ARCHETYPES IN THE COSMOGNIC MYTHS
OF THE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL PEOPLE
AND THE KADAZANDUSUNS OF SABAH

MARY ELLEN GIDAH

Centre for the Promotion of Knowledge and Language Learning
Universiti Malaysia Sabah
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Kota Kinabalu
2001
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Hakcipta terpelihara. Tiada bahagian daripada terbitan ini boleh diterbitkan semula, disimpan untuk pengeluaran atau dikeluarkan ke dalam sebarang bentuk atau dengan sebarang alat juga pun, sama ada dengan cara elektronik, gambar serta rakaman dan sebagainya tanpa kebenaran bertulis daripada Pusat Penataran Ilmu dan Bahasa, Universiti Malaysia Sabah.

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Mary Ellen Gidah
Archetypes in the cosmogonic myths of the Australian aboriginal people and the Kadazandusuns of Sabah / Mary Ellen Gidah
Bibliography: p. 128
ISBN 983-2188-64-4
I. Archetype (Psychology). 2. Australian aborigines--Psychology. 3. Dusun (Bornean people)--Psychology. I. Title 150.1954

Published in Malaysia by Diterbitkan di Malaysia oleh
PUSAT PENATARAN ILMU DAN BAHASA
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH
Locked Bag 2073, 88999 Kota Kinabalu,
Sabah, Malaysia.

Printed in Malaysia by / Dicetak di Malaysia oleh
Percetakan CCS Sdn. Bhd. (225662-A)
No.11, Block G, Sri Kemajuan Industrial Estate,
Mile 6-1/2, Jalan Tuaran, 88450 Inanam, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.
Tel : 088-437120, 426120 Fax : 088-426120
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people who have in one way or another provided both support and encouragement throughout the course of this work: the people of Pusat Penataran Ilmu dan Bahasa, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, especially Prof. Mohd. Sarim Hj. Mustajab for his careful guidance and advice, Prof. Ahmat Adam, Sim Chee Cheang and also Jason Lim. I am grateful too to the people of Fakulti Pengajian Bahasa, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia who have been such wonderful sources of insight, encouragement, and warmth, and who have been and still are role models to me, Shanthini Pillai and Posse, Dr. Alageswary Vasanthi Muniandy, as well as the entire Literature Department.

To the people in my life, the Dolphin, Noradzliana Senan, Siti Noraisyah Jaliluddin, Snood and My Parents, thank you. Finally I wish to express my gratitude to Universiti Malaysia Sabah for giving me the opportunity to publish my work.
PREFACE

I have always been interested in mythology and when the opportunity to conduct research in this particular area presented itself in the early part of 2000, I thought it best to proceed with the project, cheered on by the comforting presence of my supervisor and her team. I am most grateful that this work has allowed me to explore and discover certain areas of Kadazandusun culture personally fascinating and meaningful to me.

The main focus of this study is on the archetypes inherent in the mythologies of two cultures and how as well as why they are similar to each other as explained by Jung’s notion of the ‘collective unconscious’. The first chapter offers an introduction of the study, locating this particular project within the interdisciplinary area of myth studies, psychology and sociology. This is followed with a discussion of the different directions in myth studies today as well as an overview of the backbone of the theoretical framework used here – Jung’s hypothesis of the ‘collective unconscious’. The indepth analyses of both bodies of myths are then presented via a drawing out of the more prominent images in the mythologies and their relation to significant archetypes in the human psyche which are then related to the cultural practices and worldviews of the two peoples, the Australian Aboriginals and the Kadazandusuns.

Mary Ellen Gidah
Universiti Malaysia Sabah
Sabah
September 2001
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