

Moshe Rabbeinu is a fascinating figure. The Zohar tells us that each one of us has a spark of Moshe in our soul. So, in that respect, Moshe is an archetype that we contain within us. I'd like to examine some of the archetypes suggested by Carl Jung as they might apply to Moshe.

The Self. This is the Godly core that each one of us contains. Moshe Rabbeinu must have had a very strong self, as he was the greatest of all prophets and had a very personal relationship with God. This aspect is developed through individuation. And we see Moshe going through the process as we learn about him in the Torah.

The Persona. The mask that Moshe Rabbeinu wore when he interacted with the Jewish people, as well as with pharaoh. Question: when Moshe Rabbeinu interacted with God was he presenting his Persona or his most authentic Self?

The Shadow. We can only speculate about what Moshe Rabbeinu's shadow might have been. Perhaps after he killed the Egyptian to save the Jewish men who were arguing, he carried that within him as a shadow aspect of his self.

It is the Anima that I want to focus on, the inner feminine aspect that Moshe contained.

Moshe was a sensitive, Godly Man. He seemingly lacked self-confidence at some point, and even had a certain weakness to him.

He was told by God, "send for yourself men," which several commentaries interpret as God saying to Moshe "if you want to send men go ahead. If it were up to Me, I would send women. They love and appreciate Eretz Canaan more than the men do, and they would never say anything bad about it."

There is another interesting commentary, from sefer Tzyoni, from a 14th century kabbalist who was a student of the Ramban. He writes that Moshe was born with צלם דמות אשה, a feminine appearance.

Finally, a book recently came out, written by a French scholar who teaches at a university in Paris. This scholar has written several books about Jewish subjects. The name of this most recent book is "A Woman Called Moses."

According to Jung, all men have an inner, feminine side. Perhaps this is what all of these commentaries are alluding to.

In any case, we should all strive for individuation and a deep connection to God and our true selves.