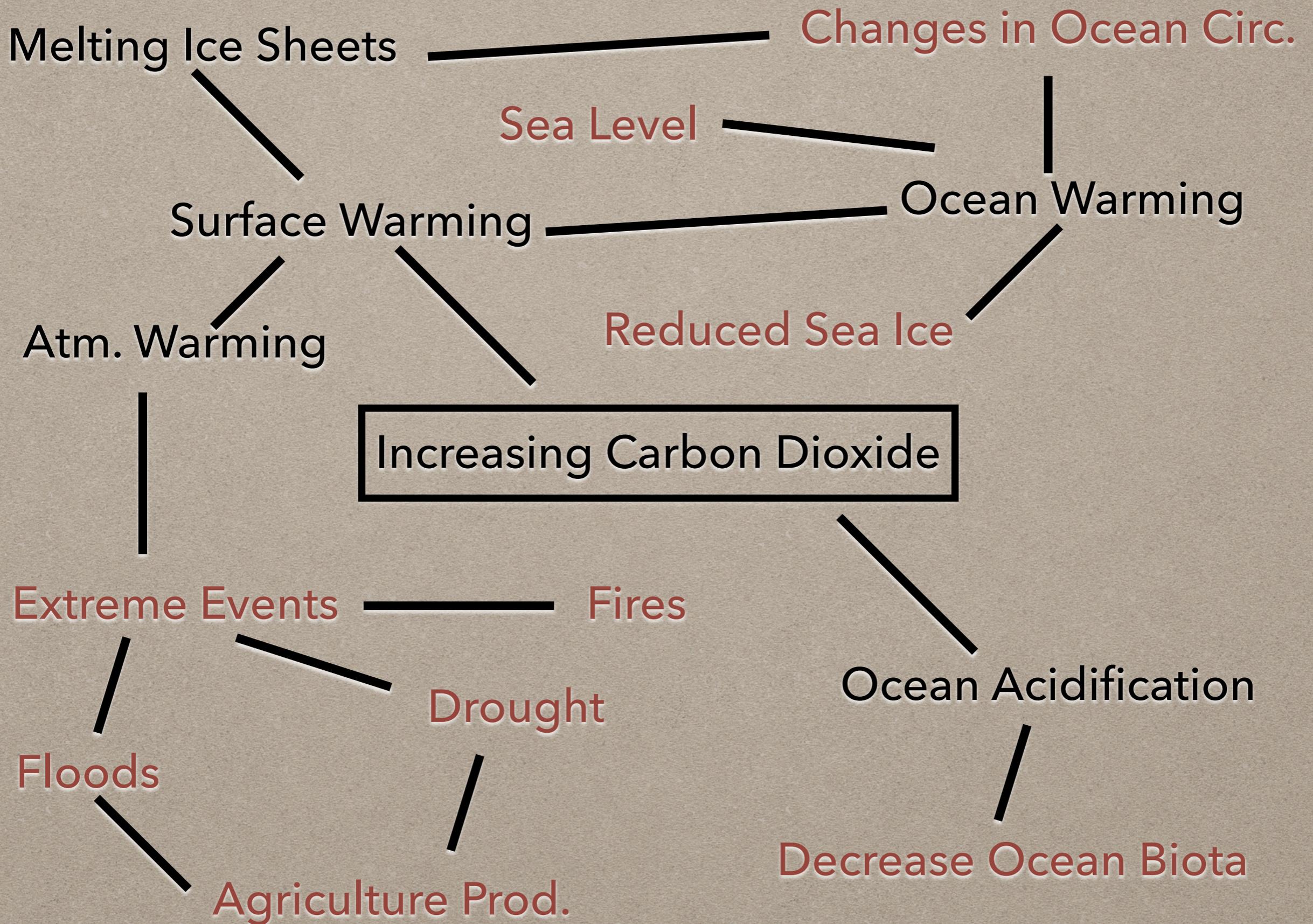
“One cannot dispose of facts by declaring them unreal.”

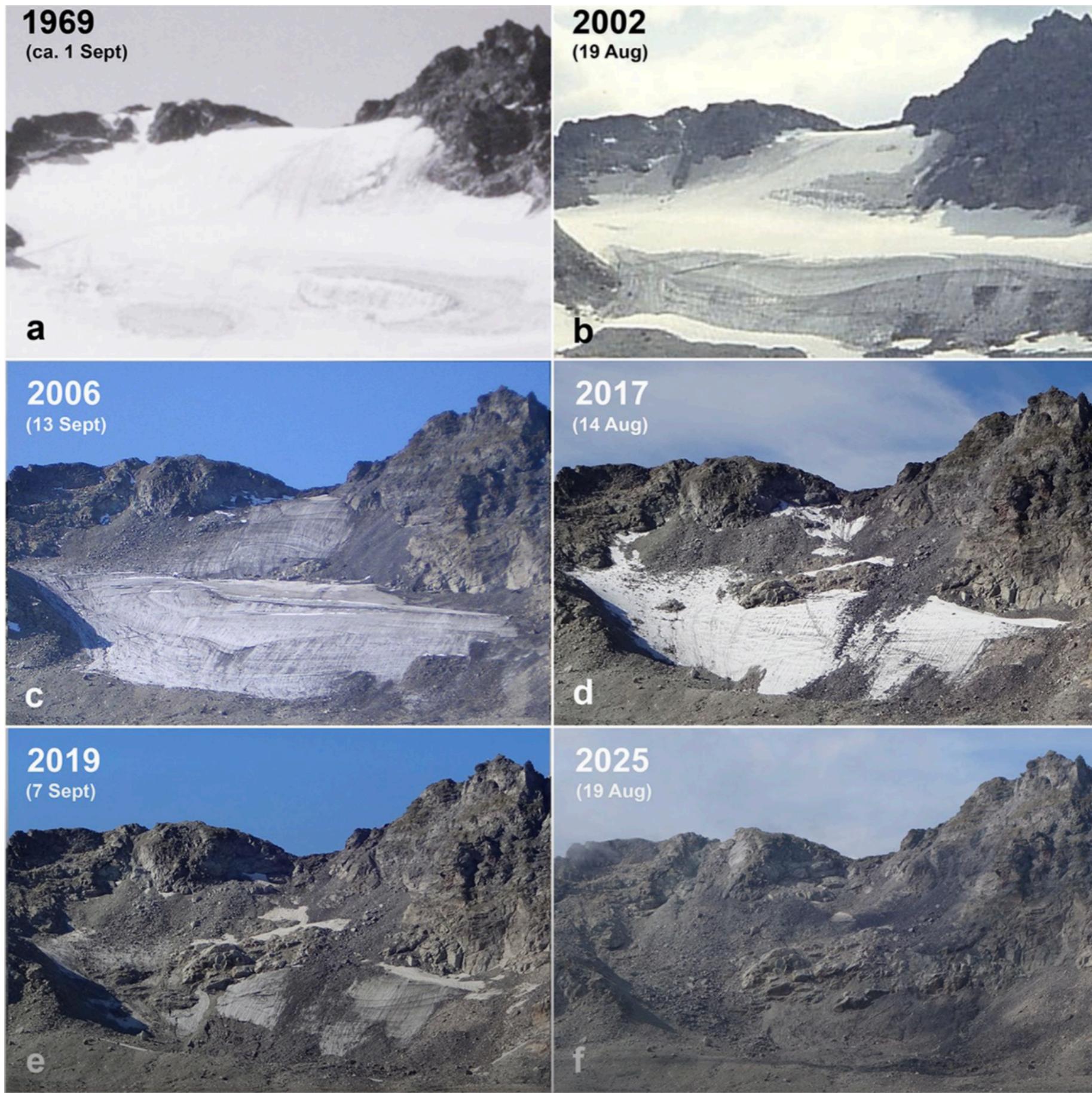
C.G. Jung (CW 9ii, par. 44)

Where Are We?

Berkeley Earth - Global





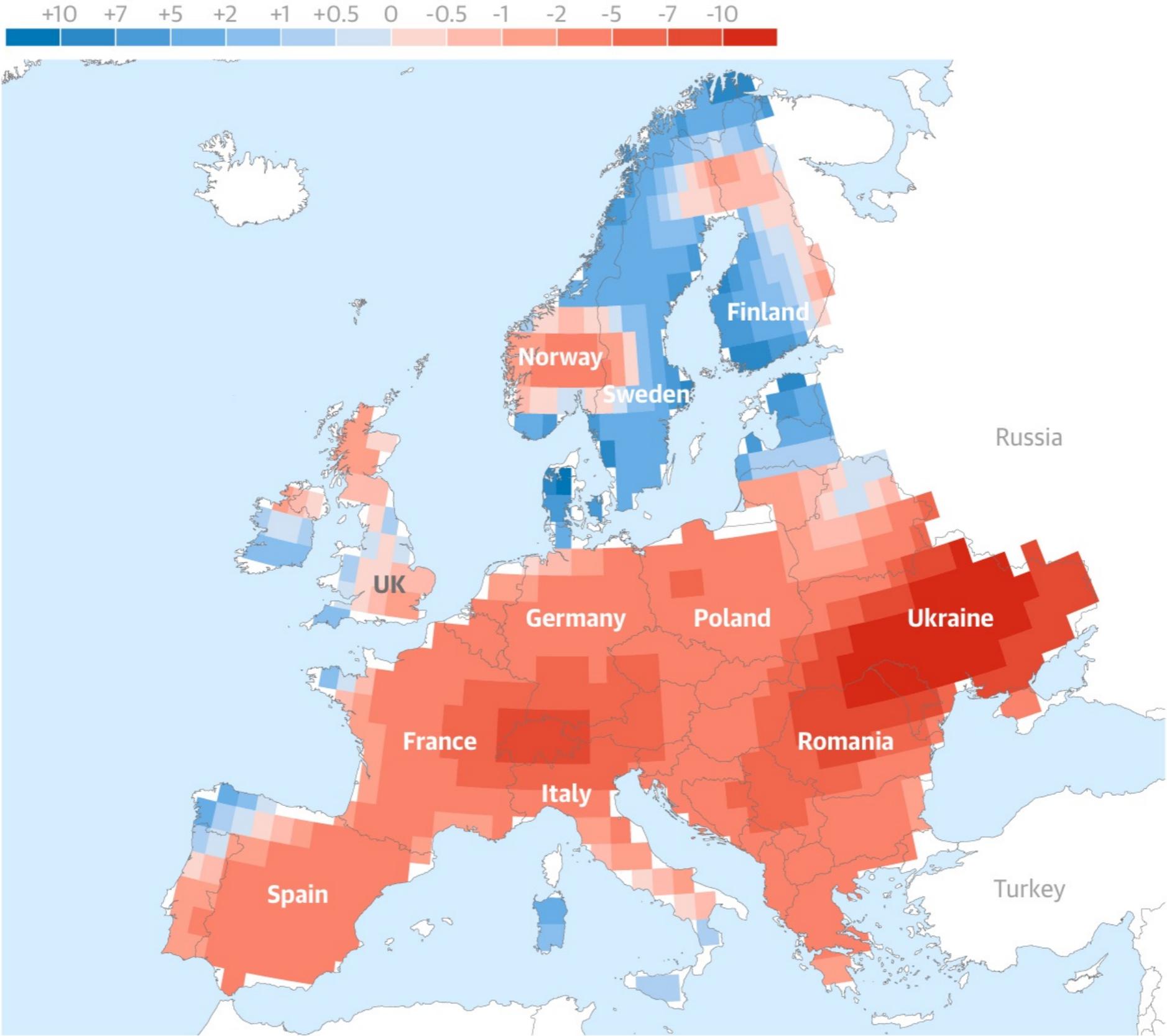


Pizol Glacier

Huss et al., 2025

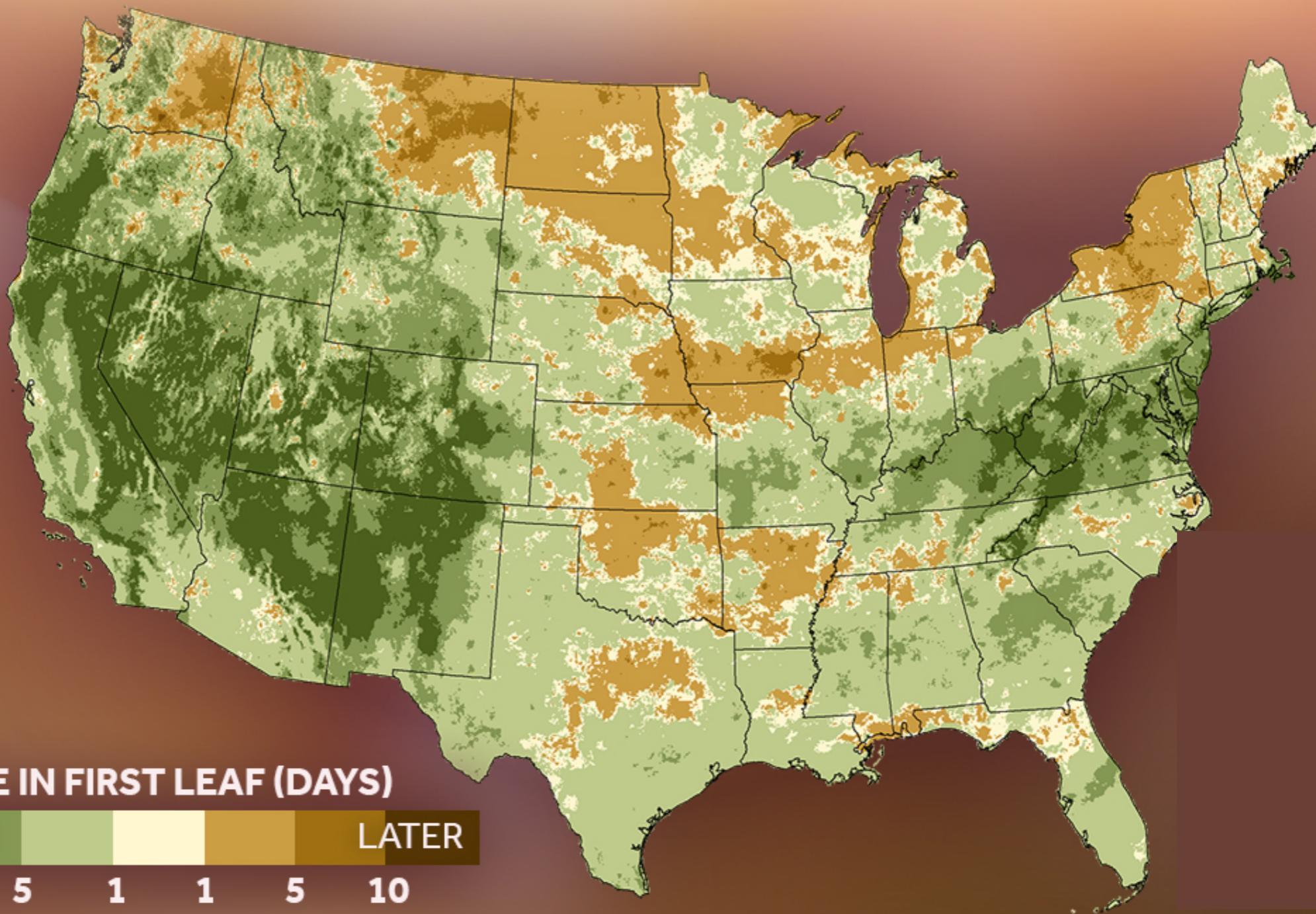
Much of Europe has been getting drier

Change in groundwater storage from Apr 2002 to Dec 2024, mm a year



Guardian graphic. Source: derived from Grace data from the GFZ Helmholtz Centre for Geosciences, Nasa and the University of Texas at Austin

SPRING COMING EARLIER



Change in average date of first spring leaf emergence (1981-2019)
Source: U.S.A. National Phenology Network

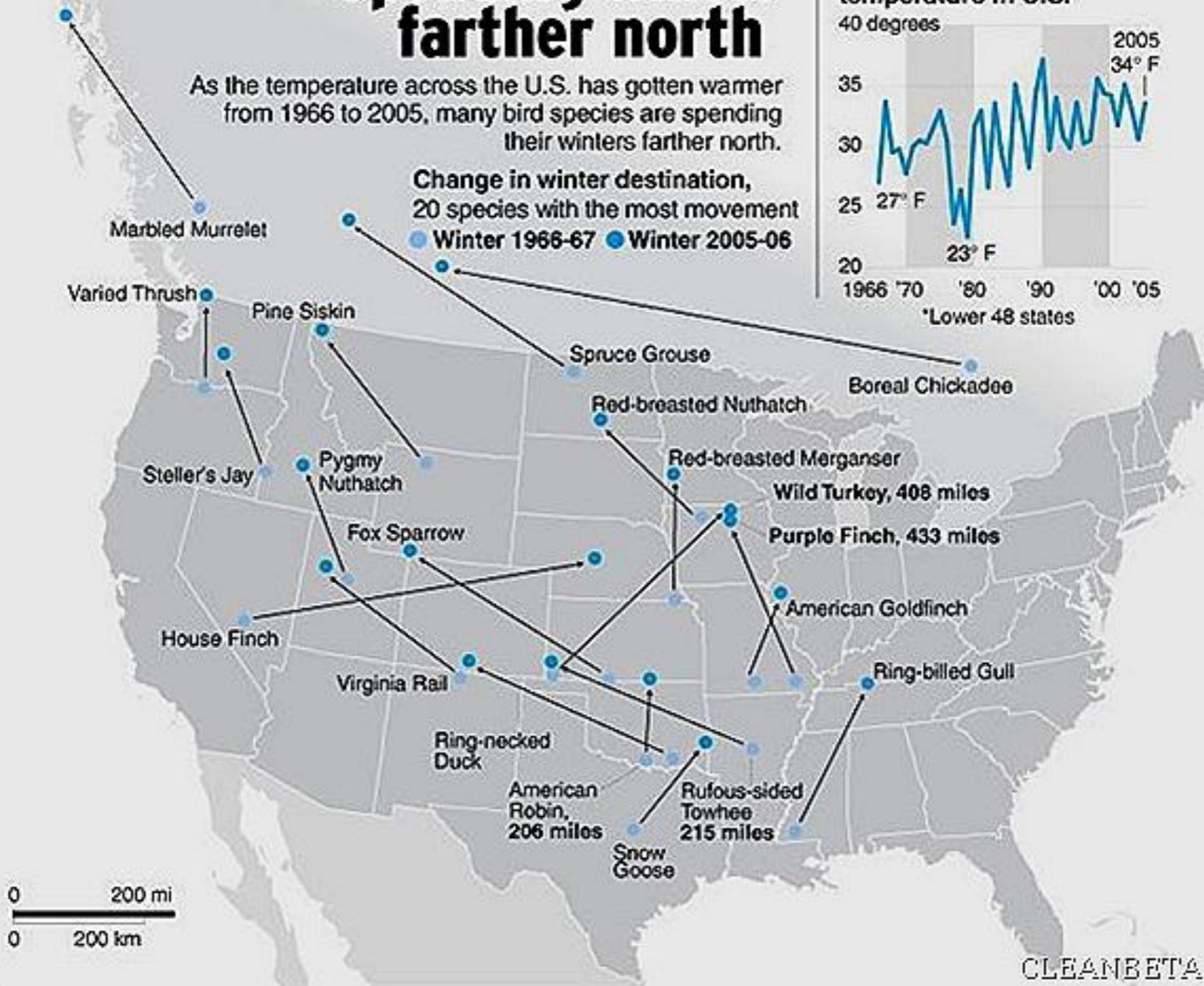
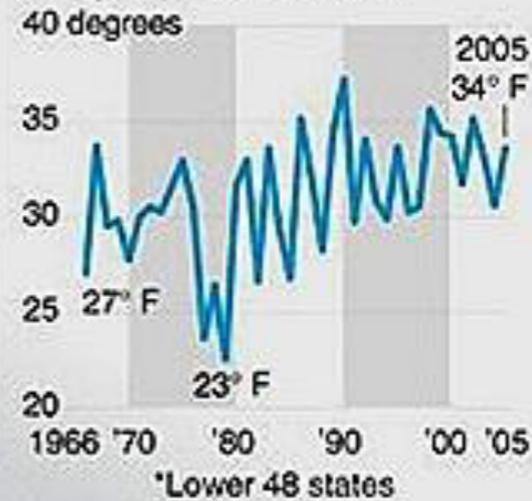
Bird Migrations (1966 - 2005)

Spending winter farther north

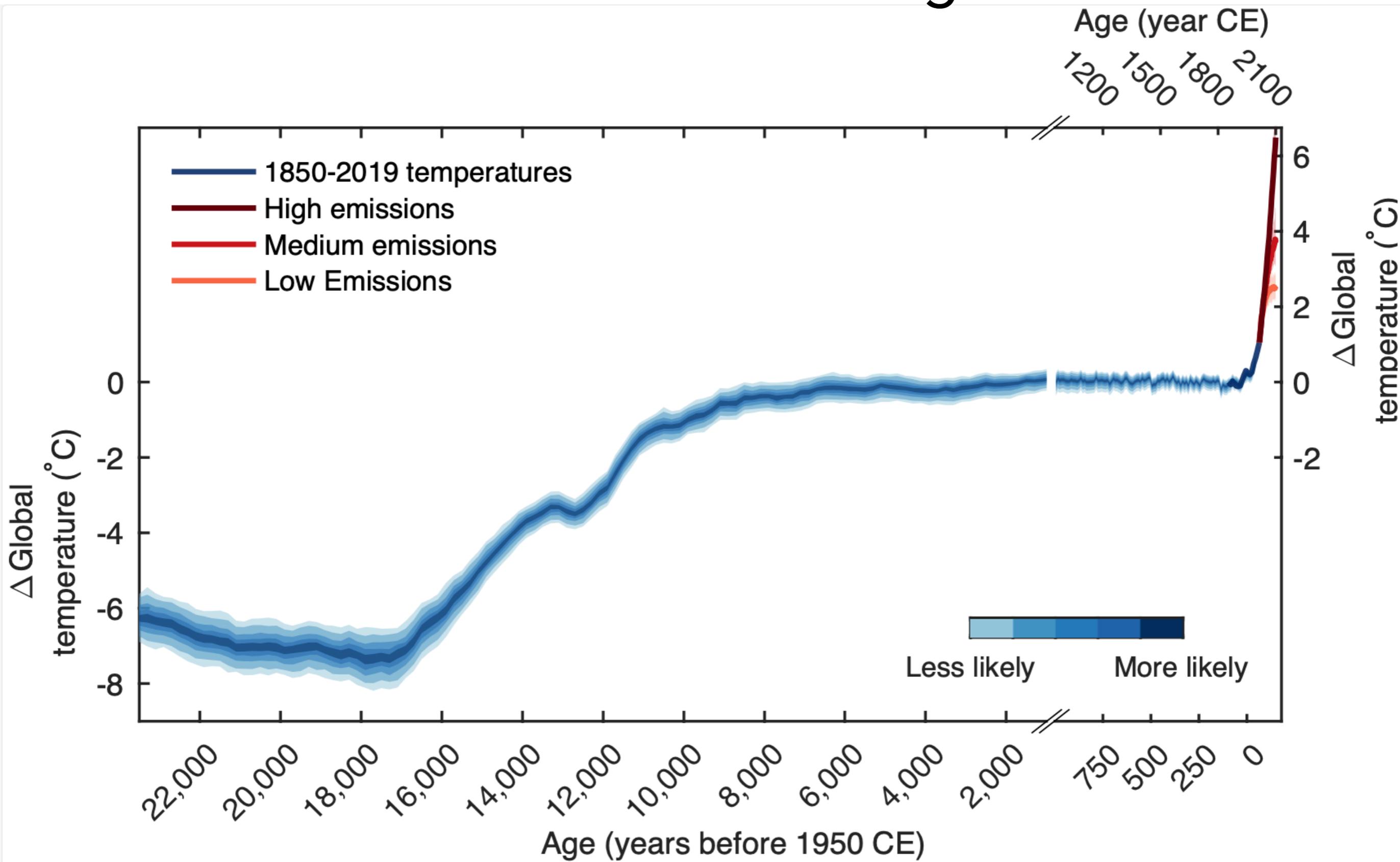
As the temperature across the U.S. has gotten warmer from 1966 to 2005, many bird species are spending their winters farther north.

Change in winter destination,
20 species with the most movement
● Winter 1966-67 ● Winter 2005-06

Average January temperature in U.S.*



Where Are We Going?



Australia



Over 1 billion animals lost

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

Affective Reactions to Climate Chaos

Apathy

Defiance

Fear



Helplessness



Guilt

Anger

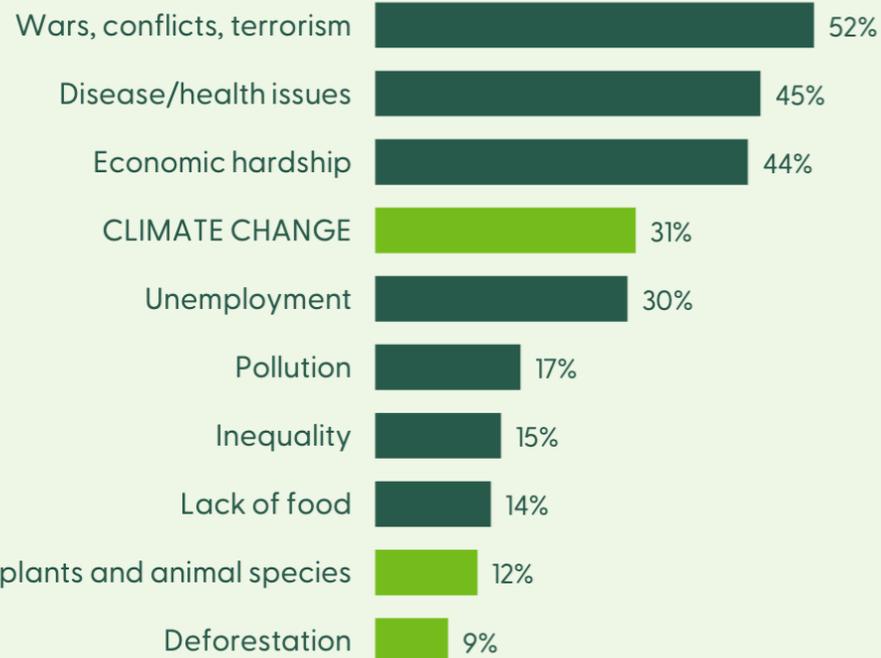
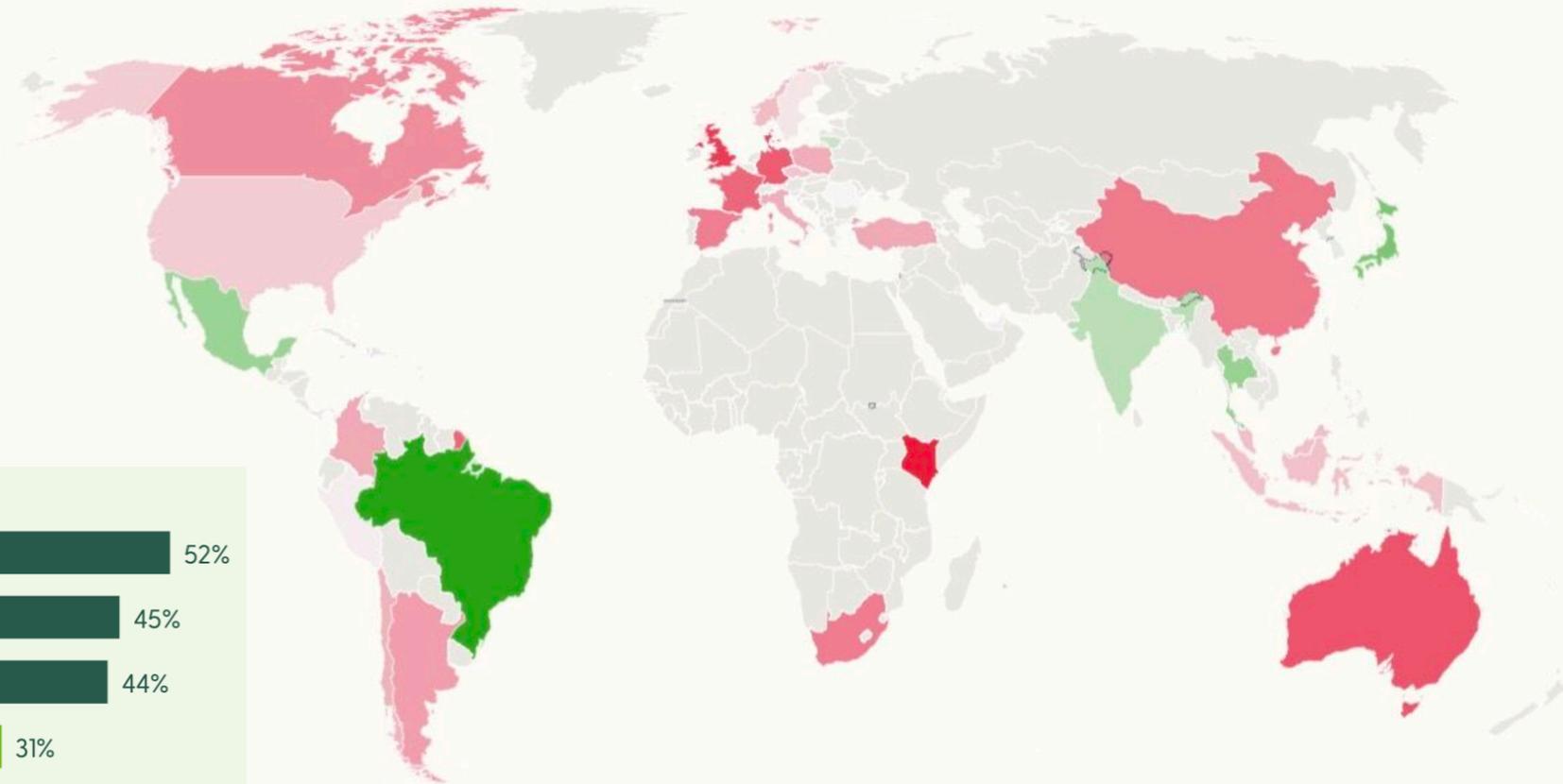
Powerless

All are symptoms of a trauma

Falling concern about the climate

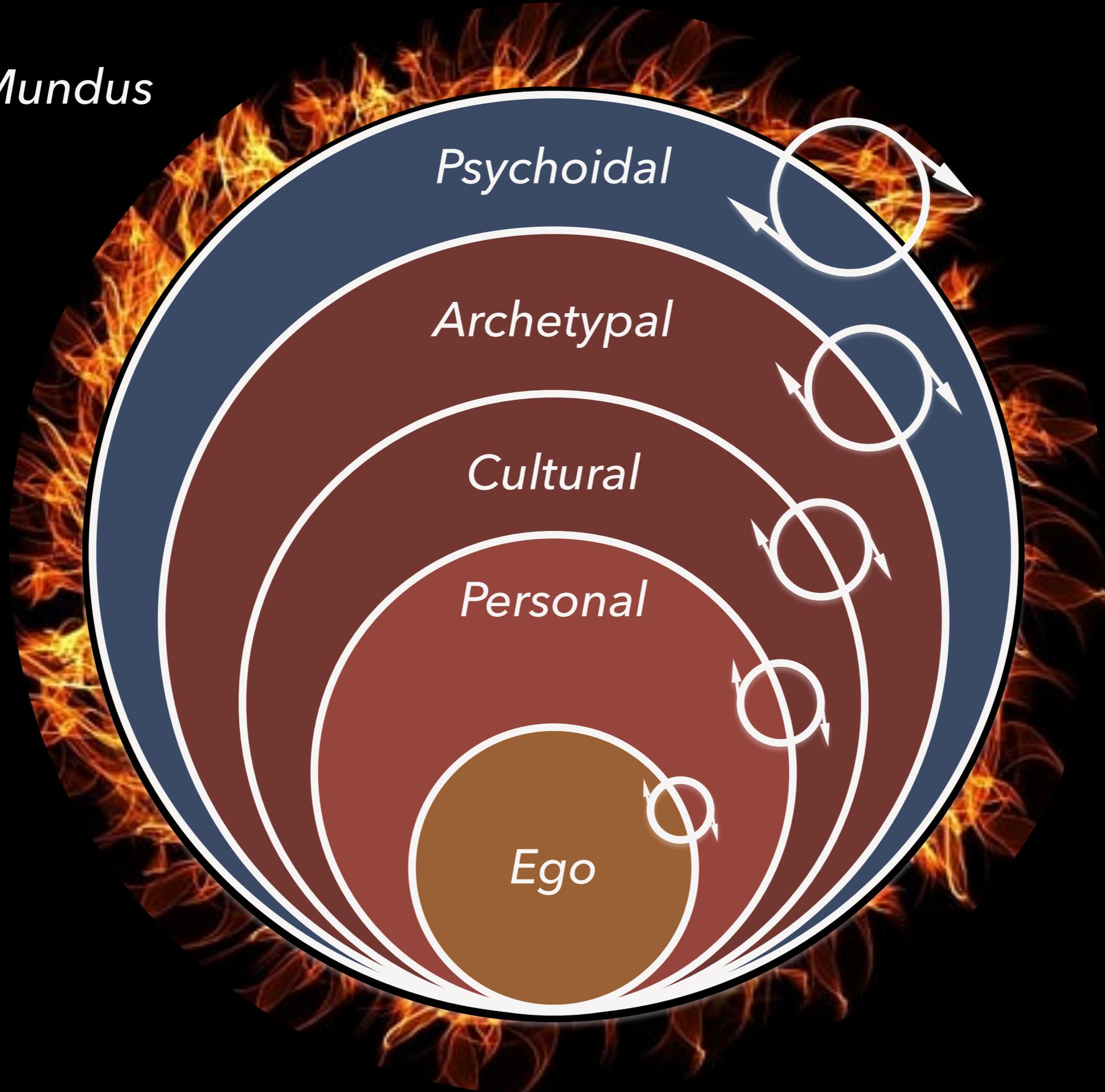
Percentage point change in concern about the climate between 2022/23 and 2025

Down  Up
-15 0 15



Source: FSC Global Consumer Awareness Survey 2025, conducted with IPSOS

Unus Mundus



Individuation Cannot Happen in Isolation





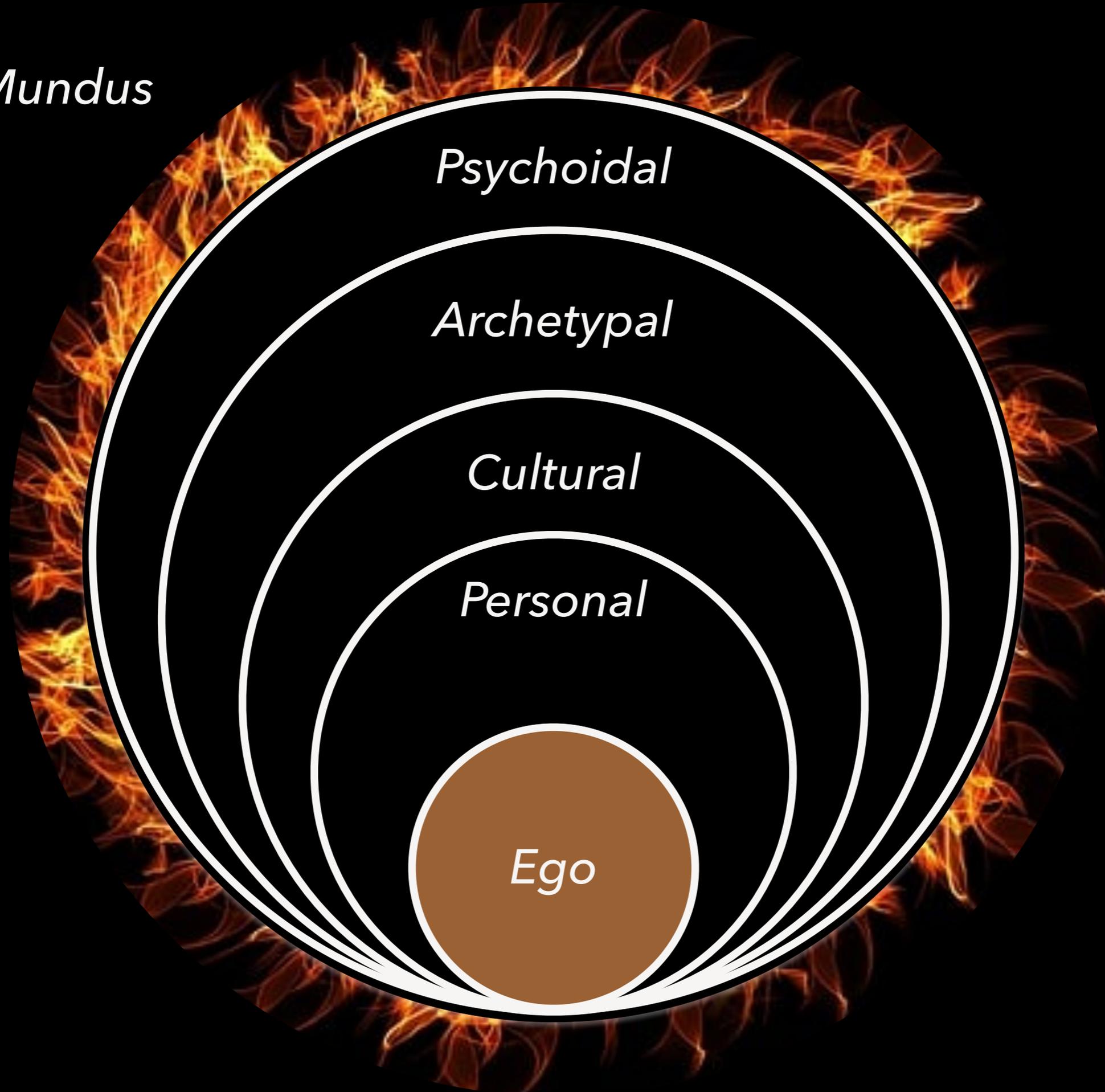
“Our effort today should be the double one of consciousness plus a full participation in life.”

C.G. Jung (AP, p. 68)

“Individuation has two principal aspects: in the first place it is an internal and subjective process of integration, and in the second it is an equally indispensable process of objective relationship. Neither can exist without the other, although sometimes the one and sometimes the other predominates.”

CW 16, par. 448

Unus Mundus



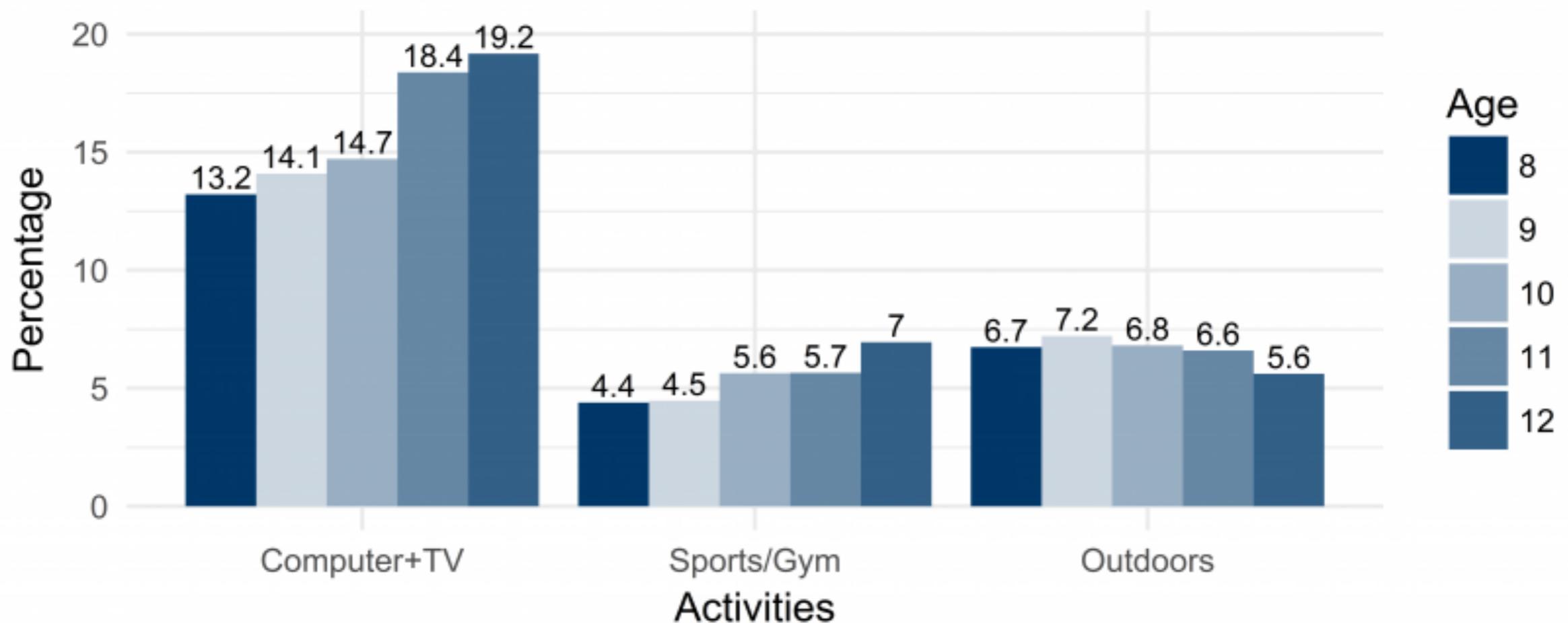
EGO DEVELOPMENT

- Closeness to natural world
- Parental Connections to natural world
- Stories Heard About Nature
- School Experiences
- Mentors



Media Use Grows while Time Outdoors Shrinks as Children Age

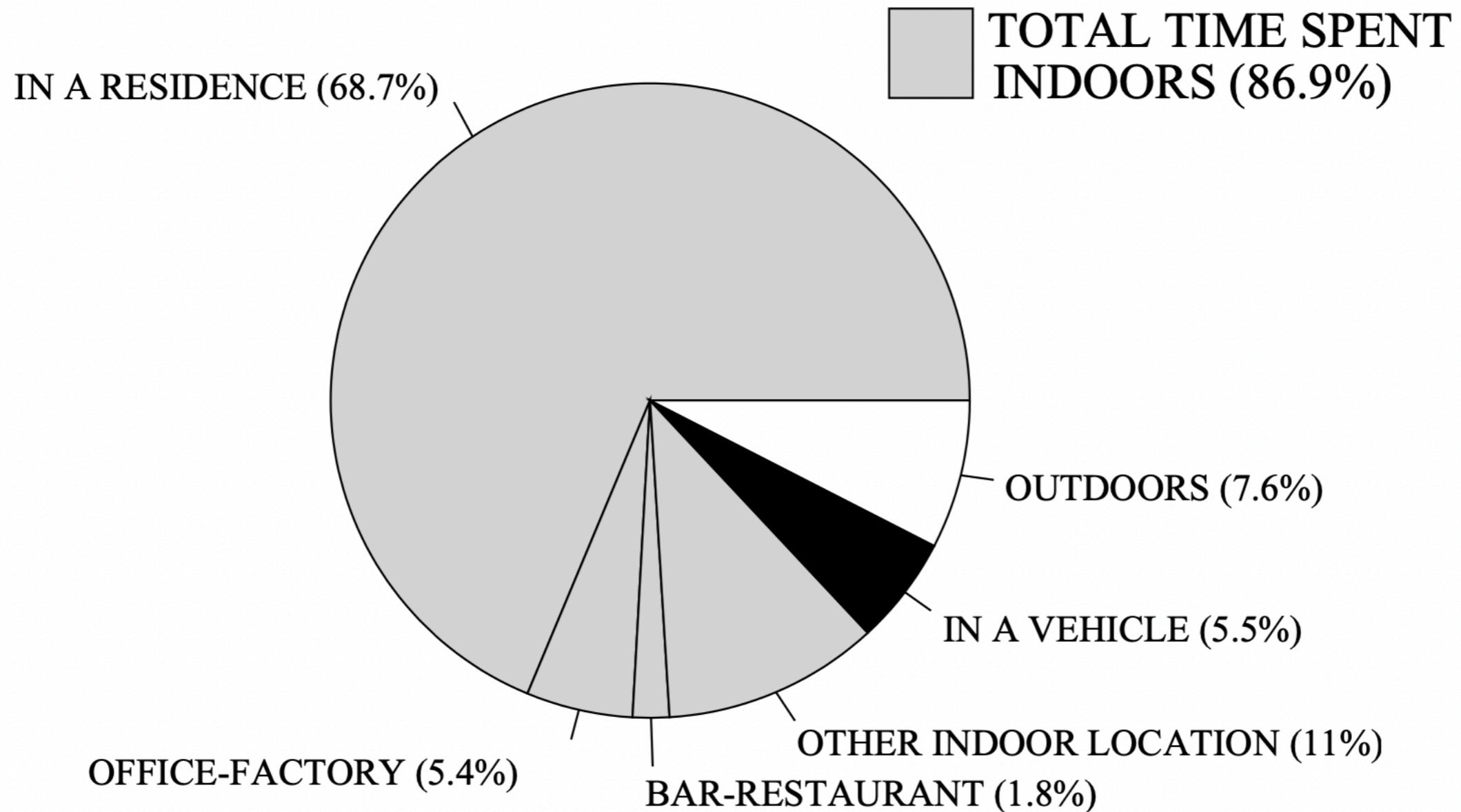
Parents of 8-year-olds report their children spend 13 hours on electronic media each week. Parents of 12-year-olds report 19 hours.



"On average in a typical week, about how many hours does your child... participate in outdoor activities when weather allows (not including sports) ...participate in formally organized sports, including gym classes at school ...watch TV ...use a computer, computer note pad, or smart phone?" Children ages 8-12. N = 771. Source: NatureofAmericans.org

NHAPS - Nation, Percentage Time Spent

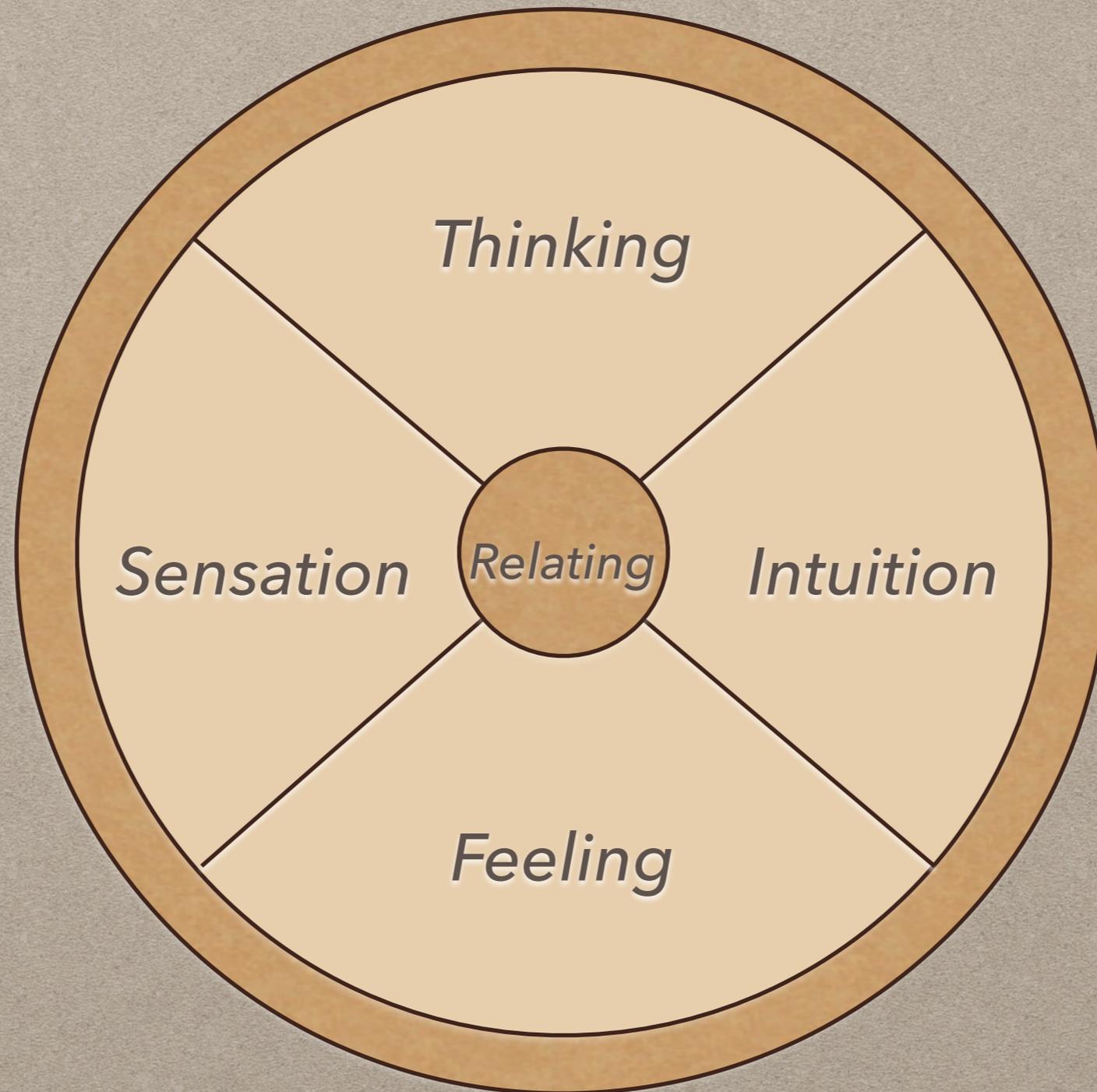
Total n = 9,196

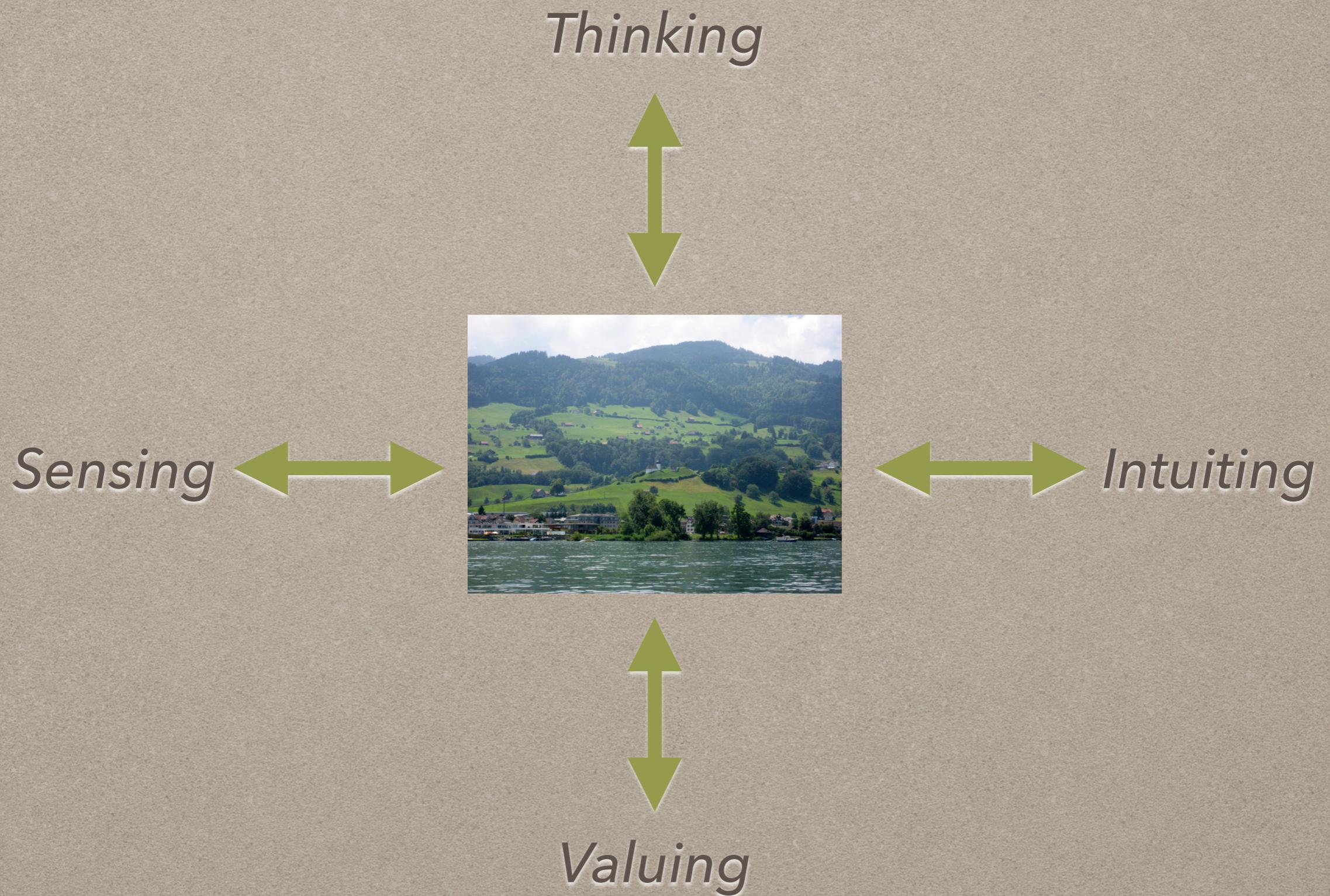


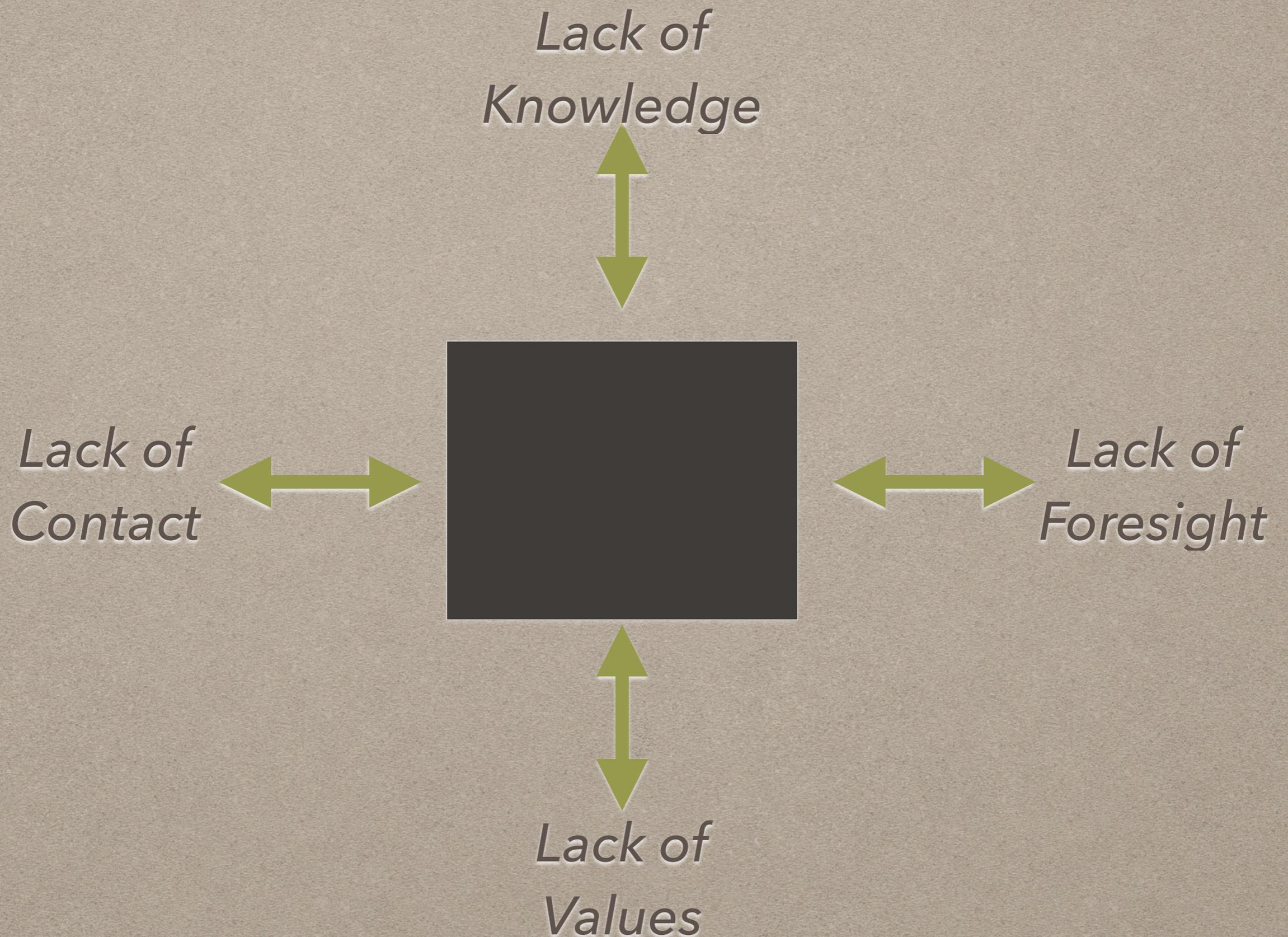
Klepeis et al. 2001

PERCEPTION OF WORLDS

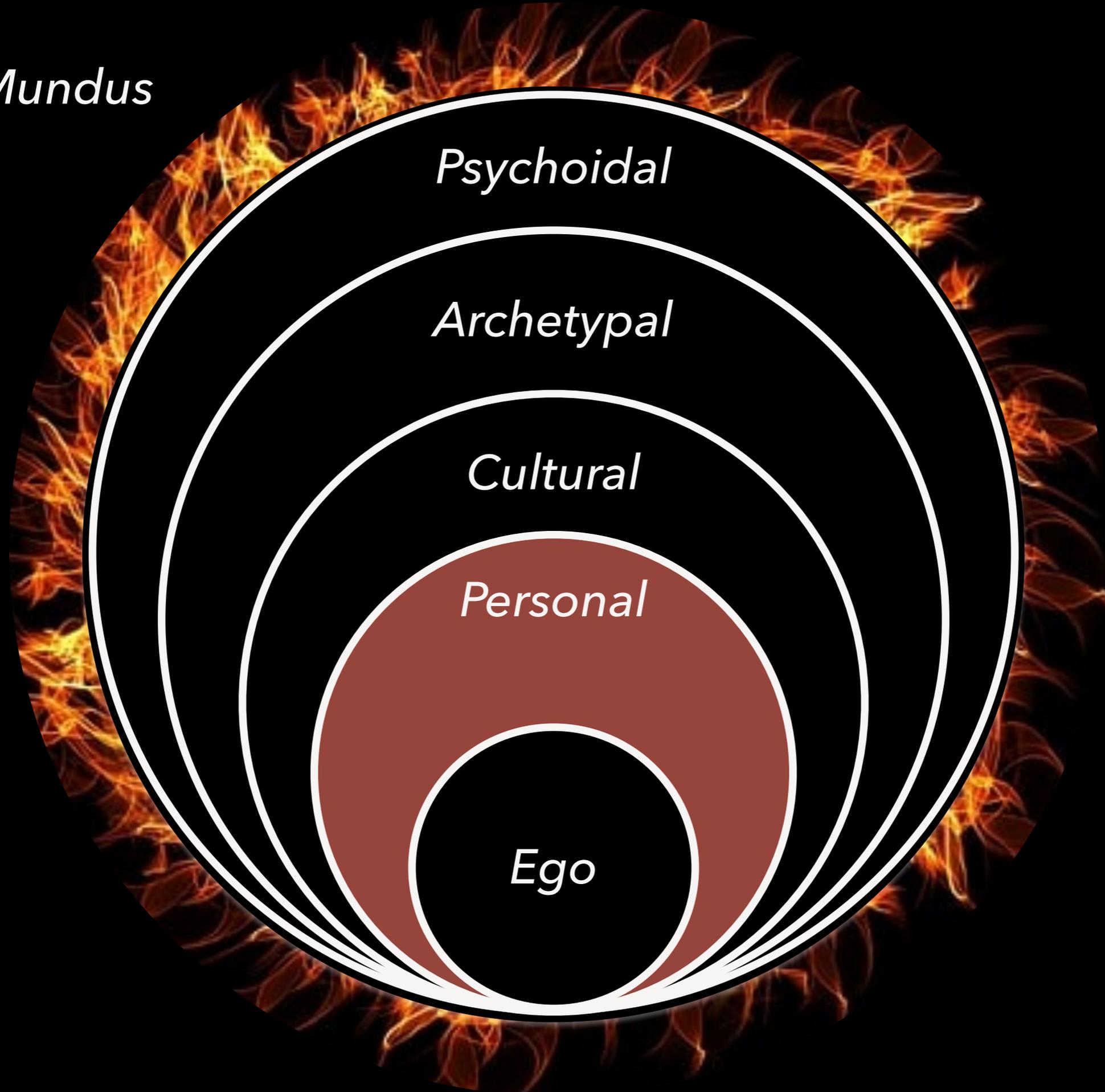
One-sided Relating to the World





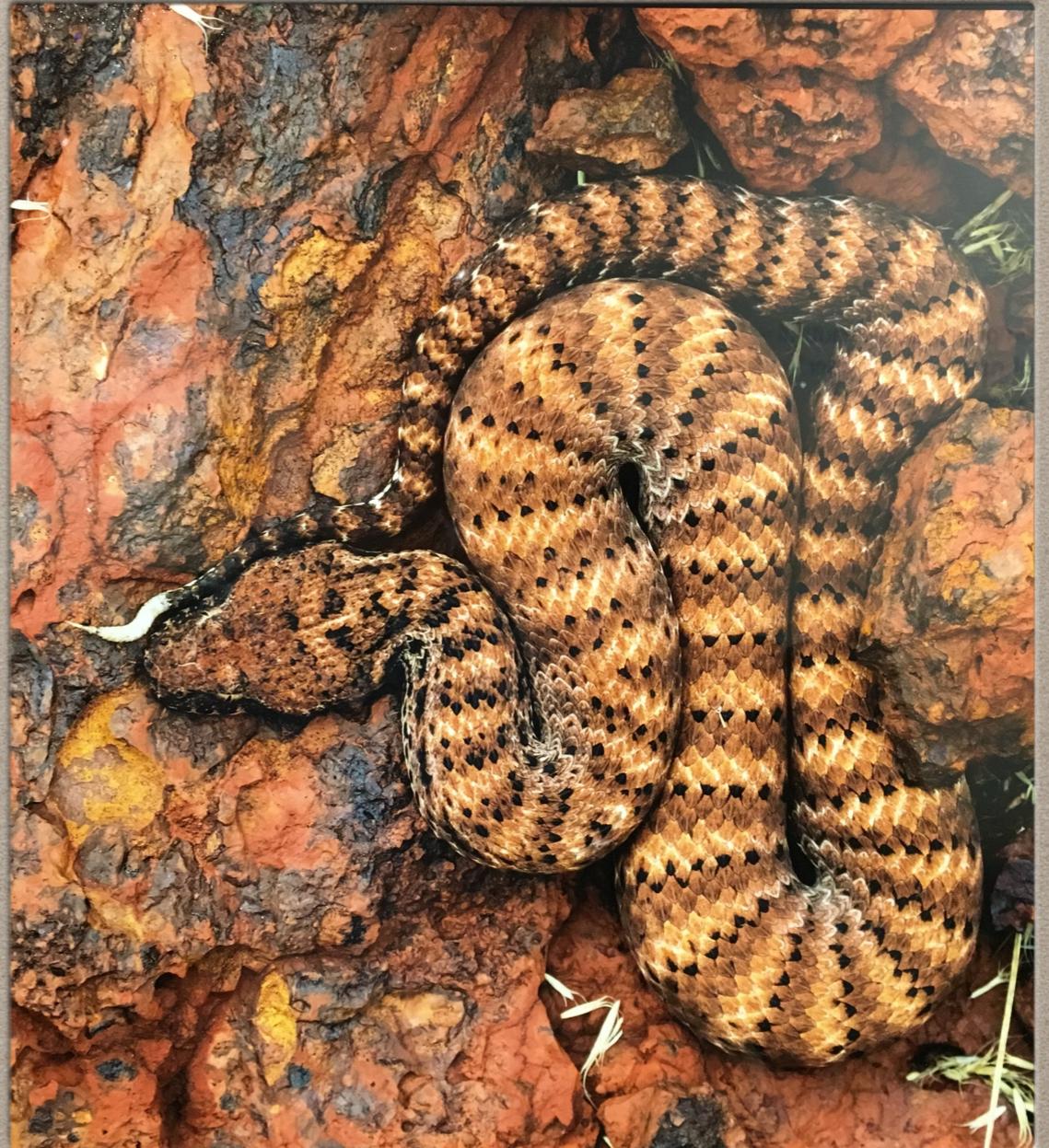


Unus Mundus

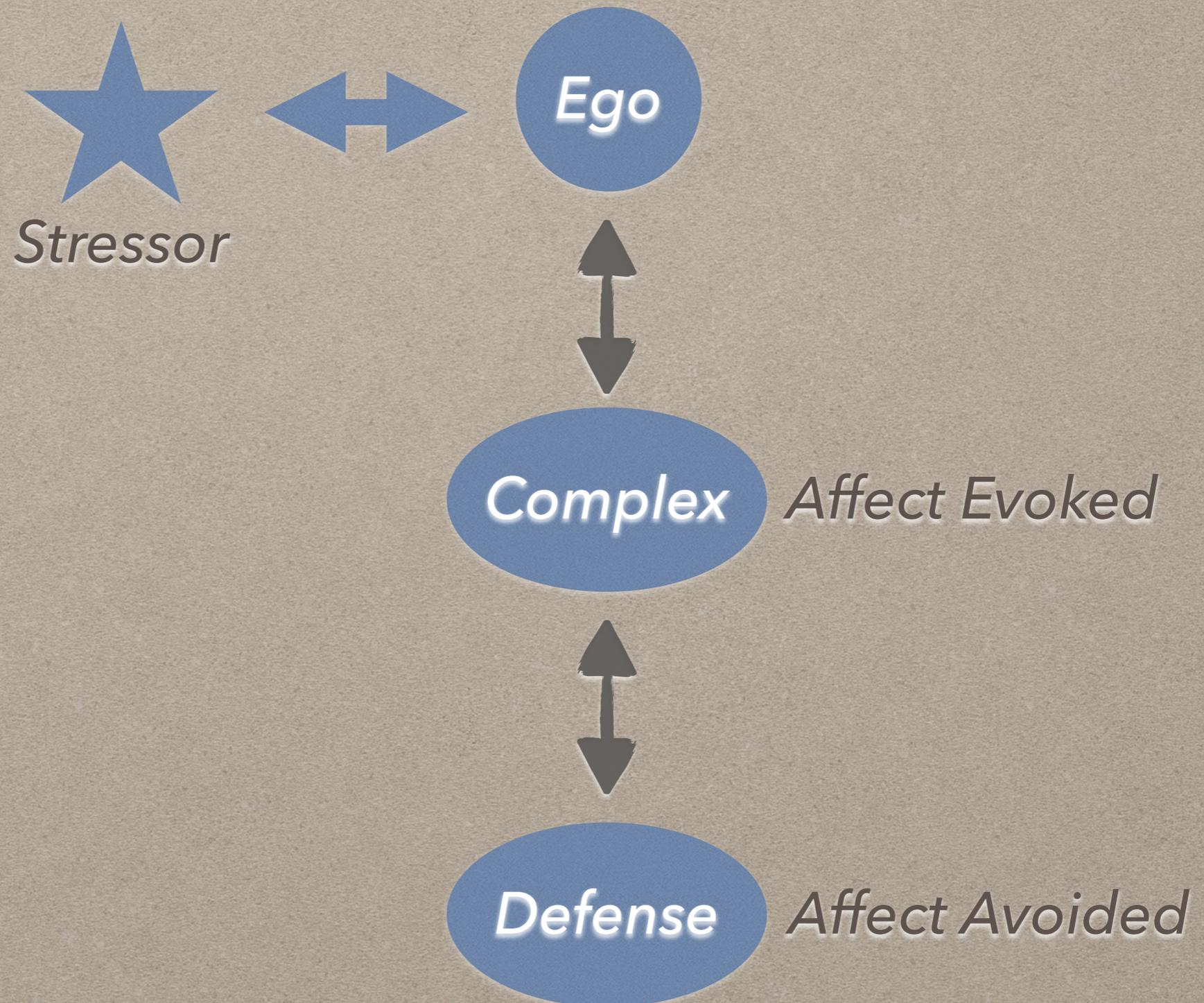


COMPLEXES & ENVIRONMENT

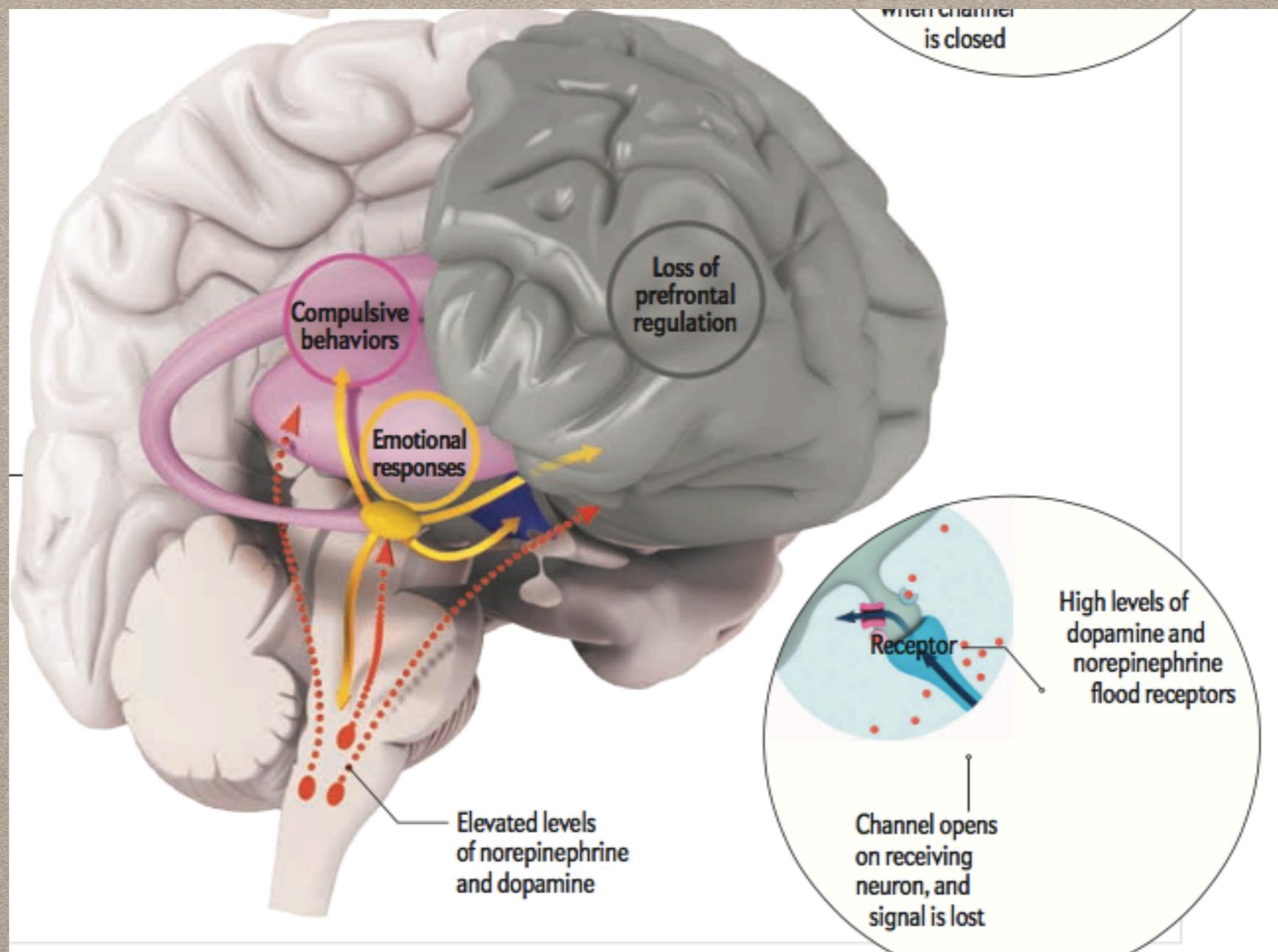
- Nature as Threat/Haven
- Matter/Spirit
- Mother/Father
- Savior
- Power
- Money (Loss)
- Body/Sex



A JUNGIAN PERSPECTIVE



A NEUROSCIENCE PERSPECTIVE



Arnsten et al. (2012)

Denial

Distortion

Projection

Withdrawal

Rationalization

Dissociation

Regression

Splitting



BODY



"We suffer very much from the fact that we consist of mind and have lost the body."

Zarathustra Seminar, p. 251

"Only if you first return to the body, to your earth, can individuation take place, only then does the thing become true."

ibid, p. 202

ANIMAL



"If every individual had a better relation to the animal within him, he would also set a higher value on life. Life would be the absolute, the supreme moral principle, and he would react instinctively against any institution or organization that had the power to destroy life on a large scale."

C.G. Jung (CW 10, par. 32)

STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS & SEPARATION FROM NATURE

Five States of Consciousness

*Jung**

*Gebser***

-
- | | |
|--|----------|
| • Participation Mystique | Archaic |
| • Projection onto Objects | Magic |
| • Projection onto Ideals | Mythical |
| • Rationality (Taking back projections) | Mental |
| • <i>Unus Mundus</i> (Conscious participation) | Integral |

**CW 13, pars. 247 - 249*

*** Ever Present Origin*



“... it is the special tragedy of man that in order to win consciousness he is forced into dissociation with nature.”

C.G. Jung (AP, p. 36)



“There is much to suggest that when human beings acquired the powers of conscious attention and rational thought they became so fascinated with these new tools that they forgot all else... we lost the ability to feel nature from the inside, and, more, to feel the seamless unity of the world and ourselves.”

Watts (1958, p. 7)

PROJECTION



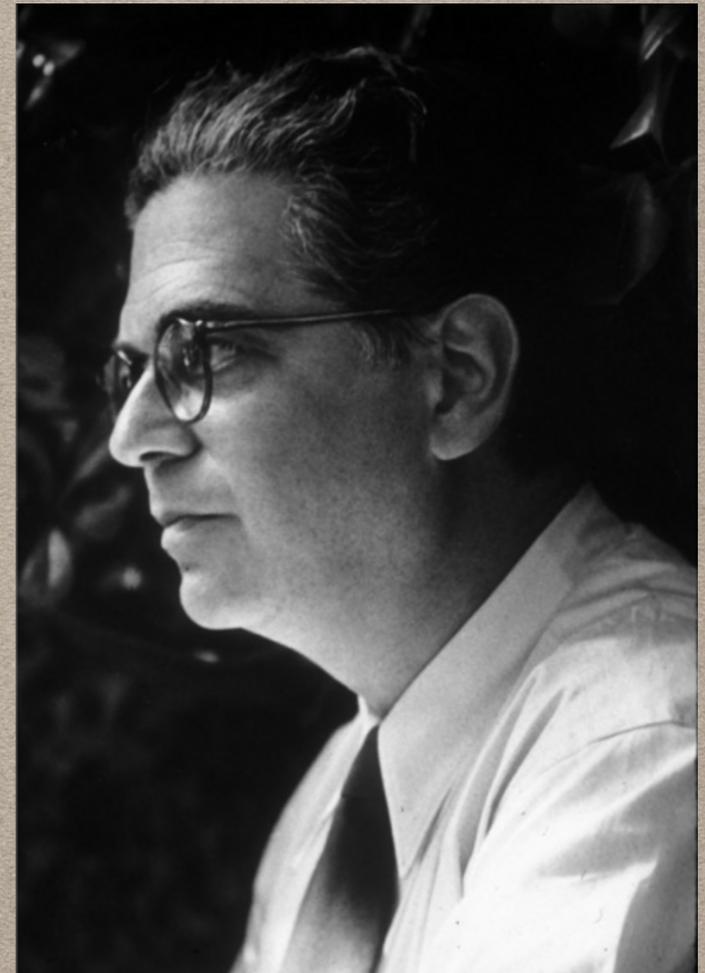
"All the contents of our unconscious are constantly being projected into our surroundings..."

C.G. Jung (CW 8, par. 507)

"The effect of projection is to isolate the subject from his environment, since instead of a real relation to it there is now only an illusory one."

C.G. Jung (CW 9ii, par. 17)

NEUMANN'S VIEW



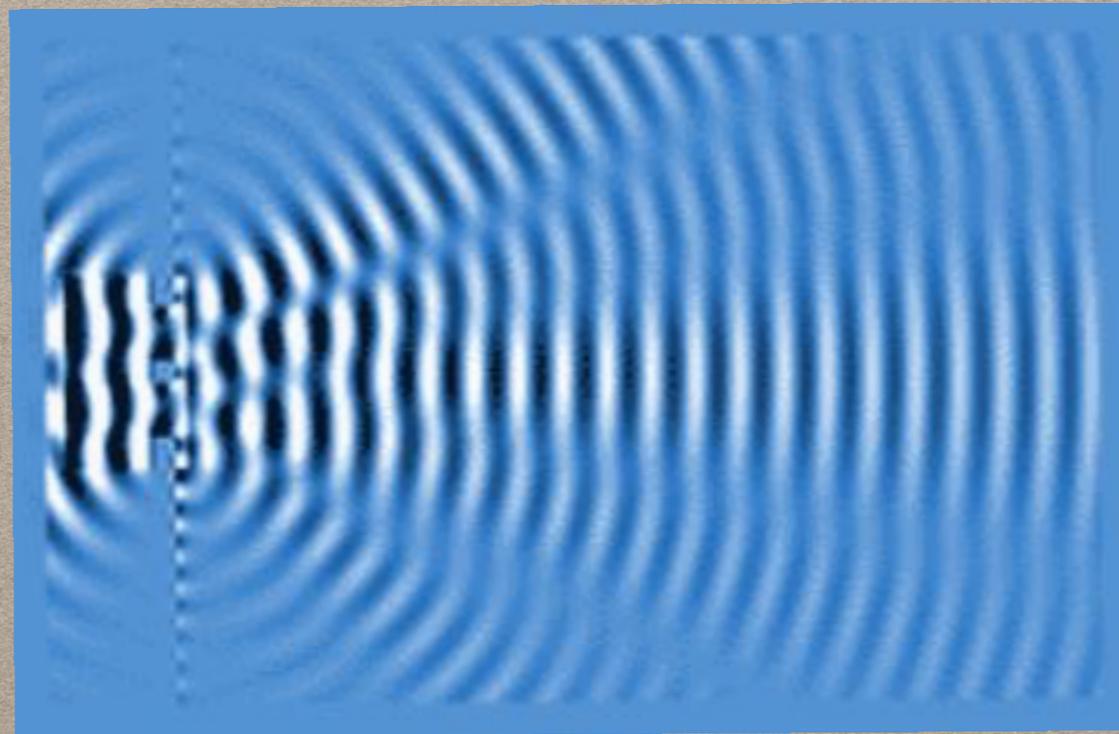
"It is just not enough to regard the numinosity of a tree...as the projection of something psychic onto something physical."

E. Neumann (The Place of Creation, p. 25)

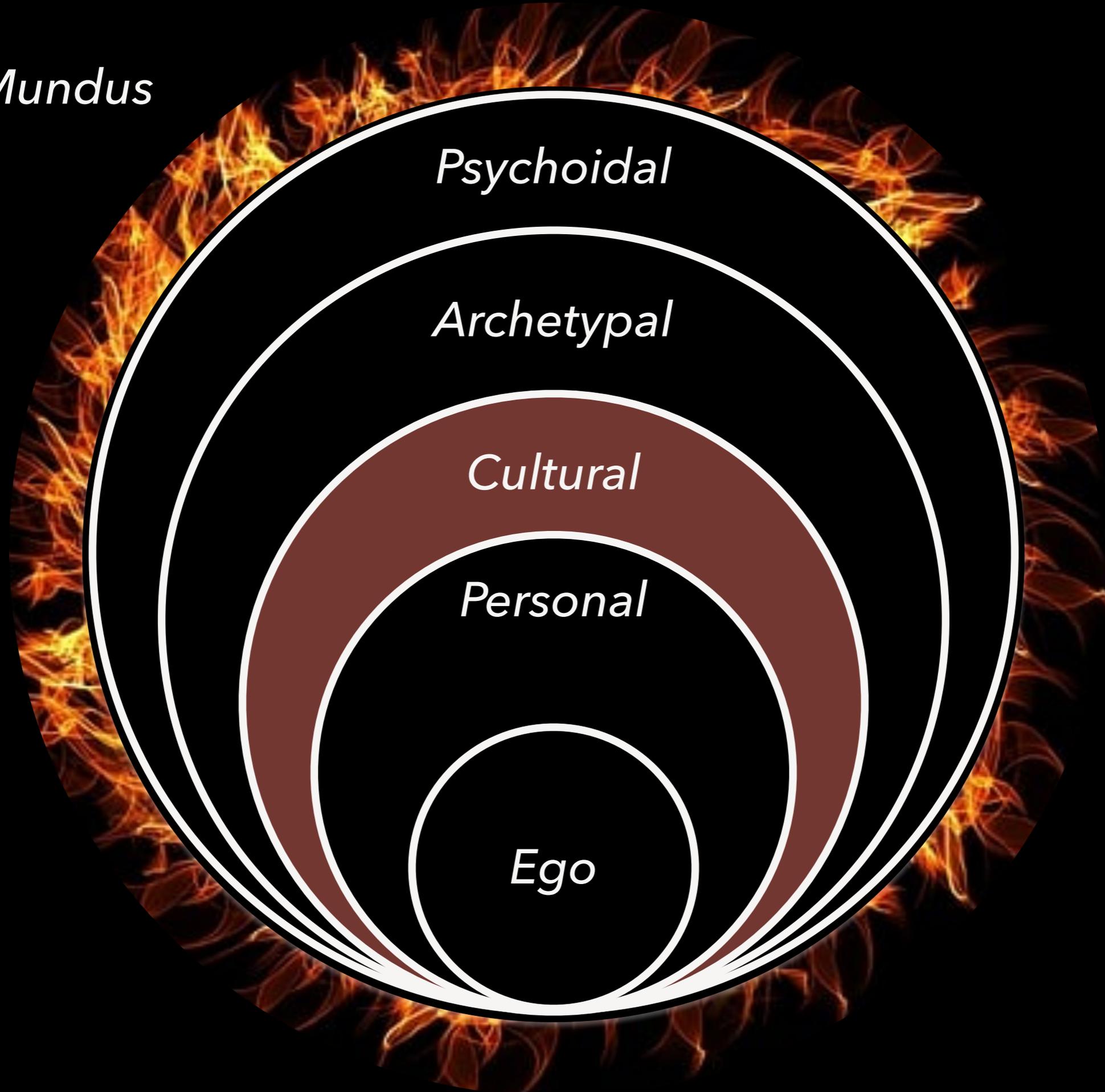
JUNG REVISITS PROJECTION

"... psychology sees itself obliged to revise its 'only psychic' assumptions in the light of the physical findings ..."

C.G. Jung (CW 8, par. 440)



Unus Mundus



BELIEFS & CLIMATE CHAOS

- Expulsion from Garden
- Our Dominion over Nature
- Matter as Inanimate
- Materialism/Consumerism
- Authority/Autonomy



The Myth of Perpetual Growth

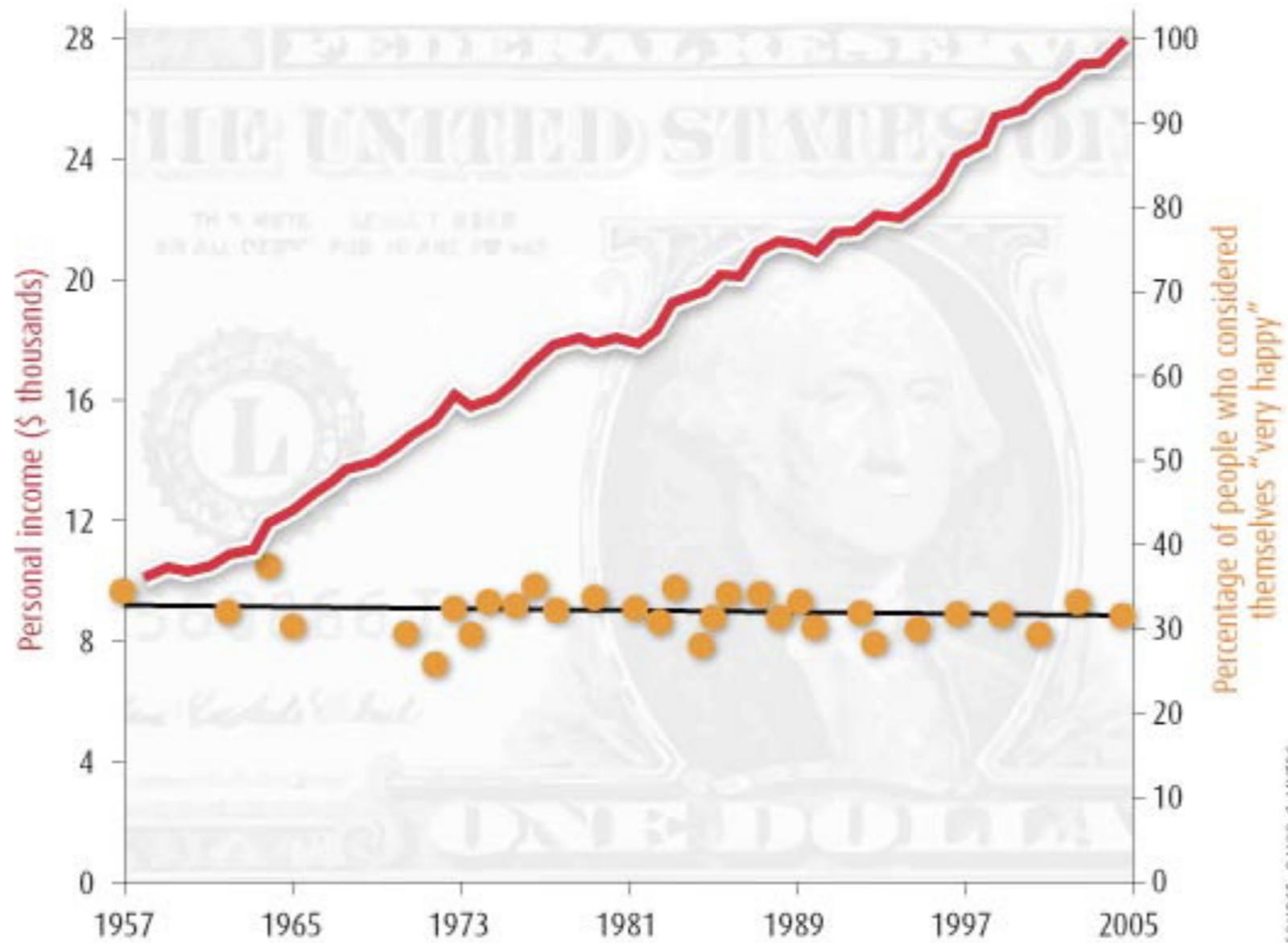


"... the more stubbornly we believe that all increase has to come from without, the greater becomes our inner poverty."

C.G. Jung (9i, par. 215)

HAPPINESS IN LIFE vs ANNUAL INCOME

A rise in income has no effect on happiness



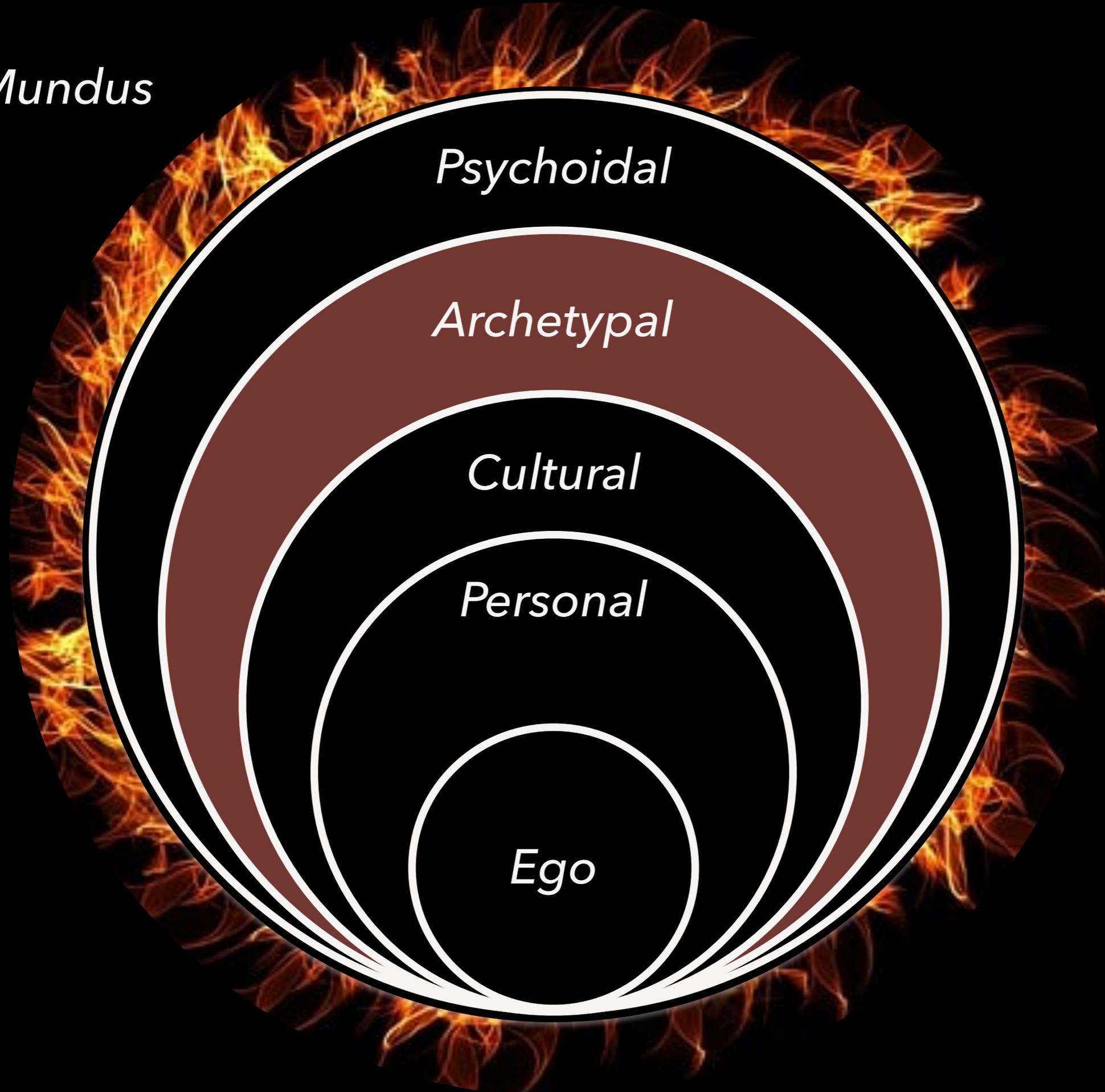
"There are serious gaps between what people believe and what people do ... Most people think that less emphasis on material possessions would be a good thing ... but spending money often provides one of life's greatest pleasures."
Leiserowitz et al. (2005)



"... our progressiveness, though it may result in a great many delightful wish-fulfillments, piles up an equally gigantic Promethean debt which has to be paid off from time to time in the form of hideous catastrophes."

Jung (CW 9i, par. 276)

Unus Mundus





"... archetypes are ... the roots which the psyche has sunk not only in the earth in the narrower sense but in the world in general, ... [archetypes are that portion of the psyche] through which the psyche is attached to nature."

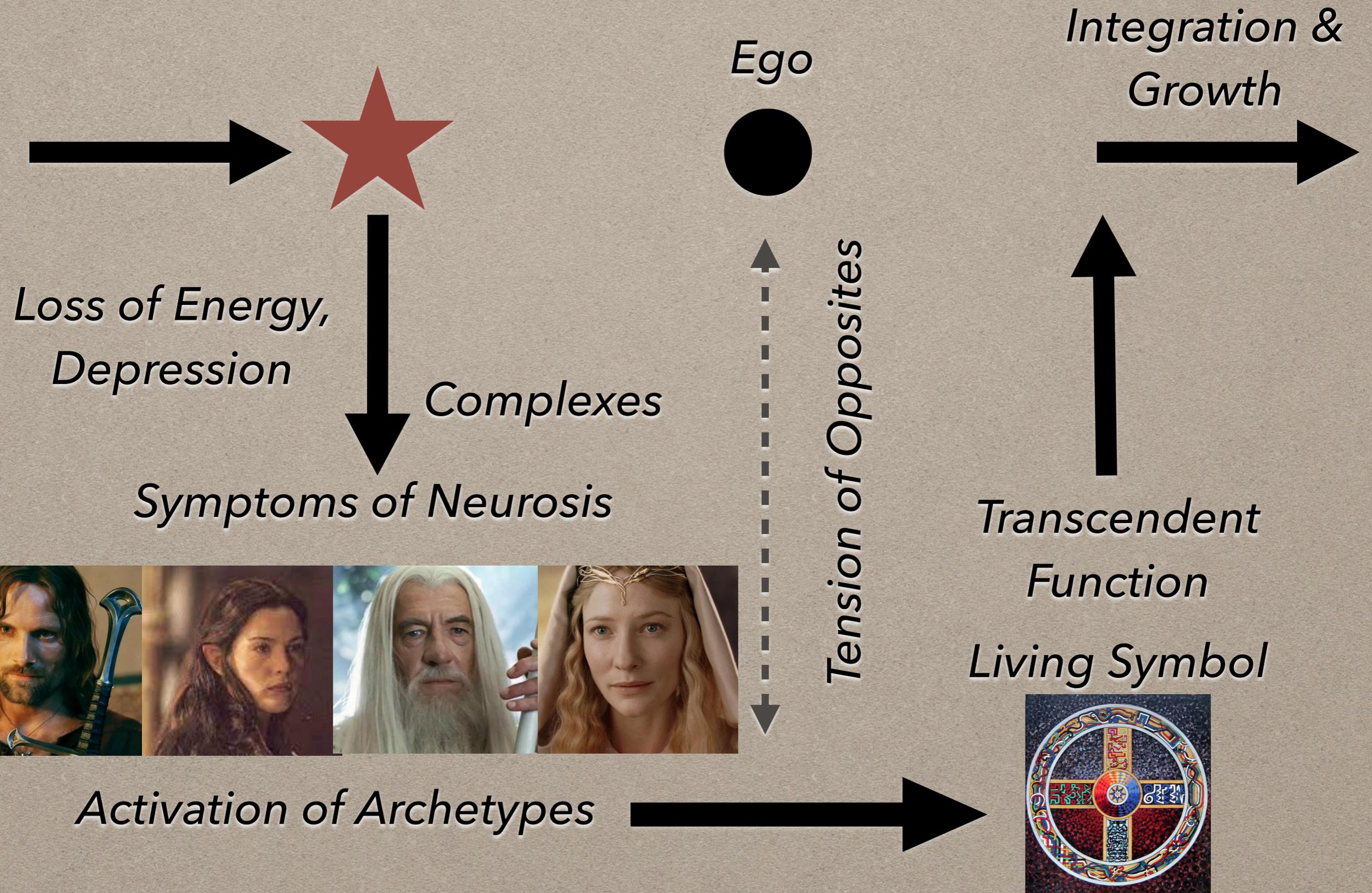
C.G. Jung (CW 10, par. 53)



“... archetypes ... must not be suppressed out of hand, but must be very carefully weighed and considered, if only because of the danger of psychic infection they carry with them ... their evaluation and assessment is no light matter.”

CW 7, par. 152

Psyche as a Self-Regulating System



INSTINCTS, ARCHETYPES & CLIMATE CHAOS

- Creation/Destruction
- Masculine/Feminine
- Dissociation/Association
- Order/Disorder
- Competition/Cooperation





"What the union of opposites really "means" transcends human imagination. ... we are dealing with an eternal image, an archetype... Whenever this image is obscured ones life loses its proper meaning and consequently its balance. So long as we know that we are the carrier of life ... then the mystery of our soul lives ... But if we no longer see the meaning of our life in it's fulfillment ... then we have betrayed and lost our soul, substituting for it a madness which leads to destruction..."

Jung (CW 14, par. 201)

Opposites in Modes of Connectivity

Instinctual

Competition +/-

Cooperation +/-

Archetypal

* Dominion +/-

Reciprocity +/-

Cultural

Individualism +/-

Communitarian +/-

Individual

Power +/-

Love +/-

* *Bernstein (2018)*

Degree of Connectivity

*Highly
Cooperative*

Optimal Balance

*Highly
Competitive*



Fellowship of the Ring

Wall Street

MYTHOPOEIC



Jeffrey Kiehl, November 29 2025, Pari Center, Beyond Jung: Jung & Ecology

The Power of Story



“Given the power of symbols, it is important for us to be conscious of what images, patterns, or metaphors could activate ... transformation.”

Kiehl (2016, p. 55)

Story & the Play of the Imagination

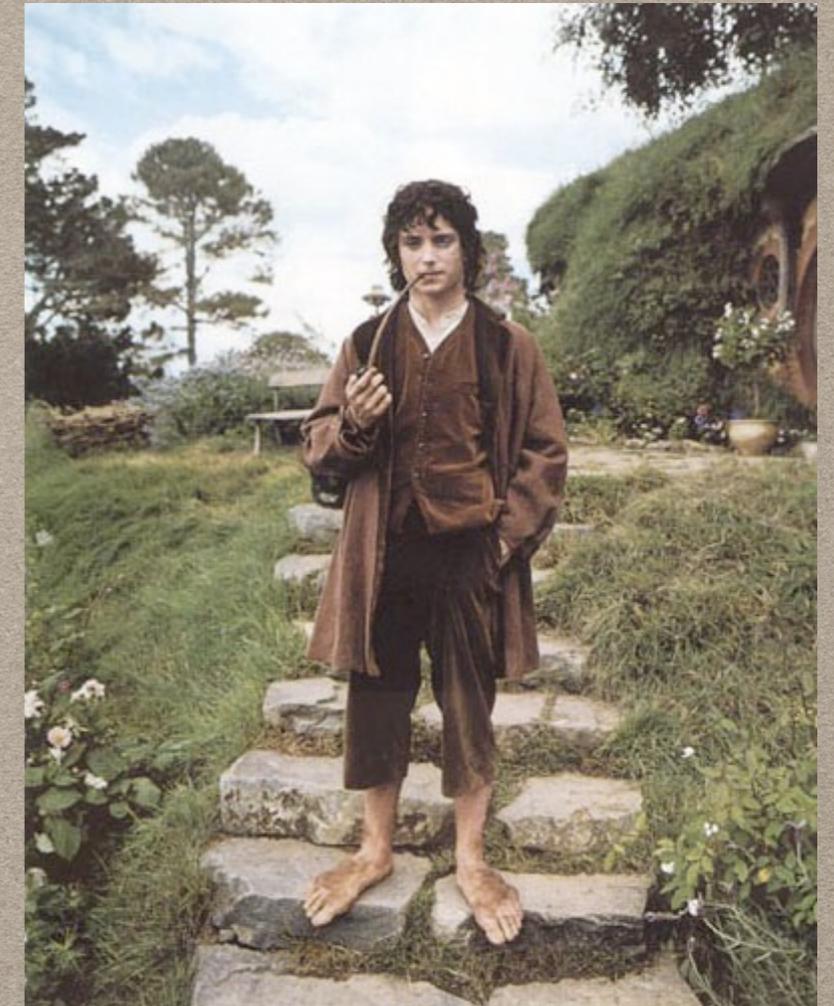
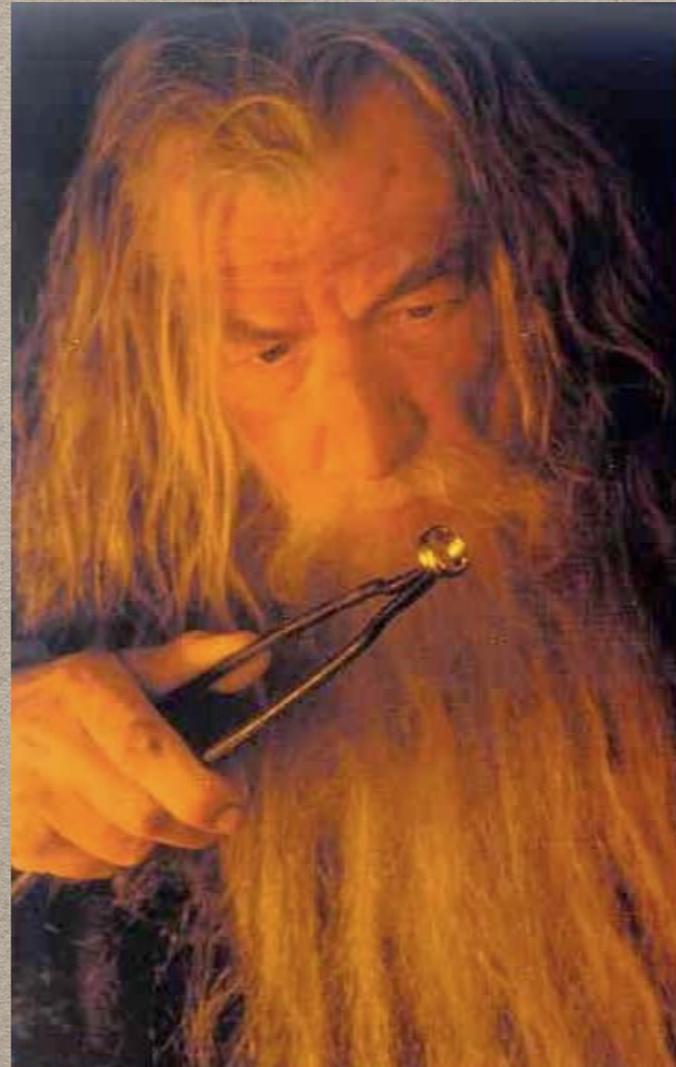
"Hemmed round by rationalistic walls, we are cut off from the eternity of nature. Analytical psychology seeks to break through these walls by digging up again the fantasy-images of the unconscious ..."

C.G. Jung (CW 8, par. 739)

"... we know that every good idea and all creative work are the offspring of the imagination, ... every creative individual whatsoever owes all that is greatest in his life to fantasy. The dynamic principle of fantasy is *play* ... without this playing with fantasy no creative work has ever yet come to birth. The debt we owe to the play of imagination is incalculable."

C.G. Jung (CW 6, par. 93)

Lord of the Rings





... where the will to power is paramount, love is lacking ...
C.G. Jung (CW 7, par. 78)



"... immense power of destruction is given into [our] hands, and the question is whether [we] can resist the will to use it, and can temper [our] will with the spirit of love and wisdom."

C.G. Jung (CW 11, par. 745)

Saruman & Treebeard



The chapter called 'Treebeard'... was written off more or less as it stands, with an effect on my self almost like reading some one else's work. ... I daresay something had been going on in the unconscious for some time ... I was not inventing but reporting (imperfectly) and had at time to wait till 'what really happened' came through.

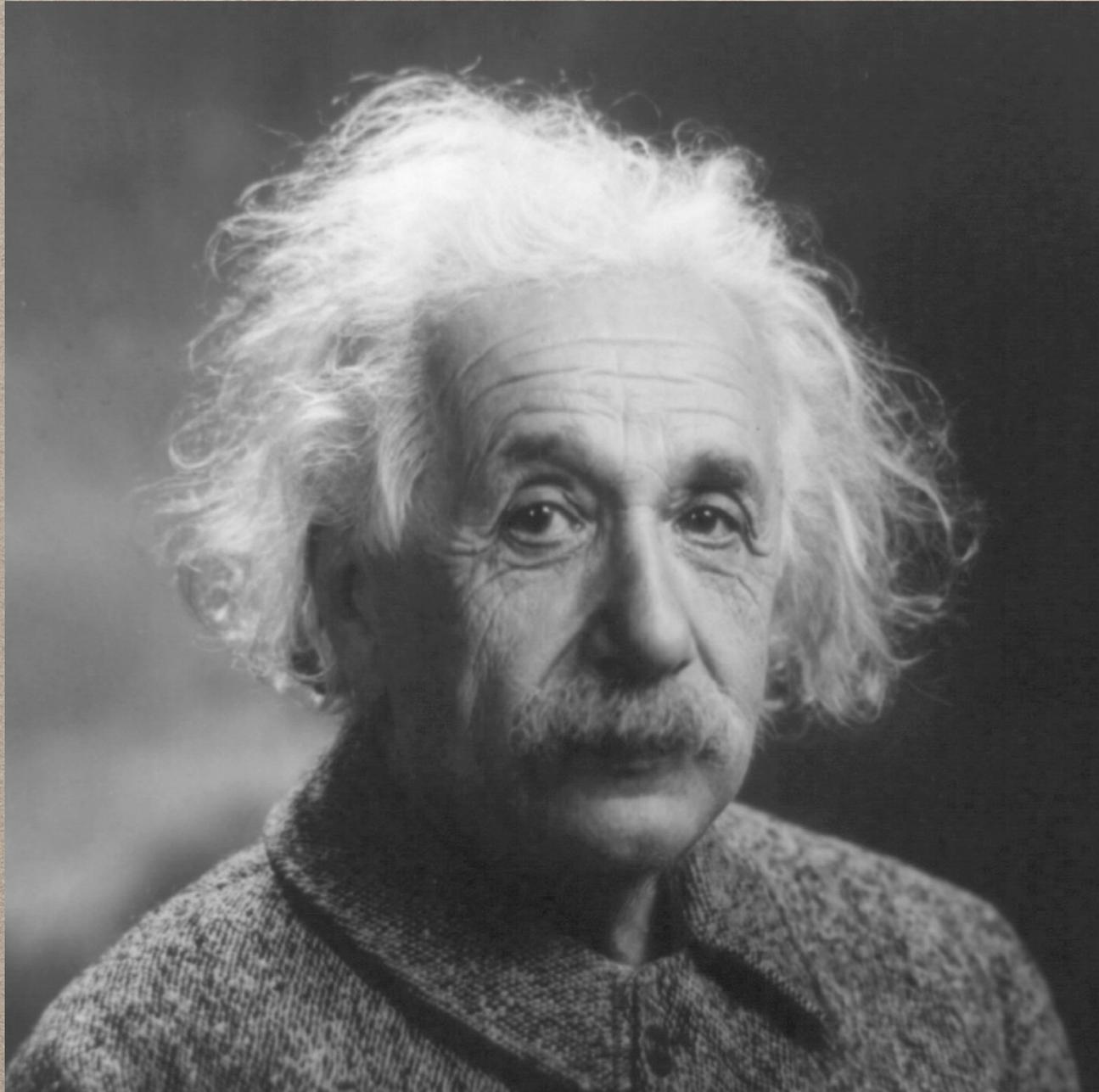
Tolkien (Letters, 1955)



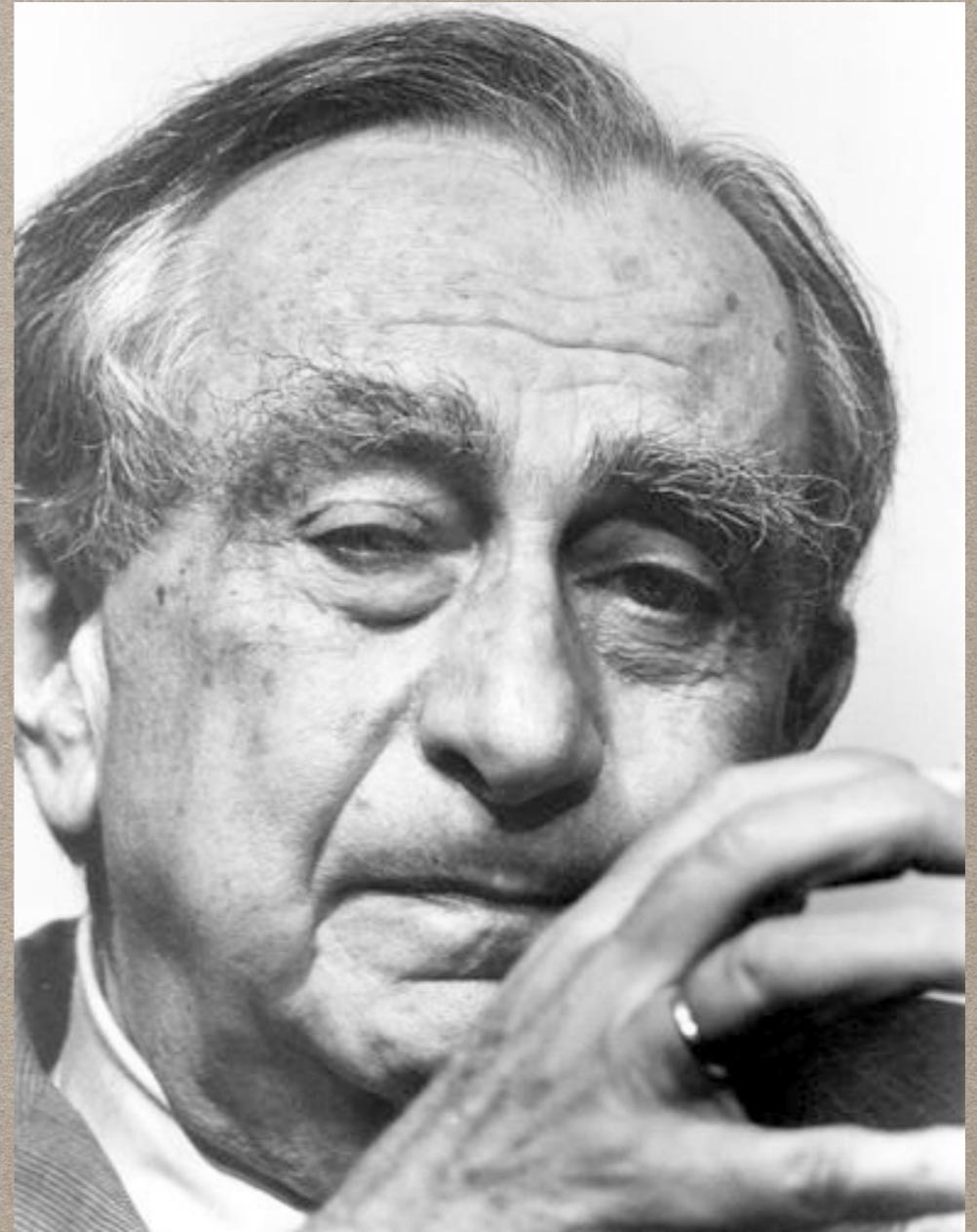
The [magician] is ... an immortal daemon that pierces the chaotic darkness of brute life with the light of meaning. He is the enlightener, the master and teacher, a psychopomp ... I have been content to call it the archetype of the wise old man, or of meaning. Like all archetypes, it has a positive and a negative aspect...

C.G. Jung (CW 9i, par. 77-79)

Modern Magicians



Albert Einstein



Edward Teller

Ours ... is... the age of the Magician, because it is a technological age. It is an age of the Magician at least in his materialistic concern with understanding and having power over nature. However, in terms of nonmaterialistic, psychological, or spiritual initiatory process, the Magician energy seems in short supply.

Moore and Gillette (1990, p.102)

It is no wonder that a world like ours, very much in the grasp of the Shadow Magician, is a world in which human beings feel cut off from the wellsprings of nature. In our sterilized, mechanical technosphere, we feel out of touch with other living things.

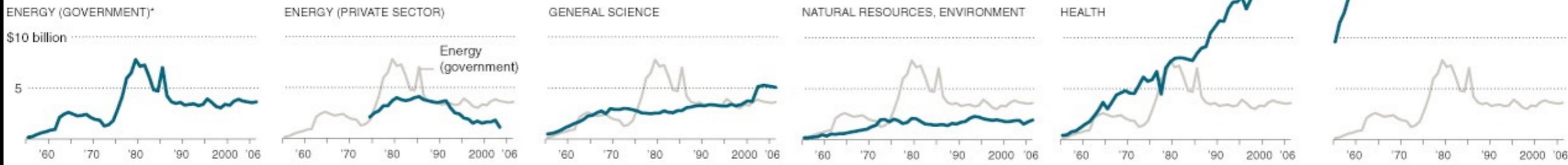
Moore and Gillette (1993, p. 171)

The Will to Power

Declining Investment in Energy R.& D.

Spending for energy research and development peaked during the oil crisis and has since fallen while spending in most other sectors continues to grow.

Research and development spending by function, in 2006 dollars



Sources: American Association for the Advancement of Science; Dan Kammen, University of California at Berkeley

*Data after 1998 adjusts for U.S. accounting changes.

David Constantine/The New York Times



Jeffrey Kiehl, November 29 2025, Pari Center, Beyond Jung: Jung & Ecology

ARCHETYPE OF WHOLENESS



“The modern world is desacralized, that is why it is in crisis. Modern man must rediscover a deeper source of his own spiritual life.”

C.G. Jung, 1952, C.G. Jung Speaking, p. 230



Fort McMurray Fire 2016



" We have lost our sense of the unitary reality, our experience of identity and of the sympathy of all things, and as a result we have fallen into the solitude and isolation of a dead and empty cosmic space."

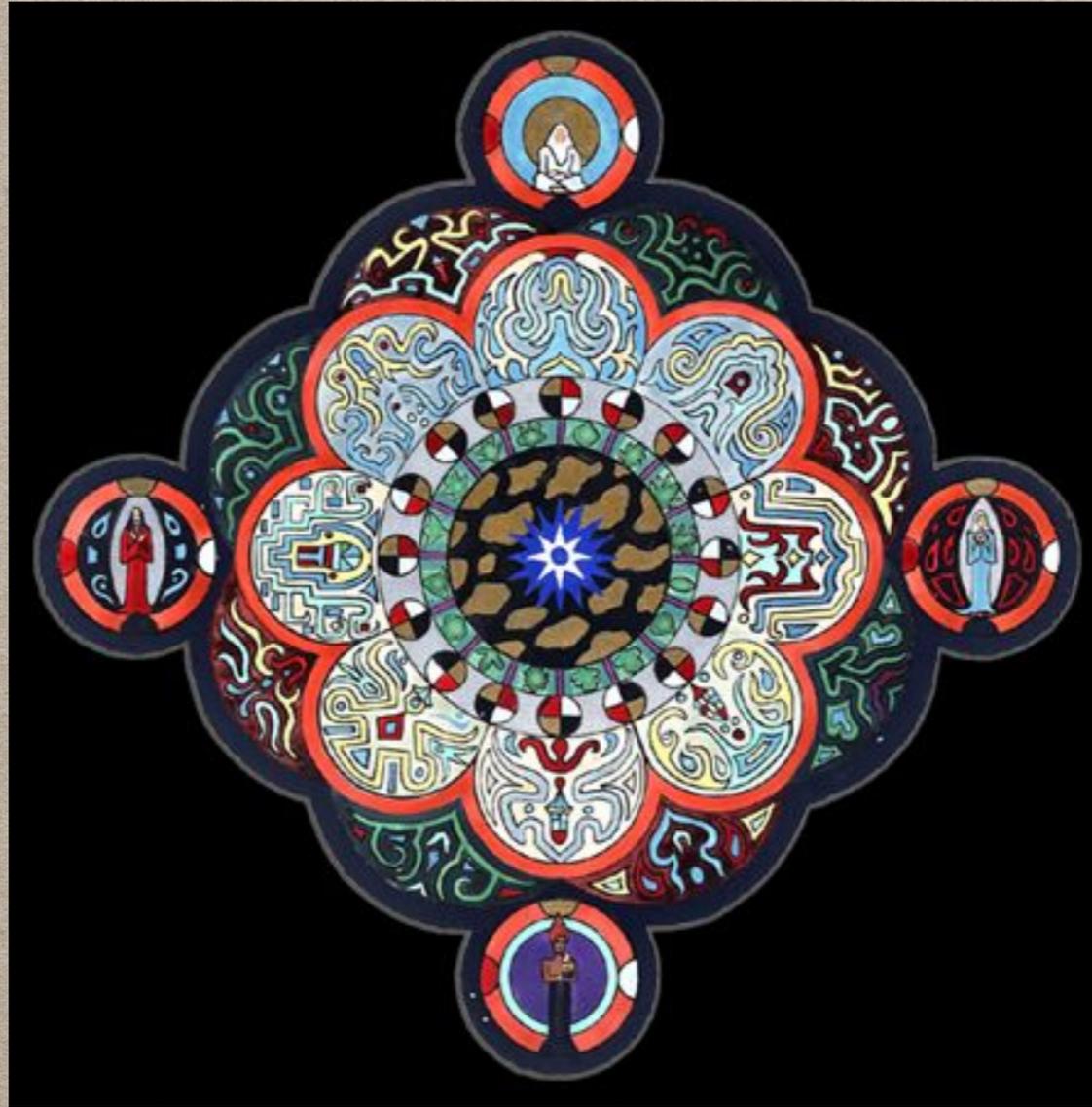
E. Neumann (The Place of Creation, p. 98)

Self as Regulator of Psyche



... if you are conscious of the Self, you cannot lose yourself completely in emotion. ... if you are conscious of the Self, you have a certain balance; then you know you cannot do certain things because they are too far away from the thing that you are. That usually prevents people from doing unheard-of things, ... So the knowledge of the Self is a sort of limitation of one's possibilities; one knows what belongs to oneself and what does not.

Visions Seminar, p. 1301



“... mandalas mostly appear in connection with chaotic psychic states of disorientation or panic. They then have the purpose of reducing the confusion to order ... At all events they express order, balance, and wholeness.”

CW 9i, par. 645

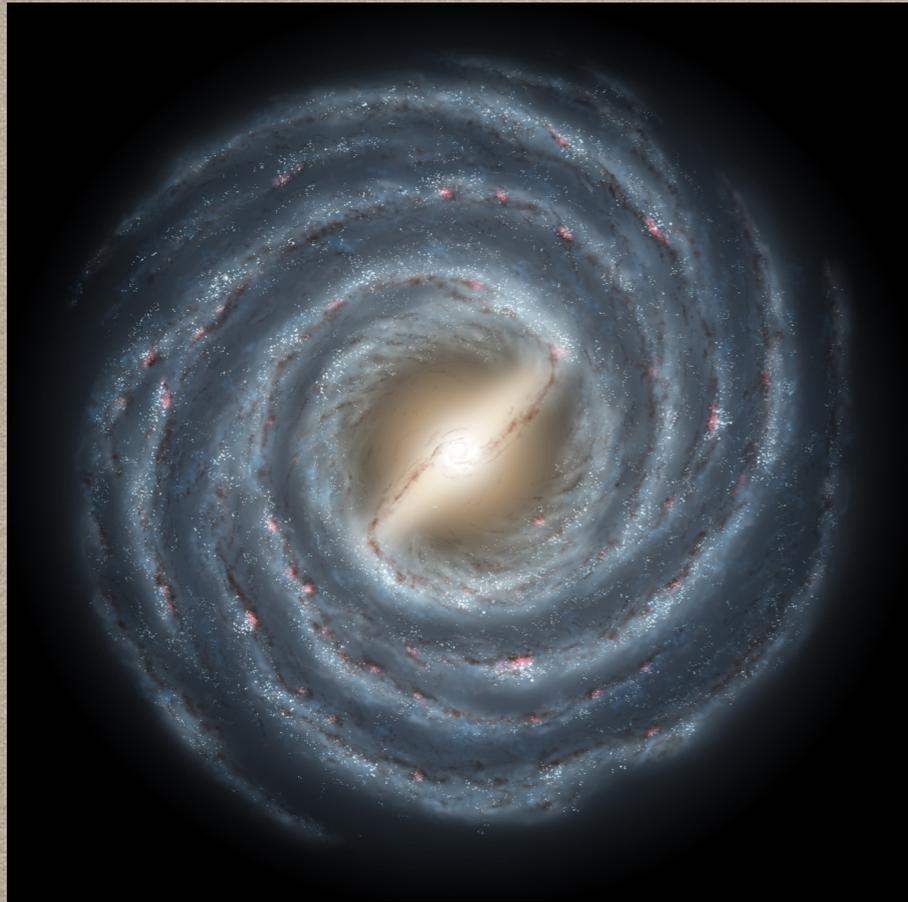
Neanderthals built mysterious cave structures 175,000 years ago

Constructions discovered deep in a French cave rank among the earliest human building projects ever discovered, but their purpose remains unclear



📷 The ringed walls are made from nearly 400 stalagmites that have been pulled from the ground and stacked on top of one another.
Photograph: Michel Soulier/SSAC

The Religious Instinct



"... wholeness ... has always been characterized by certain cosmic affinities: the individual soul was thought to be of 'heavenly' origin, a particle of the world soul, and hence a microcosm, a reflection of the macrocosm."

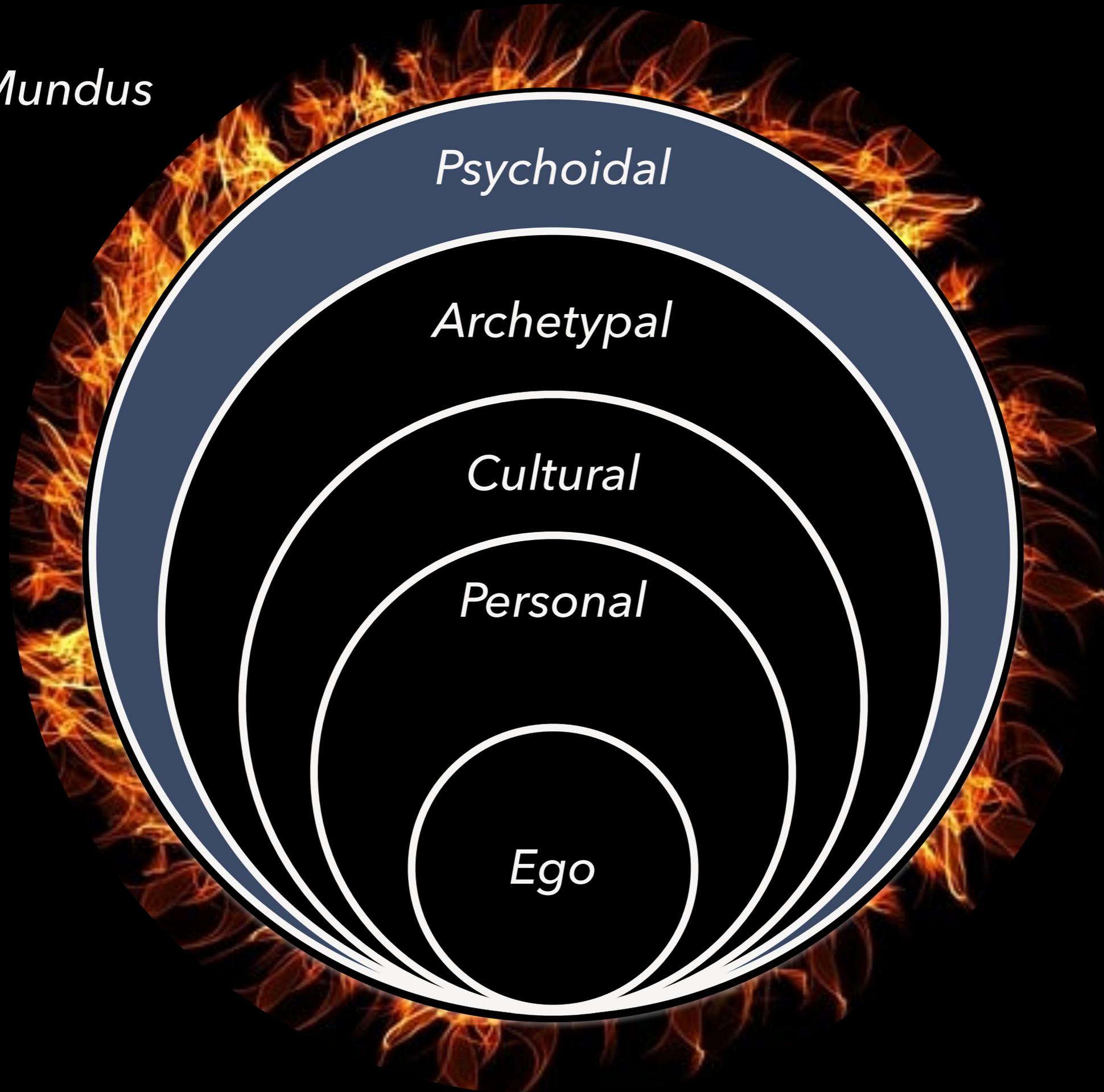
CW (10, par. 635)



... if it is true that our time and space are relative, then the psyche, being capable of manifesting beyond time and space - at least its part in the collective unconscious is beyond individual isolation; and if that is the case, more than one individual could be contained in that same Self.

Jung (ZS, p. 983)

Unus Mundus



Materialist Paradigm

Science

Psyche



(experience)



Matter

Non-Matter



Energy

Energy

THE PSYCHOID

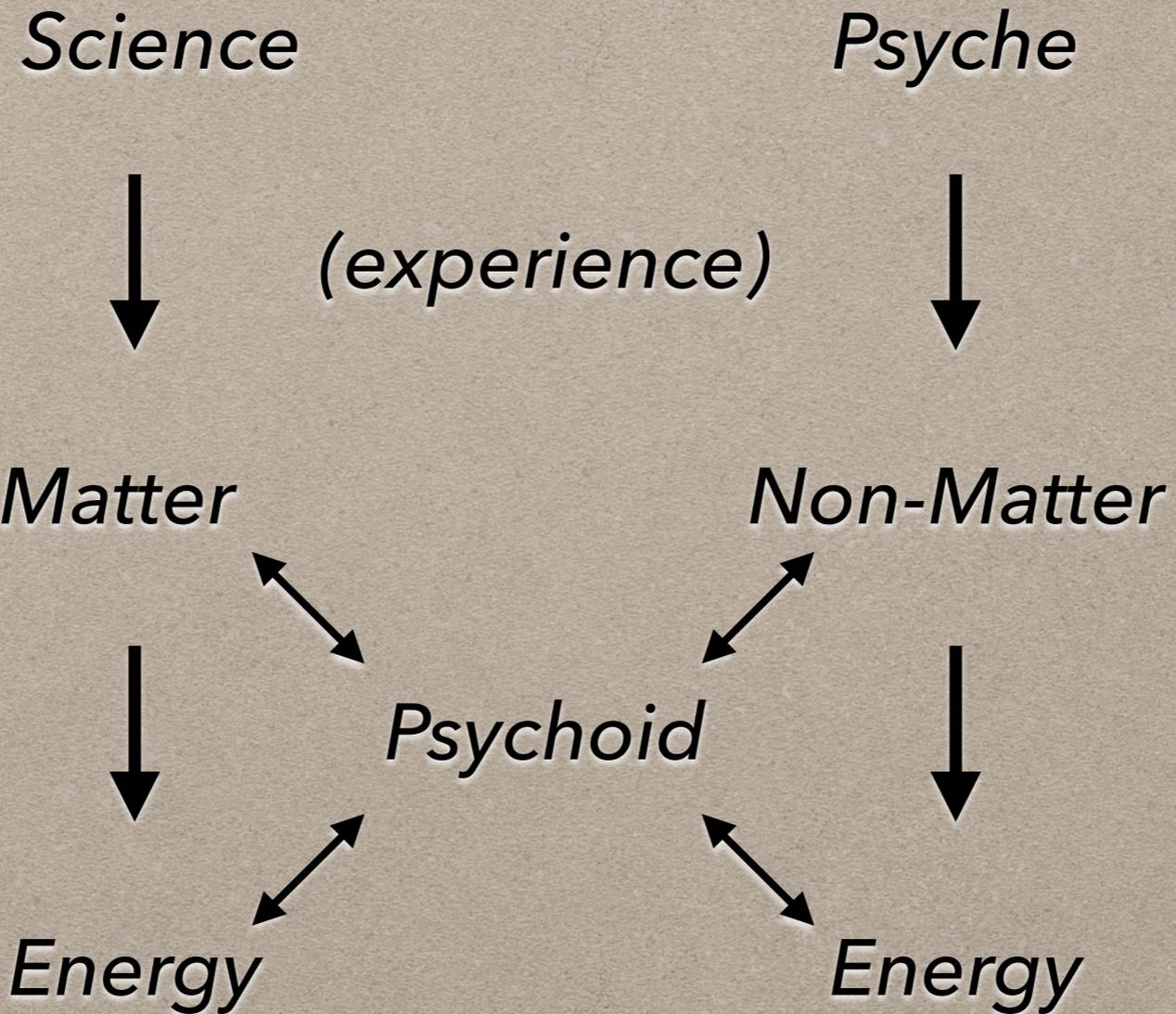
"I have observed personally quite a number of synchronistic events where I could establish the nature of the underlying archetype. The archetype itself ... is psychoid ... beyond the categories of number, space and time."

1956 C.G. Jung Letters II, p. 318

"... Jung expressly stated that his archetypes possess a "psychoid" aspect overlapping outer material reality."

von Franz, Number & Time, p. 32

Jungian Paradigm

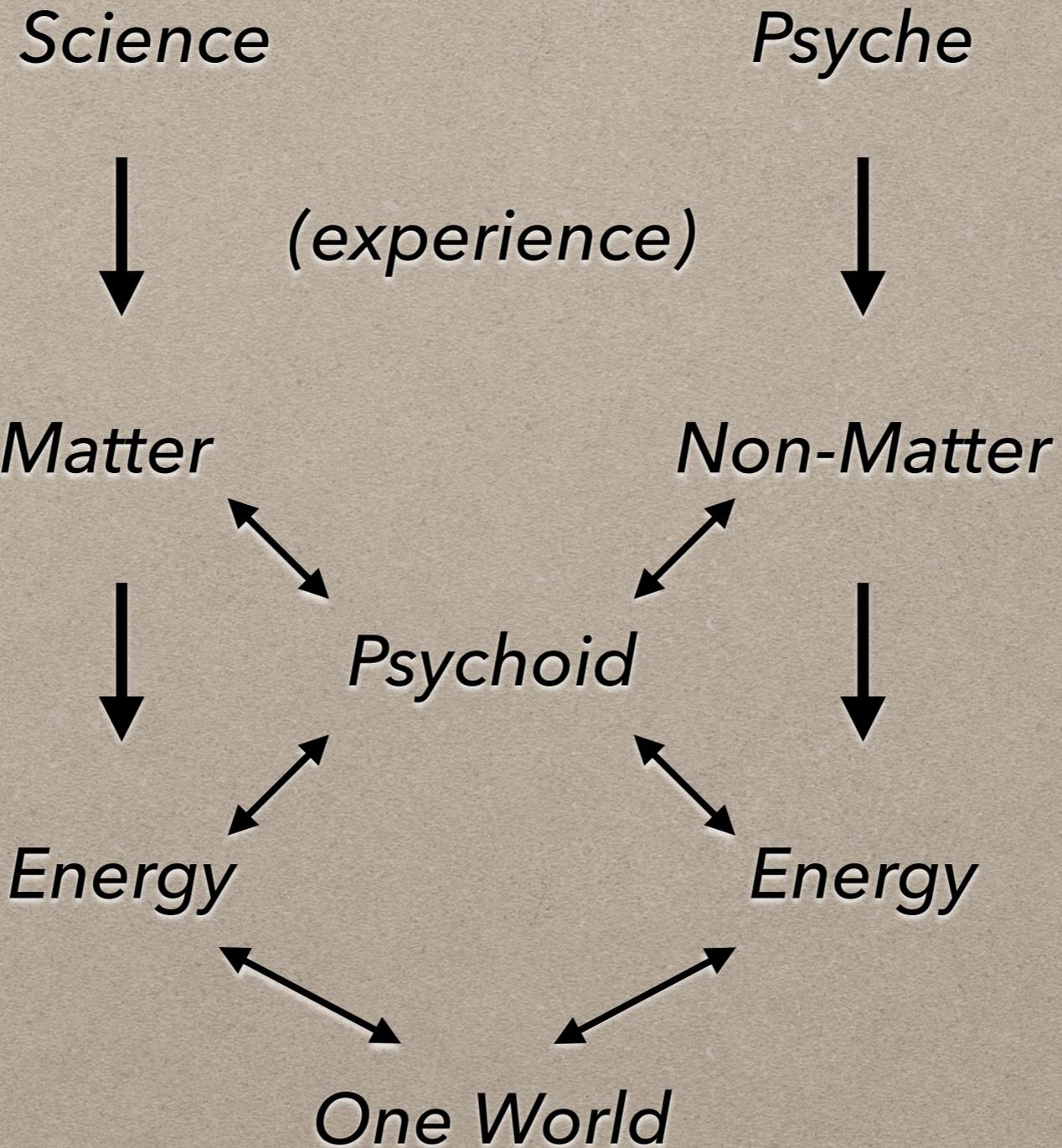




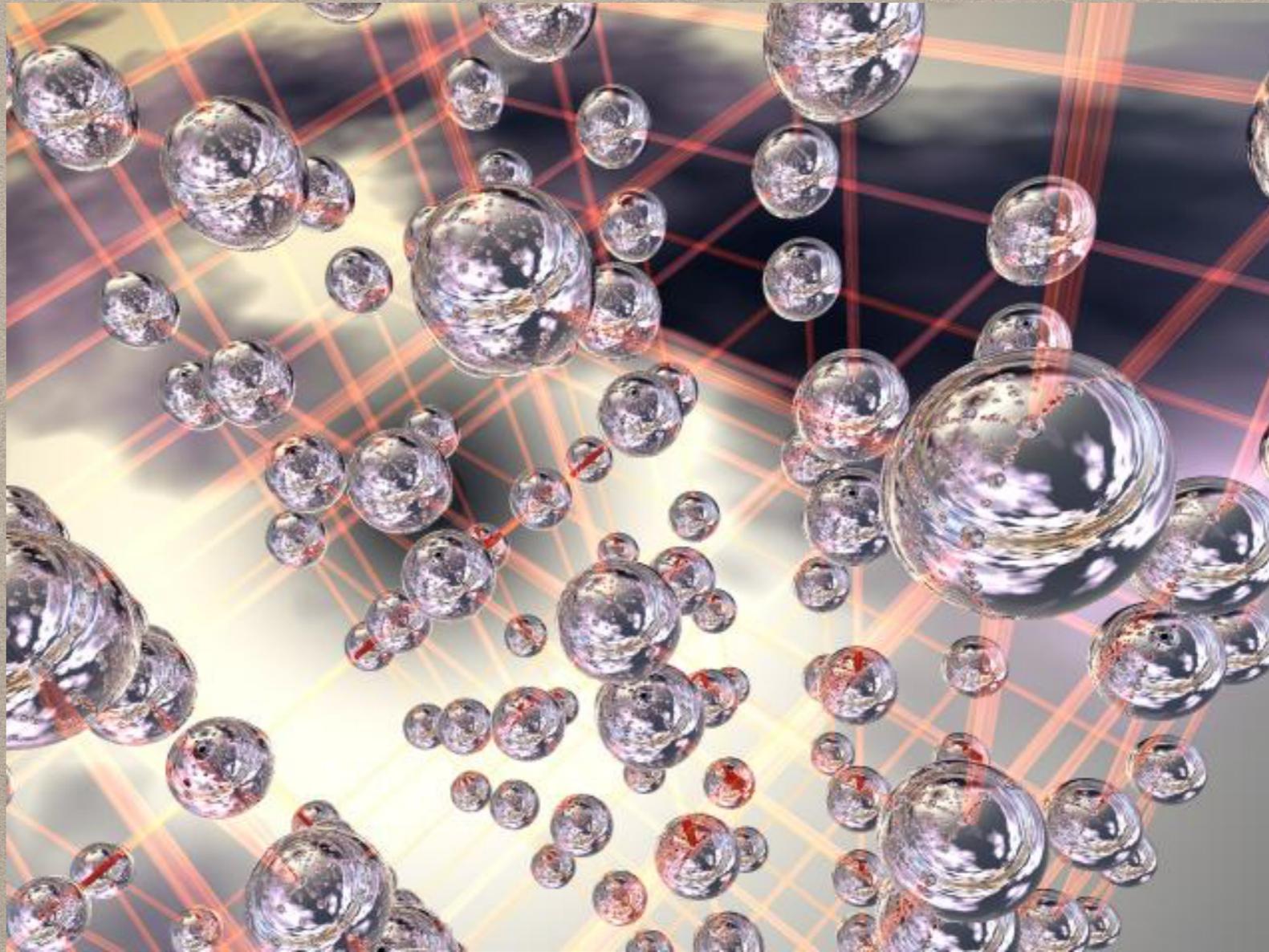
" ... the idea of the *unus mundus* is founded on the assumption that the multiplicity of the empirical world rests on an underlying unity ... everything divided and different belongs to one and the same world..."

Jung (CW 14, par. 767)

Jungian Paradigm



Interconnectedness



“Interconnection assumes that each part no matter how seemingly small plays a role in the governance of the whole.”

Kiehl (2016 p.118)



There is nothing without spirit, for spirit seems to be inside of things... inside is the spirit, which is the soul of objects.

Jung (VS, p. 459)



You must go in quest of yourself, and you will find yourself again only in the simple and forgotten things. Why not go into the forest for a time, literally? Sometimes a tree tells you more than can be read in books.

C.G. Jung (Letters I, p. 479)

THE END

