On Hesse’s Der Steppenwolf: how creatively actual a modern literary artwork can lively be?

Fernando RIBEIRO
CHAM, Departamento de Línguas Culturas e Literaturas Modernas, FCSH, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal
E-mail f.ribeiro@fcsh.unl.pt
ORCID 0000-0001-8345-5606

Abstract
Having in mind Hermann Hesse’s Der Steppenwolf and most specifically “Harry Hallers Aufzeichnungen” and “Tractat vom Steppenwolf” as true examples of the creative relationship between inner actual life and literature, this paper reflects on the influence of the unconscious upon the conscious in what it refers to the creation of symbols whose totality summons the multiple meanings an archetype can dispose of to concentrate on how the psychic phantasy energy is capable of giving birth to a literary artwork whose modernity lies on the interaction between individual symptoms and universal symbols lying in everyone’s psyche.

Keywords: Unconscious-conscious, symptom-symbol, psychic energy, archetype, modern literary artwork-depth psychology