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## A Study on Mythological Approach of the Wizarding Saga antagonist Ensemble

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**Abstract:** *The present paper attempts to establish the reason behind the enormous popularity of the Harry Potter series - a topic which has been abundantly commented on in recent years by both experts in the fields of literature and culture, as well as professionals from the publishing industry, although with no clear consensus. Employing the concept of myth as an essentially psychological phenomenon, as presented by the Canadian psychologist Jordan B. Peterson in his Maps of Meaning (1999), the article argues both that Harry Potter is a fundamentally mythological story which strongly resonates with basic human experience of the world and that it is J. K. Rowling's adherence to archetypal story-patterns, rather than her originality, that makes her series for readers so easy to relate to.*

**Key Words:** *J. K. Rowling, Harry Potter, children's literature, myth criticism, Jordan B. Peterson, Maps of Meaning, meta-myth*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The year 2017 marked the twentieth anniversary of the publication of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, the first instalment of what, since then, has become the most successful novel series in modern history. The jubilee provided yet another occasion for a retrospective recapitulation and assessment of Pottermaniac phenomenon and the discussion, once again, opened, asking what may lie behind the enormous success of the Harry Potter books among their readerships. In recent years, a number of authors have tried to provide an answer to the question of why the stories about the eponymous young wizard have gained such notoriety and quickly became not only international best-sellers, but also the basis for a major commercial enterprise, which nowadays includes several spin-off books, a series of successful film adaptations, a play-sequel currently staged on three continents, countless of toys and memorabilia, and tourist attractions in the form of recreated film sets in both Europe and North America. Judging the popularity of the series as a commercial artefact from a neo-Marxist perspective, Tammy Tumer-Vorbeck has effectively denied the stories any special literary merit, considering them an essentially calculated product: Is it something special about the Harry Potter books that has caused such a sensation or is it the sensation artificially manufactured and simply centered around them. An understanding of commodity fetishism supports the latter position.

### 2. LITERATURE REVIEWS

#### 1. Severus Potter

Naming Allusion: Albus Severus Potter's first name is an homage to two of the most influential figures in the wizarding world: Albus Dumbledore and Severus Snape. Albus Dumbledore, the wise and benevolent headmaster of Hogwarts, serves as a symbol of guidance and moral fortitude. Severus Snape, on the other hand, was a complex character with a troubled past, and his actions were often misunderstood until his true motivations were revealed. By naming him Albus Severus, it emphasizes the importance of these two figures in shaping Harry's life and the magical world. House Sorting: Albus's placement into Slytherin House is an allusion to the complexity of the House system in Hogwarts. Slytherin is traditionally associated with dark magic and ambitious individuals, but

Albus breaks the stereotype by displaying the bravery and loyalty emblematic of Gryffindor. This alludes to the idea that one's house does not define their character, but rather, it's their choices and actions that matter.

**Father-Son Allusion:** Albus's strained relationship with his father, Harry, alludes to the challenges faced by many parent-child relationships, particularly when the parent is a renowned figure or has a complicated past. This theme explores the pressure of living up to a legacy and the importance of finding one's identity separate from parental expectations.

**Friendship Allusion:** Albus's close friendship with Scorpius Malfoy alludes to the power of friendship transcending familial history. Albus's father, Harry, had a history of animosity with Scorpius's father, Draco Malfoy, during their time at Hogwarts. The bond between Albus and Scorpius shows that true friendship can thrive even in the face of family rivalries.

**Time-Turner Allusion:** The use of the Time-Turner in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* is an allusion to the events in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, where Hermione Granger uses a Time-Turner to manipulate time and rescue Sirius Black. The Time-Turner is a recurring magical artifact in the series, emphasizing the consequences and complexities of tampering with time.

**Triwizard Tournament Allusion:** The plotline involving Albus and Scorpius's mission to alter the outcome of the Triwizard Tournament alludes to the events of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, where Harry Potter himself was involved in the dangerous competition. It serves as a reminder of the dangers of meddling with the past and the importance of accepting history as it happened.

These allusions enrich the character of Albus Potter, connecting him to the broader narrative of the Harry Potter series while allowing him to forge his own unique path and legacy. The allusions serve as nostalgic callbacks for fans while presenting fresh perspectives and new challenges for the next generation of characters.

## **2. Severus Snape**

one of the most complex and intriguing characters in the Harry Potter series, is laden with various allusions and references that contribute to his enigmatic persona and story arc. Here are some significant allusions related to Severus Snape:

**The Tragic Anti-Hero:** Severus Snape embodies the archetype of the tragic anti-hero. He is a character with a dark and troubled past, who ultimately redeems himself through acts of sacrifice and selflessness. This alludes to classic literary figures like Heathcliff from Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* or Jay Gatsby from F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, who are complex characters driven by love, ambition, and inner turmoil.

**Love and Longing:** Snape's unrequited love for Lily Potter (née Evans) is a powerful allusion to the theme of love and longing found in classic literature. His love for Lily is akin to the unattainable love of characters like Orpheus for Eurydice or Gatsby for Daisy, adding layers of depth and tragedy to Snape's character.

**Tragic Love Triangle:** The relationship between Severus Snape, Lily Potter, and James Potter forms a classic love triangle trope, echoing themes of unrequited love, rivalry, and sacrifice. This allusion harks back to literary love triangles like those found in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* or Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

**Redemption and Forgiveness:** Snape's ultimate redemption and his role as a double agent for both Dumbledore and Voldemort reflect the theme of redemption and the potential for change. This alludes to characters like Jean Valjean from Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, who find redemption through selfless acts after a past of wrongdoing.

**Mystery and Intrigue:** Snape's mysterious demeanor and hidden loyalties create an allusion to enigmatic characters from detective and mystery fiction. He shares similarities with characters like Sherlock Holmes or Hercule Poirot, where their true motives and intentions remain concealed until the climax of the story.

**Duality of Character:** Snape's dual role as a harsh and feared Potions Master at Hogwarts, alongside his secret allegiance to the Order of the Phoenix, evokes literary characters who live double lives. This alludes to figures like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde from Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, whose contrasting personas reflect the battle between good and evil within a single individual.

Severus Snape's character is rich with allusions, drawing inspiration from various literary themes and archetypes. His complexity and depth make him an unforgettable and essential figure in the Harry Potter series, serving as a symbol of the human capacity for both darkness and redemption.

### **3. Harry Potter**

The eponymous protagonist of the Harry Potter series, is steeped in allusions and references that contribute to his heroic journey and the themes explored in the books. Here are some significant allusions related to Harry Potter:

**The Chosen One:** Harry Potter's role as *The Boy Who Lived* and the Chosen One to defeat Lord Voldemort alludes to the classic hero's journey found in many mythologies and epic tales. It echoes the idea of a hero with a special destiny, like King Arthur or Hercules, who is destined to confront and triumph over evil.

**Orphaned Hero:** Harry's status as an orphan is a common literary motif seen in characters like Cinderella or Superman. Orphaned heroes often face a search for identity and belonging, as well as the discovery of their true potential.

**Light vs. Dark:** The ongoing struggle between Harry and Voldemort, representing good versus evil, draws parallels to the timeless battle between light and darkness in various mythologies and religious narratives.

**Friendship and Loyalty:** The friendship and loyalty shared between Harry, Ron Weasley, and Hermione Granger reflect the bonds of friendship found in classic literature, reminiscent of characters like Frodo, Sam, and Gandalf from J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*.

**Coming of Age:** As the series progresses, Harry's journey into adulthood and the challenges he faces parallel the themes of coming-of-age stories. It's akin to the *bildungsroman* genre, where the protagonist undergoes personal growth and maturation.

**Self-Sacrifice:** Harry's willingness to sacrifice himself for the greater good alludes to the theme of selflessness and heroism found in many heroic tales, such as the story of Jesus Christ or Sydney Carton in Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*.

**Trials and Tests:** The various trials and tests Harry encounters throughout the series are reminiscent of the challenges faced by heroes in classical mythology, like the Twelve Labors of Hercules or the trials faced by Odysseus in Homer's *The Odyssey*.

**Animal Familiar:** Harry's close bond with his owl, Hedwig, is an allusion to the traditional concept of animal familiars in folklore and mythology. Familiars often act as companions and protectors of magical practitioners.

**Hidden Identity:** The revelation of Harry's true identity as a wizard and his subsequent journey to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry reflects the hidden identity trope seen in tales like *Beauty and the Beast* or *The Secret Garden*.

**Legacy of Courage:** Harry's character embodies the timeless values of courage, bravery, and standing up for what is right, aligning him with the long tradition of heroic figures in literature, such as Beowulf or King Arthur.

These allusions enrich the character of Harry Potter and place him firmly within the tradition of heroic and mythic storytelling, while also allowing him to emerge as a unique and memorable hero of his own tale.

### **4. Lily Potter**

The mother of Harry Potter, is a character with significant allusions and references that contribute to the overarching themes of love, sacrifice, and protection in the Harry Potter series. Here are some key allusions related to Lily Potter:

**Selfless Love:** Lily Potter's most significant allusion is her act of selfless love, which is a central theme in the series. Her willingness to sacrifice herself to protect her son, Harry, from Lord Voldemort's killing curse is reminiscent of the protective and nurturing instincts found in many maternal figures in folklore and fairy tales.

**Motherly Protection:** Lily's sacrificial protection of Harry establishes a powerful magical protection known as mother's love. This alludes to the concept of powerful, magical love and protection, which is also found in myths and legends where mothers' love is a force to be reckoned with.

**The Power of Sacrifice:** Lily's sacrifice not only saves Harry but also plays a crucial role in the ultimate defeat of Voldemort. This alludes to the idea of the power of sacrifice and how acts of selflessness can have profound and far-reaching effects, akin to themes found in myths and religious narratives.

**Lily's Patronus:** Lily's Patronus charm is a doe, which is a significant allusion to Severus Snape's love for her. Snape's Patronus is also a doe, symbolizing his eternal love for Lily. The connection between their Patron uses reflects the enduring power of love and how it can transcend even death.

**Mother Archetype:** Lily Potter serves as the embodiment of the mother archetype, a recurring figure in mythology and literature representing nurturing, protection, and unconditional love. She becomes an eternal symbol of a mother's love, even long after her death.

**Influence on Harry:** Though she dies early in the series, Lily's presence and the impact of her love on Harry reverberate throughout the story. Her influence on her son highlights the transformative power of parental love and how it shapes a child's character and choices.

**Lily's Eyes:** Harry inherits his mother's striking green eyes, which become a distinctive and memorable feature of his appearance. This alludes to the theme of physical inheritance and how Harry carries a part of his mother with him always.

Lily Potter's character and her acts of love and sacrifice play a crucial role in shaping the events of the Harry Potter series. Her allusions and references contribute to the narrative's themes of love, heroism, and the enduring power of family bonds.

## **5. *Voldemort***

The primary antagonist of the Harry Potter series, is a character steeped in allusions and references that contribute to his dark and menacing persona. Here are some significant allusions related to Voldemort:

**Dark Lord Archetype:** Voldemort embodies the classic archetype of the dark lord or dark wizard, a figure found in many myths and fantasy stories. This archetype represents the ultimate evil, power-hungry, and seeking domination over the world.

**Immortality Quest:** Voldemort's quest for immortality alludes to the age-old pursuit of eternal life found in various mythologies and folklore. Characters like Dracula or the Wandering Jew seek immortality through dark and unnatural means, much like Voldemort's use of Horcruxes to achieve immortality.

**Snake Allusion:** Voldemort's connection with snakes and his ability to speak Parseltongue allude to the serpent as a symbol of evil and cunning in various cultures and myths. The association with snakes reinforces his dark nature and connection with the sinister side of magic.

**Dark Arts and Sorcery:** Voldemort's mastery of dark magic and his desire for power draw parallels to historical figures who sought to wield forbidden knowledge or dark sorcery to dominate others.

**Nemesis of the Hero:** As Harry Potter's arch-nemesis, Voldemort plays the role of the villain opposing the hero, representing the eternal struggle between good and evil. This alludes to classic hero-villain dynamics seen in myths and epic tales.

**Fragmented Soul:** Voldemort's use of Horcruxes, which contain fragments of his soul, alludes to the theme of fragmented identity and the consequences of seeking power at any cost. This idea resonates with literary works exploring the nature of the soul and the consequences of tampering with it.

**Fear and Fascination:** Voldemort's name evokes fear and terror in the wizarding world, leading to characters referring to him as He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named. This alludes to the concept of a name having immense power, found in various folklore and fairy tales.

**Rise to Power:** Voldemort's rise to power and subsequent reign of terror mirrors historical figures who sought to dominate and oppress others through fear and tyranny.

**Allegory of Prejudice:** Voldemort's belief in blood purity and his disdain for Muggle-borns and non-human magical creatures allude to real-world ideologies of prejudice and discrimination.

**Tragic Villain:** Voldemort's tragic background and his inability to understand or appreciate love and friendship allude to the notion of the tragic villain—a character whose past and choices have led them down a dark and irredeemable path.

These allusions contribute to Voldemort's status as one of the most iconic and formidable villains in modern literature, and they infuse the Harry Potter series with complex themes and rich symbolism.

## **6. Delphini**

She also known as Delphi, is a character introduced in the play *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. She is the daughter of Lord Voldemort and Bellatrix Lestrange, making her a significant allusion and reference to several elements from the original Harry Potter series. Here are some notable allusions related to Delphini:

**Dark Lineage:** Delphini's parentage makes her a potent symbol of dark lineage. As the daughter of two of Voldemort's most loyal and dangerous followers, she carries the legacy of evil and darkness within her. This alludes to the concept of inheriting traits and tendencies from one's ancestry, and how one's parentage can influence their destiny.

**Tainted Blood:** Delphini's bloodline is a focal point of prejudice and discrimination within the wizarding world. The idea of pure-blood superiority and the stigma attached to impure heritage reflects the themes of prejudice and intolerance explored in the original series.

**Obsession with the Past:** Delphini's desire to bring back her father, Voldemort, by changing the past through time travel is an allusion to the danger of dwelling on the past and attempting to alter history. This alludes to the consequences of meddling with time, as seen in the original series with the use of Time-Turners.

**The Desire for Identity:** Delphini's search for identity and belonging reflects the struggles of characters like Harry and Severus Snape, who grappled with their own identities and the legacy of their parents.

**Nature vs. Nurture:** Delphini's upbringing by Euphemia Rowle, who tells her she is the child of Voldemort and Bellatrix, raises questions about the influence of one's environment on their behavior and choices. This alludes to the age-old debate of nature versus nurture in shaping a person's character.

**The Lure of Darkness:** Delphini's fascination with and desire to embrace her dark heritage alludes to the concept of the allure of evil and the temptation to follow a dark path. This is a recurring theme in many classic works of literature.

**Redemption and Choice:** Delphini's ultimate choice to reject the path of darkness and embrace a different destiny alludes to the theme of redemption and the power of choice. This echoes themes explored in the arcs of characters like Severus Snape and Draco Malfoy in the original series.

**Mother-Daughter Bond:** Delphini's desire to avenge her mother, Bellatrix, reflects the power of the mother-daughter bond and the lengths to which one might go to seek justice for a lost loved one.

Delphini's character adds depth and complexity to the world of Harry Potter, delving into themes of identity, choice, and the repercussions of dark magic. As the daughter of Voldemort and Bellatrix Lestrange, she becomes a compelling allusion to the consequences of evil and the possibility of redemption even in the darkest of circumstances.

### **Highlights in Wizarding Saga Antagonist Ensemble:**

**A Journey of Magic and Self-Discovery: A Comparison of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by J.K. Rowling and *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho**

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling and The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho are two iconic novels that have captured the hearts of readers around the world. Despite being distinct in genre and setting, both books share fundamental themes of self-discovery, destiny, and the transformative power of following one's dreams. Let's explore how these two literary masterpieces compare in their approach to these universal themes.

### **Quest for Identity and Purpose**

In both novels, the protagonists embark on quests to discover their true identities and life's purpose. In Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Harry Potter, an orphan living a miserable life with his cruel relatives, discovers he is a wizard and the only survivor of a dark curse. As he delves into the wizarding world, he learns about his legendary status as the Boy Who Lived and his destined role in confronting the dark wizard, Lord Voldemort.

Likewise, in The Alchemist, Santiago, a shepherd boy in Spain, dreams of a hidden treasure awaiting him at the Egyptian pyramids. His journey to find the treasure becomes a metaphor for his quest to discover his true self and the purpose of life. Along the way, he learns to listen to his heart and follow the omens that guide him toward his destiny.

### **The Mentor Figure**

Both novels feature wise mentor figures who guide the protagonists on their journeys. In Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Albus Dumbledore, the headmaster of Hogwarts, serves as Harry's mentor. He provides guidance, moral support, and invaluable advice to the young wizard throughout his trials.

In The Alchemist, Santiago's mentor is Melchizedek, the mysterious King of Salem. Melchizedek introduces Santiago to the concept of the Personal Legend, encouraging him to pursue his dreams without fear of failure. The alchemist, whom Santiago meets later in the story, further guides him in understanding the language of the world and the Soul of the World.

### **The Power of Love and Friendship**

Both books emphasize the significance of love and friendship in shaping the protagonists' journeys. In Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Harry's bond with his friends, Hermione and Ron, becomes a pillar of strength as they face challenges together. Harry's mother's sacrificial love also plays a pivotal role in his ultimate triumph over evil.

In The Alchemist, Santiago learns valuable lessons about love and relationships during his travels. His love for Fatima, an oasis woman he meets, becomes an important catalyst in his pursuit of the Personal Legend. The novel emphasizes that love and support from others are essential in achieving one's dreams.

### **Alchemy and Magic**

While Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone revolves around a magical world of wizards, spells, and enchanted objects, The Alchemist incorporates elements of alchemy, the ancient practice of transforming base metals into gold and achieving spiritual enlightenment. Both concepts serve as metaphors for personal transformation and self-discovery.

## **3. CONCLUSION**

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling and The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho share fundamental themes of self-discovery, destiny, love, and friendship. Both novels take readers on transformative journeys, illustrating the importance of following one's dreams and embracing the unknown with courage and faith. Whether through the wizarding world or the deserts of Spain, these stories inspire readers to seek their own Personal Legends and find the magic within themselves.

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