

The Unexpected Success  
of James Moriarty



# What gives?

- ◆ We understand the appeal of Sherlock Holmes
- ◆ Not intended as a principle character
- ◆ Utterly evil
- ◆ Why did He catch on any why does he remain



# Carl Jung & Symbols of Myth

- ◆ Psychiatrist - founded analytical psychology; known for his proposal of a collective unconscious
- ◆ Proposed that through history there is a similarity of symbols in all myths
- ◆ Led to the development of archetypes



# Jung's Archetypes

- ◆ What is an archetype:
  - ◆ “But what is the archetype? An innate tendency which molds and transform the individual consciousness. A fact defined more through a drive than through specific inherited contents, images etc.; a matrix which influences the human behavior as well as his ideas and concepts on the ethical, moral religious and cultural levels.” <http://www.carl-jung.net/archetypes.html>



# Jung's Archetypes

- ◆ In short it's characteristics that we recognize on a deep level that trigger an emotion or connection that creates an identification
- ◆ some argue seen as a part of ourselves



# The Moriarty Archetype

- ◆ Evil, dark, menacing — a devil, trickster
- ◆ Primordial images: sunken eyes , reptile : snake
- ◆ Who do we (in the west) identify with the original snake —- the devil, Satan.



# The Hero's Journey

- ◆ Proposed by Joseph Campbell in study of mythology
- ◆ Like Jung, Campbell proposed it was cross culture and contained consistent elements
- ◆ 17 stages in 3 sections: Departure, Initiation, Return



# The Hero's Journey

- ◆ Common figures : helper, the wiseman, and the trickster
- ◆ clearly demonstrated in Star Wars & LOTR
- ◆ Sherlock's journey : cases
- ◆ helper (side-kick) : Watson
- ◆ wiseman : Mycroft?



# The Hero's Journey

- ◆ Moriarty is the obvious rival - villain
- ◆ The confrontation sets up the culmination in the loss of Holmes.
- ◆ The resurrection of Holmes in the Empty House completes the Journey and establishes Sherlock as a mythical figure for all time



# In Summary

- ◆ The professor touches something instinctual in us to be identified as evil (snake, spider)
- ◆ He is essential for the establishment of Sherlock's Heroic Journey



# Afterthoughts

- ◆ Bill Mason's "The Rule of Three" (hero, helper, villain )
- ◆ Prof Alvarez : we try to frame the complex in terms we understand them. How does the influence of archetypes complicate (bias) that?