

The **Healthy Masculine 4 Part Series** will take a look at each of the 4 masculine archetypes outlined by Moore, and explore – by way of council, NVC, and group agreements creating safely, connection, and heart centred vulnerability—how to develop them more fully. These 4 masculine archetypes—although not the only way— helps ground our Healthy Masculine Circle exploration as a starting point to share, connect and integrate.

## The Magician Archetype

Adapted from the [artofmanliness.com](http://artofmanliness.com) series

Many go through a magic phase growing up, learning a few card tricks, or intrigued by the ‘unknown’ realms, Simply going down to the local magic store or apothecary to browse, and maybe even showing off newly learned tricks to one’s family & friends. Most outgrow their magic hobby, although not necessarily their fascination with the art. The attraction to magic can be traced to something much deeper than the ability to pull a rabbit out of a hat; it is rooted in what the magician’s abilities represent – the power that comes from the mastery of a secret knowledge and the ability to use that knowledge to manipulate tools in order to control certain elements and produce desired outcomes. The yearning to harness and possess that power is what fuels the Magician archetype.

### **The Magician in Its Fullness:** *Intellectually Curious / The Holder of Hidden Knowledge*

As Moore puts it, “*The Magician is the knower.*” What does he know? “*Secret & hidden knowledge of all kinds.*” While this kind of knowledge sounds very esoteric, and it can be, Moore is simply referring to any kind of knowledge that is “*not immediately apparent or commonsensical.*” It is knowledge learnt in degrees, its mastery takes great effort and diligence, and the reward is to be able to dwell in a realm that the average person does not have access to. Moore argues

*“All knowledge that takes special training to acquire is the province of the Magician energy. Whether you are an apprentice training to become a master electrician and unravelling the mysteries of high voltage; or a medical student, grinding away night and day, studying the secrets of the human body and using available technologies to help your patients; or a would-be stockbroker or a student of high finance; or a trainee in one of the psychoanalytic schools, you are in exactly the same position as the apprentice shaman or witch doctor in tribal societies. You are spending large amounts of time, energy, and money in order to be initiated into rarefied realms of secret power. You are undergoing an ordeal testing your capacities to become a master of this power. And, as is true in all initiations, there is no guarantee of success.”*

As you go about your studies or the day-to-day duties of your “work”, you probably don’t feel like you’re acting in a “*realm of secret power.*” But take a step back and consider it—whether it’s how to set a bone or repair a carburetor, you probably can do things that to others are completely obscure and shrouded in mystery.

### **A Master of Technology**

The Magician is a “*master of technology.*” When we learn the secret knowledge of how the world works, and use that knowledge to harness its laws, energies, and forces in order to manipulate them into practical tools and systems, they’re accessing Magician energy. Inventors, scientists, and just simple tinkerers are examples of “*masters of technology.*” We often imbue our most famous inventors and creators with almost supernatural qualities. Newspapers dubbed Thomas Edison “*The Wizard of Menlo Park,*” legends sprouted up about Nikola Tesla and his power over electricity, and recent obituaries about Steve Jobs often refer to his creations as almost magical – as science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke’s third rule: “*any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.*”

But becoming a master of technology doesn’t require that we invent a device like the iPad. Instead, we simply need to create by making our amorphous thoughts, imaginations, and dreams a reality. In order to accomplish this, we must become “*masters of technology,*” and be Reflective, Reticent, an Alchemist, and Spiritual:

## Reflective

The Warrior is the archetype of action, but gets marching orders from the Magician. The Magician is the energy that powers healthy introspection. When you're facing a tough decision, your deliberations on which course to take are powered by the Magician. This power comes from thoughtful reflection and meditation; the Magician is like an excellent chess player; the more they experience and study, the more able to see life like a chess board, envision all the possible moves, and predict with good accuracy where those moves will lead. This ability also generates hunches and gut feelings and the spontaneous decisions made in a time of crisis.

## Reticent

In today's society, information has been greatly democratized, and people expect everything there is to be known to be available to every person. If you tell someone that certain knowledge is sacred, secret, or just too advanced for them to understand, they're typically deeply offended and automatically assume that you're up to something suspicious. But great teachers throughout history understood that knowledge and truth must be taught "*precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.*" Effective learning must be done in degrees—each advancement is earned by the mastery of the previous step. Each concept builds on the other, until a person has acquired perfect knowledge. Those who try to jump into the deep end without first learning to swim can drown. For that reason, those accessing Magician energy are *reticent* about the knowledge they possess, only sharing it with the earnest student who continually proves worthy of the knowledge sought.

## Alchemist of Life

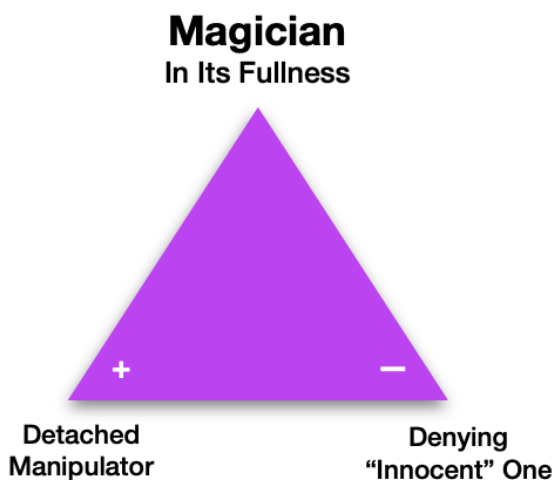
The alchemists of antiquity sought to find a way to turn the baser elements into gold. And this inclination to turn a sow's ear into a purse is a vital current in the Magician's stream of energy. When the Magician archetype is integrated, it looks for ways to turn disappointing situations and setbacks into opportunities to learn, grow, and become better.

## Spiritual Mediator

As Moore puts it, the Magician "*understands the link between the unseen world of the spirits—the Divine World—and the world of human beings and nature.*" As the mediator between these worlds, the Magician has the ability to explain complicated spiritual ideas in ways others can easily grasp. If you've ever talked to a friend who used a simple metaphor to resolve your doubts, that was the Magician energy at work.

## The Shadows of the Magician

Remember that each archetype has both a pinnacle, which represents the fullness of the archetype, and a bi-polar shadow split. These shadows are the result of the archetype not being integrated in a healthy and coherent way. The two shadows of the Magician archetype are the *Detached Manipulator* and the *Denying "Innocent" One*.



### The Detached Manipulator

The Magician in its fullness desires to initiate others into their knowledge, bringing them up from degree to degree so that they can become better and happier. The Manipulator Shadow poses as the Magician in its fullness, teasing would-be initiates with the prospect of learning secrets, but does not give them all their knowledge. They withhold things from them in order to feed both their pride and pocketbook. Shadow Manipulators charge their seekers a ton of money with the promise that the student can become just like them, but don't give away the real secrets to doing that, and especially the secret that they often can't become just like them, because their own success was due to x, y, or z factor that won't happen to anyone else.

Shadow manipulators play a prominent role on our cultural stage as well. Wall Street bankers, politicians, ad agencies, and media pundits are all absolute experts in getting a following by sharing some of the story, but not all of it.

Another aspect of the Manipulator is the cynical detachment from other people. They're the ones who, when confronted with their inability to commit to anything, be passionate about anything, or enjoy any pleasures in life, will retort with *"The unexamined life is not worth living."* Moore summarizes this issue very well:

*"This is the [masculine] who thinks too much, who stands back from his life and never lives it. He is caught in a web of pros and cons about his decisions and lost in a labyrinth of reflective meanderings from which he cannot extricate himself. He is afraid to live, to 'leap into battle.' He can only sit on his rock and think. The years pass. He wonders where the time has gone. And he ends by regretting a life of sterility. He is a voyeur, an armchair adventurer. In the world of academia, he is a hair-splitter. In the fear of making the wrong decision, he makes none. In his fear of living, he also cannot participate in the joy and pleasure that other people experience in their lived lives. If he is withholding from others, and not sharing what he knows, he eventually feels isolated and lonely. To the extent that he has hurt others with his knowledge and technology—in whatever field and in whatever way—by cutting himself off from living relatedness with other human beings, he has cut off his own soul."*

### **The Innocent One**

The Innocent One is the passive pole of the bi-polar shadow. Possessed by the Innocent One shadow, they want all the power, glory, and status that comes with harnessing the Magician archetype in its fullness, but isn't willing to put in the work or take on the responsibility that said power, glory, and status requires. They see another person doing something really cool, and decide they want to do it too.

They get excited about a new hobby, or faith, or career path—their excitement is absolutely coursing through them—but after the easy part has passed (coming up with the name of the band, buying a skateboard, designing the start-up's logo), they realize how much "dead work" is required to get really good at the cool thing, and they give up. Those haunted by the shadow of the Innocent One want to be millionaires, but aren't willing to toil and work years to achieve it. They want to play guitar like Django Reinhardt, but they give up guitar lessons after just a few weeks. They want to be spiritual, but without all that prayer, meditation, and scripture study business.

But the Innocent One's shadow behaviour doesn't stop there. Because someone in touch with the Innocent One can never attain or achieve their goals because of laziness, they don't want others to achieve their goals and ambitions either, becoming a stumbling block to others simply out of envy. Someone possessed by the Innocent One begrudges the success of others and does all that they can to diminish it. Theodore Roosevelt despised this type. To him, a man possessed by the Innocent One was *"one of those cold and timid souls, who know neither victory nor defeat."*

### **The Adolescent Archetypes**

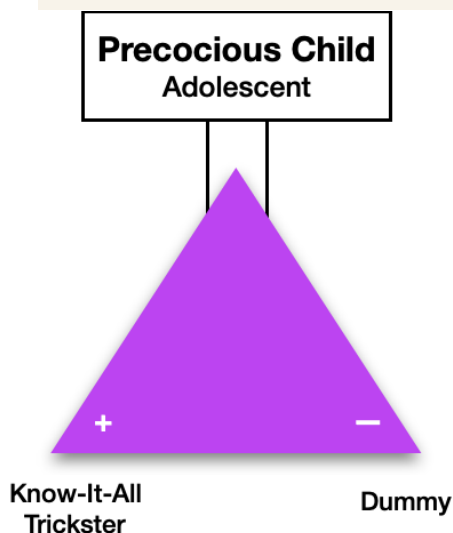
To understand each of the four archetypes of mature masculinity, we need to explore their precursors. There are four adolescent archetypes which develop into the mature archetypes. Properly accessing and harnessing their energies is essential for full development. These archetypes instill a sense of wonder, play, and energy—traits that are essential for learning and development. The adolescent archetypes are positive but immature energies that, with proper masculine guidance, develop into the archetypes of mature masculine.

### **The Precocious Child**

The next immature archetype to develop is the Precocious Child. If properly nurtured, the Precocious Child will eventually develop into the mature masculine archetype of the Magician. The Precocious Child archetype shows itself when a youngster is eager to learn about the world around them. Curiosity and wonder spring from this archetype. When your child asks all those annoying "why" questions – Why is the sky blue? Why is the sun bright? Why do things die? – the Precocious Child is manifesting itself. Ditto for youngsters who read for hours, get really into an art project or science experiment, or work intently on improving their athletic skills.

The Precocious Child pushes us to develop our talents and gives us that spark to explore and investigate, to find out how the world works and what makes people tick. They ponder life's mysteries and are reflective and introspective, although not anti-social, for they love to share what they've learned with others in hopes of helping them. An adult who stays in touch with this immature archetype maintains their youthful wonder and curiosity about the world.

## The Shadows of the Precocious Child



### The Know-It-All Trickster.

As the name implies, this immature masculine energy is the place from which mischief in youth (whether innocent or devious) springs. It originates from a youngster's sense of superiority to everyone else – a superiority they feel compelled to prove and show-off in various ways. They know how to charm their way out of trouble, are adept at deception and manipulation and will gain the trust of those around them, only to betray it when they least expect it.

The Know-It-All Trickster is also the source of smart assery from young bucks. Youngsters (and some adults, too) who let the Know-It-All Trickster rule their psyche are prone to running their mouth off. This can be a positive thing – the Trickster will point out mistakes and say that the King / Sovereign isn't wearing any clothes when others are afraid to. But youngsters under the power of the Know-It-All shadow can be quite smug and enjoy intimidating others with their words.

The Trickster has lost touch with the Divine Child, and thus does not feel that they themselves have any degree of greatness. Because their sense of superiority is often not based on anything substantive, they are envious and insecure, and this is manifested in the need to brag, "one-up," and tear down other people and their ideas. The Trickster is focused on maintaining appearances. Again, it's all an attempt to trick others into thinking they are better than they really are, and most importantly, that they are better than others.

Mythology is filled with Trickster figures. Odysseus from Greek lore was known as a "man of many wiles." His trickery helped him survive his long trip home, but his loud mouth also got him into troubles that made the journey longer. In Native American cultures, the coyote often takes on the role of the Trickster.

### The Dummy.

Youngsters under the influence of the Dummy shadow are seemingly uncoordinated, naive, lacking in youthful vigour, and slow on the uptake. According to Moore, "*the Dummy's ineptitude...is frequently less than honest.*" They may actually understand more than they let on, but play dumb to deceive those around them and avoid the risk of striving and failing. The Dummy shadow has a secret Trickster shadow lurking within them; an archetype within an archetype.

## Accessing the Precocious Child Archetype as an Adult

An adult who has successfully integrated the Precocious Child archetype maintains their curiosity about the world and is dedicated to lifelong learning. They allow themselves to contemplate the mysteries of life and are always seeking greater knowledge. But they do not use the accumulation of this knowledge to feel superior to others nor to manipulate, nor deceive. Instead, they are devoted to sharing their insights as a mentor and teacher.

## Initiation and the Modern Obstacle to Accessing Magician Energy

There are two main roles that the energy of the Magician flow through—the initiate and the initiator, or the mentee and the mentor. Magician energy drives us to obtain hidden knowledge. But contrary to the popular adage about professional magicians—that they never reveal their tricks—a person truly animated by the mature Magician archetype is eager to turn around and share what they have learned with others, desiring to elevate the serious and earnest seeker to their level.

This is why the lack of magician energy in modern culture is really at the heart of the issues many are having today. There is a lack of mature folk who have made a rite-of-passage themselves available to initiate others into the "secret knowledge" of masculinity. Dads, granddads, uncles, moms, grammas, aunts and cousins, used to teach their children and other youngsters how to act, dress, and behave. But a lot of folks have grown up without such a mentor these days and thus feel lost, directionless, and adrift. This is not only true when it comes to being initiated into adulthood/mature masculine, however, but also applies to professional paths as well. For the most part, gone are the days of guilds and intimate apprenticeships, and trade schools have fallen in popularity. Everyone is in fierce competition with each other and are looking out only for themselves, thus there is often no one willing to initiate others into their vocation. It is telling that apprenticeships have been replaced by internships; instead of getting initiated into the job, interns are made to do the undesirable grunt work of others and then cut loose when their temporary stint is up.

## Accessing the Magician Archetype: *Carve out a sacred space in your life*

In modern life, there is no line between the sacred and the profane. But if you want access to the insights, energies, and ideas that exist on a plane above that of your ordinary, day-to-day life, then you need an entryway to that higher realm. Sacred space is that gateway. Carve out a ritual for yourself, a time or a physical space where you are not interrupted, where others are not privy to what you think about: listening to Bach in your study after the kids go to bed; finding a special, secluded grove in the park where you go to be (eg: a "sit spot"); a morning walk in the woods. Whatever it is, draw a line around it and make it sacred in your life.

### Examples of tapping into the Magician energy in a healthy way:

- Commit to lifelong learning
- Meditate
- Create more, consume less.
- Work with your hands.
- Take part in a rite of passage
- Find a mentor / Become a mentor

## Fullness or Shadow – how do I know?

- I know my **Magician is in its Fullness** and is supporting me when:
  - I accept that my fear is a part of life because I can't forecast outcomes;
  - This knowledge supports true humility:
    - *I'm open to input from people who know more or less than me to reduce the risk*
    - *I am a risk manager.*
- I know my Shadow **Magician is sabotaging** me when
  - I hide my fear:
    - *This looks like I'm right and I'm not open to your input;*
  - I use techniques for looking superior, to shame you.
    - *These are all due to my core belief that I'm not worthy unless I'm perfect.*

### YOUR REFLECTIVE ANSWERS:

How does my **Magician** in its Fullness support me?

- ...
- ...

How does my Shadow **Magician** sabotage me?

- ...
- ...

