

The Savior Archetype

Archetype: The best or first or most notable example of a complex idea.
The archetype is a fundamental image that resonates with human beings.

Ex.: When Disney used the "circle of life" in *The Lion King*, they knew that they were tagging on to a fundamental image that the audience would be able to recognize and identify. The circular image of birth, life, old age, and death is a pattern that all of humanity can easily understand.

- The character must come to bring enlightenment to people or to save people.
- The savior helps the weak or the minority.
- People may turn against this character because of the attempt to bring enlightenment or to help them.
- The character may suffer for it.
- The savior is "innocent of the charges".
- The character may die for attempting to bring enlightenment or helping the people.
- This death may be metaphorical.
- The character may be reborn in some way.
- The author may allude to another well known savior from literature or history.
- Popular in the ancient world was Prometheus while in the modern world. Jesus Christ is the more common allusion. (The "savior archetype" is often called a "Christ-figure".)
Prometheus and Jesus are considered archetypes of the savior motif.