

What is a Primordial
Symbol?

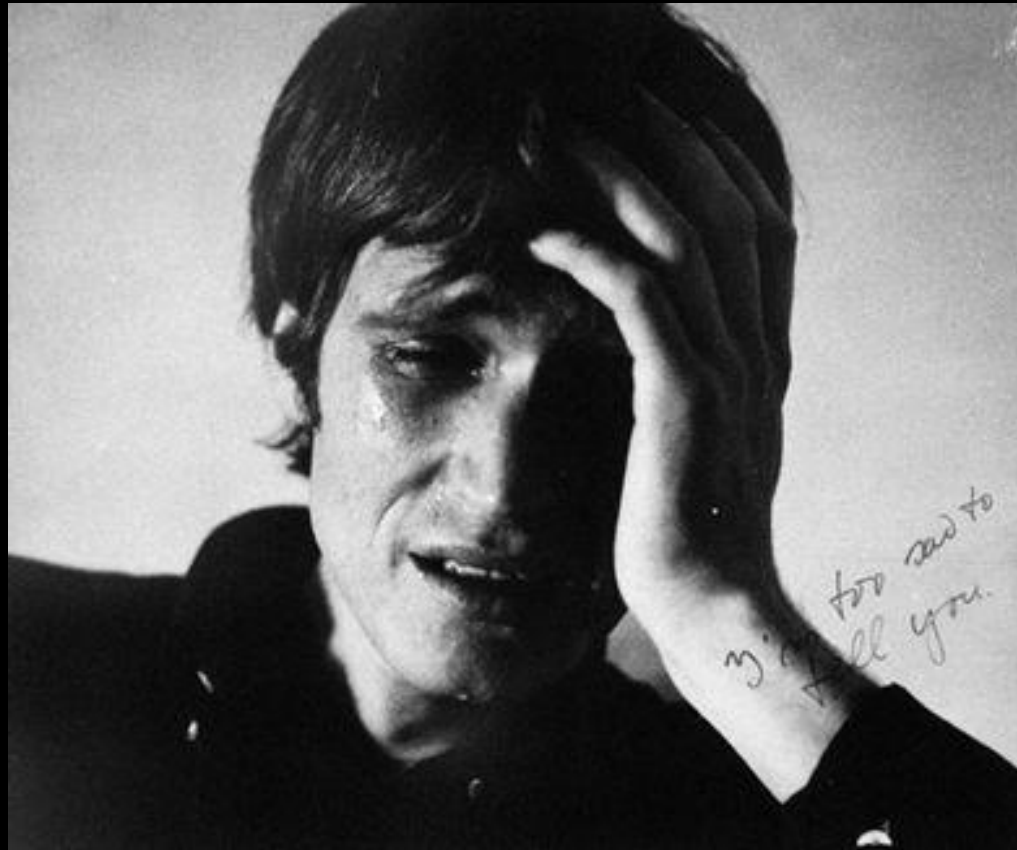
Traditional Symbolism:

The use of one things to represent another. For example, a dove is a symbol of peace.

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- What do the following pictures make you think of?







Common feelings with overcast skies

- Gloom
- Despair
- Depression

SO primordial symbols are...

- impulses and concepts residing in the mind at the unconscious level, and are often used in film and literature to evoke a certain emotion from a reader.

Carl Gustav Jung



- Psychologist Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961) theorized that all humans share certain inborn impulses and concepts residing in the mind at the unconscious level.
 - For example, all humans react to sunlight in the same way, perceiving it as a symbol of joy, happiness, glory, optimism, truth, a new beginning, or God.
- These impulses and concepts make up the concept of primordial symbols

Let's look at another
example

What does this picture make you feel?



And this one?



This one?



Common feelings with Forests

■ Green, bright forests

- Spring
- Rejuvenation
- Happy
- Rebirth
- Life

■ Dark forests with some light

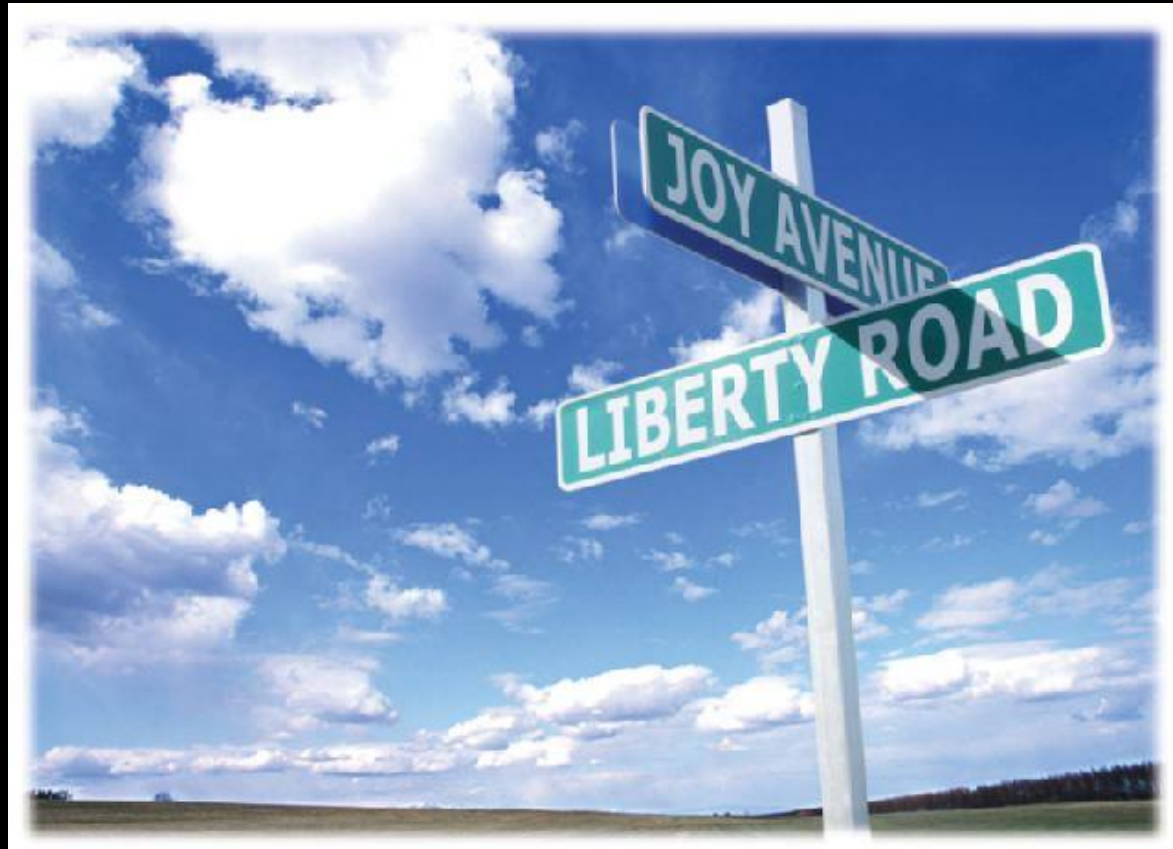
- Hope
- Future
- Scary but doable

■ Dark forest

- HORRIFING
- EVIL
- DANGER

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- The forest examples shows us that the conditions of primordial symbols have great impact on what they mean within a story.
 - This is called
 - Conditional Primordial Symbolism

Lets look at another
example







How did they make you feel?

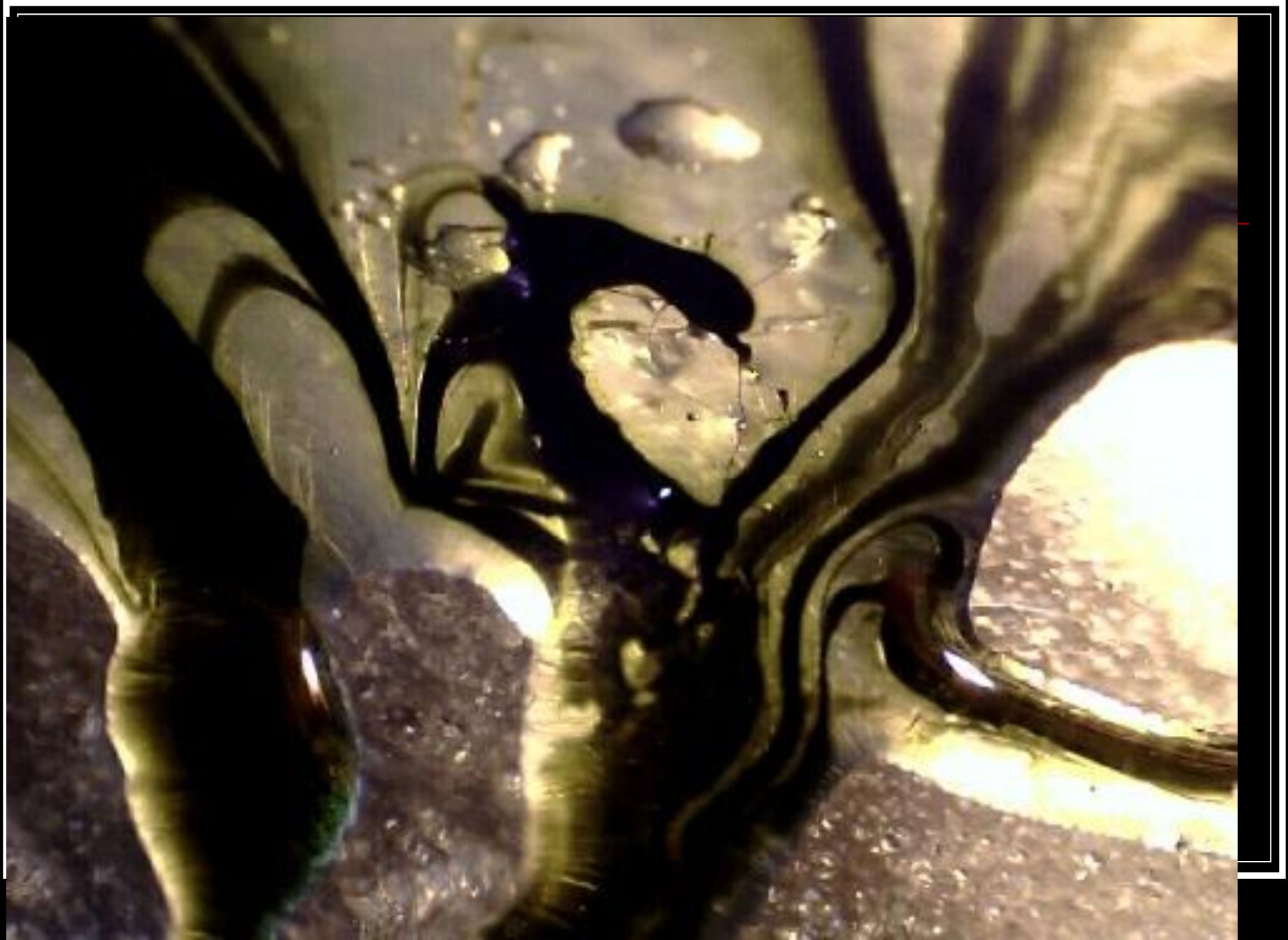
- Depends...
 - How many Joy?
 - How many Scared?
 - How many Sad?

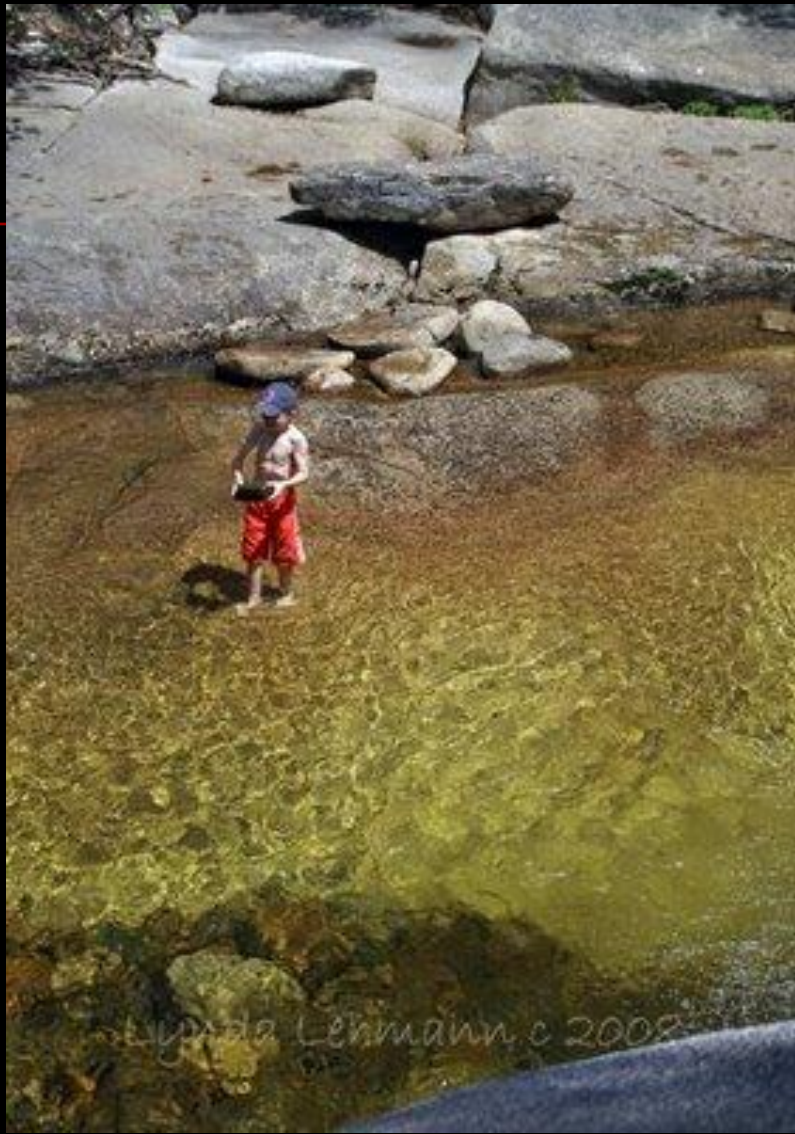
Primordial Symbols often Depend on PERSONAL Experiences



Some more Colorful Examples







Other Examples of PRIMORDIAL SYMBOLS

- river (the passage of time)
- overcast sky (gloom, depression, despair)
- lamb (innocence, vulnerability)
- violent storm (wrath, inconsolable grief)
- flowers (delicacy, perishability, beauty)
- mountain (obstacle, challenge)

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- eagle (majesty, freedom)
 - the color white (purity, innocence)
 - the color red (anger, passion, war, blood)
 - the color green (new life, hope)
 - water (birth or rebirth)
 - autumn (old age)
 - winter (death)

"I See Dead People"

What Primordial Symbols are used?