

The Ladder of Maturation Development Part I



AWAKENING WISDOM
DIGITAL DOWNLOAD
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The Ladder of Maturation Development

Assembling ourselves in the Light of Dharma

Introduction to this Three-Part Series

The Ladder of Maturation Development is one of the pivotal SMSD teachings to assist us in charting our maturation, our evolutionary self-growth and development. It is a very large body of knowledge and so it is presented in three parts.

Part One offers an overview of the nature, structure, and specific “characters” on the Ladder that are operative in our self-growth.

Part Two looks more deeply into how we are guided within our self-development. We are designed to love to learn and grow; we are designed to evolve.

Part Three explores the Higher Self’s guidance through the Three Chiefs, showing how our Book of Life Reading offers tools for navigating this guidance in our everyday life. We are invited to assemble ourselves in the light of Dharma.

Each of the three parts will include personal workings and/or a ceremony whereby the reader is invited to exercise free-thinking in their own self-explorations.

Part One

An Overview of the Structure and the Twenty Characters

Introduction to Part One

The Ladder of Maturation Development is a cognitive map, a schematic presentation of the fundamentals of our personality in this body appearance. It illustrates the foundation of where we have come from in terms of our molding, sculpting, and armoring. We came into this physical form (our mold) and were brought up by our family to fit in, belong, and conform to what was considered normative at that time (sculpting). This molding and sculpting did not necessarily suit or support our unique and free spirit. And so, we created a defense structure and unconscious patterned behaviors that allowed us to survive (armoring).

By the gracious design of our Creator, these imprints were lodged within our Shadow, often remaining there as undiscovered aspects of our self. No matter what or how, we each made our way through the developmental stages to the age we are now: we exercised our determinative Ego and developed a Persona that worked for us. The influence of our imagemakers and tyrants could only do so much – we each have our own way to process our everyday life. Our Shideh –

for good or ill – is fiercely dedicated to making sure we survive and that, eventually, we will thrive.

This cognitive map illuminates how we do this “great work”, how we take the dross of our basic self and uncover the magickal, mysterious character. No matter how we or others judge it, no matter what it looks like to the outside, this cognitive map shows that each step along the way, each incarnation of this spirit personality, is destined to become a hero/heroine.

At the top of the Ladder, the Higher Self directs “the movie” so that the outcome is ultimately assured. The Ladder can be seen as a glimpse into the cellular structure of our inner matrix, showing us how our soul evolves just because that is how it was designed.

And so, this Ladder describes the movie or drama we call life. It is a guide for our heart walk, our path with heart. In fact, this map can be used to describe ourselves as a “cast of characters” in the movie we call life. More on that later.

On the handout of the Ladder, you will see that it is called the Temple of our Book of Life. Part Three will bring this to the foreground as we overlay the Ladder with our current Book of Life Reading.

The Ladder is an outline for the “Great Work”, for how we become mature human beings who take responsibility for our actions and choose to learn through pleasure and knowledge, to live with an open, happy heart.

The Ladder of Maturation Development is also called the Stalking Map of the Warrior. It is our journey from unbalanced two-leggeds to becoming balanced sacred humans who are dedicated to evolving into enlightened human beings. The Twisted Hairs Elders revealed that the original purpose of the Ladder was to assist us to learn and grow, to develop and refine, as we become a sacred human.

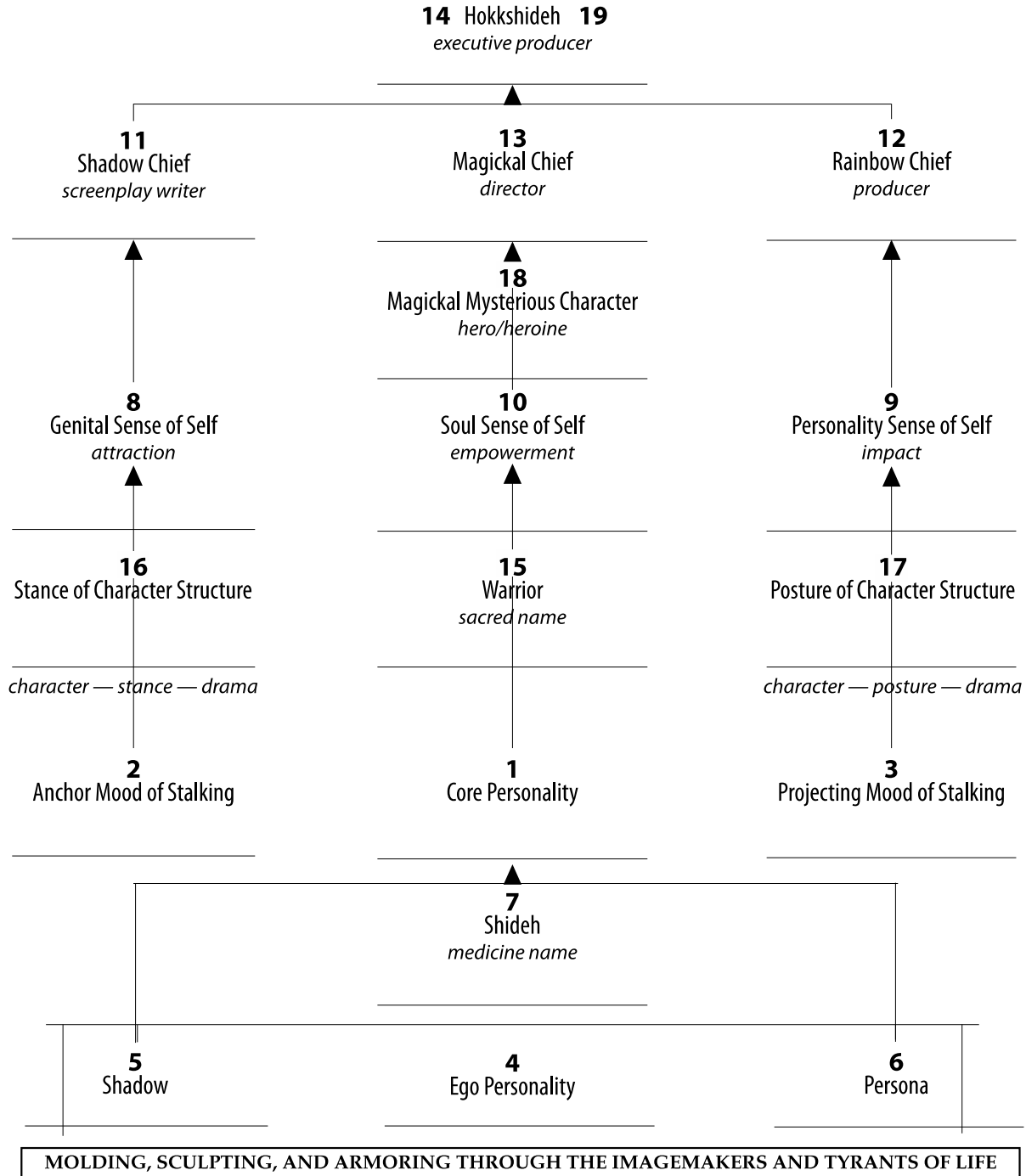
In the Fourth Gateway of our SMSD Ceremonial Gateway Process, the Middle Platform utilizes this Ladder of Maturation Development to chart the recapitulation process that is essential to regaining energies locked inside the defense structure and restoring our natural radiant self.

The Ladder of Maturation Development

THE TEMPLE OF
YOUR BOOK OF LIFE

20
Our Inner Twenty Shields and Dancers

A MAP FOR NOTES
as you learn who is cast in
your movie



The Basic Structure of the Ladder of Maturational Development

There are basically three segments to the Ladder: the base, the “great work”, and the guidance from above.

The Base or Platform

The base, or platform at the bottom of the Ladder, consists of the Shadow, Ego, Persona and Shideh. The mold we entered as we incarnated includes our sex (commonly referred to as gender) and choice of parents who then gave us our race, as well as our culture, religion, and socio-economic frame. And so, our maturational development begins within the molding, sculpting, and armoring through the imagemakers and tyrants of life.

Our original mold also contains our core personality, moods of stalking, stance, and posture of our character structure – and we will learn more about how these interact with the Shadow, Ego, Persona and Shideh.

Notice how the Shideh is positioned a step up from the base. It is our Shideh that has to do the Great Work of maturing and evolving. Our Shideh must choose to change and integrate that change into knowledge that works, into tools that facilitate our self-development, our evolutionary process towards enlightenment.

The Middle Part: our Great Work’s Movement up the Ladder

Our Great Work is done by the following “characters”: Core Personality and Moods of Stalking, Stance and Posture of our Character Structure, our Three Sense of Self (Genital, Personality, and Soul Sense of Self). Our Great Work is the work of our soul, called the Warrior on the Ladder of Maturational Development.

Our Character Structure is the vehicle for our learning while the Warrior is the dreamer, the driver of this vehicle. The Warrior, 15, creates a bridge between the 3rd and 5th dimension. It brings what was written in the 5th dimension by the Author of our Book of Life (15) and makes it happen in the 3rd dimension. As the author of our intent, it remembers what we wrote and keeps going after its fulfillment in this lifetime.

Notice how 18, the Magickal Mysterious Character, is situated by itself in the center line. 18 is the hero/heroine in the original script as it was written by us in the Great Round. 18 holds all that we are seeking to learn, to uncover/discover, and to become at the highest level of our excellence in this physical body.

The Guidance from Above

When we begin to access the Magickal Mysterious Character, the Sacred Image of our inner 18, then our 10th chakra opens and the guidance from above becomes more accessible to us. Our luminous egg cocoon expands, our orgone and orende increases, and our Energy Mind Bodies

(Dancers) move our Shields into the non-cardinals in preparation for achieving enlightenment. At this point, we begin to hear the Three Chiefs (Shadow, Rainbow, and Magickal Chiefs).

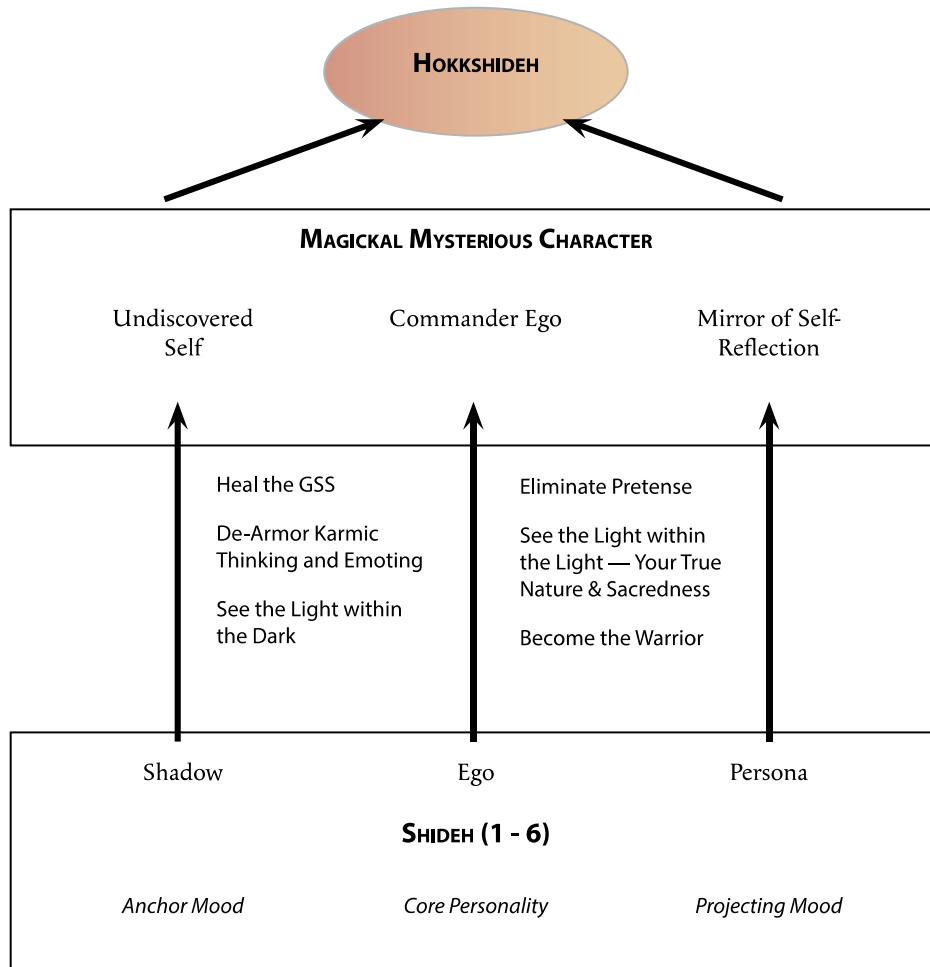
[The Ladder as a Roadmap](#)

We progress from base/roots (5,4,6) with our core (2,1,3) as our Shideh to the As Above. The goal of our maturational development is to return to Source (14,20,19). 18 is highest level or the fullest completion of being within physical form.

The following illustration depicts this movement as a roadmap for our sacred dream. The Ego erases personal history, our Core Personality meets death and the Shideh stops the world in order to assimilate and integrate the knowledge gained. We do this work through our Stance of character structure and Anchor Mood of Stalking, supported by our Posture of character structure and Projecting Mood of Stalking.

As we do this work, we close our karma book and open our dharma book. Then the Shadow becomes the Undiscovered Self (our True Nature Spirit Personality), our Ego becomes the Natural Self in Command, and our Personality becomes the Mirror of Self-Reflection.

The Ladder as Roadmap to the Sacred Dream of Becoming Mature Human Beings



The Three Paths of the Ladder

The Ladder is structured so that there is a left, a right, and a center path.

The left path is receptive and inward focused. This path is our inner work, our personal self-growth where we seek the light within the dark through internal, intuitive, and subjective self-reflection.

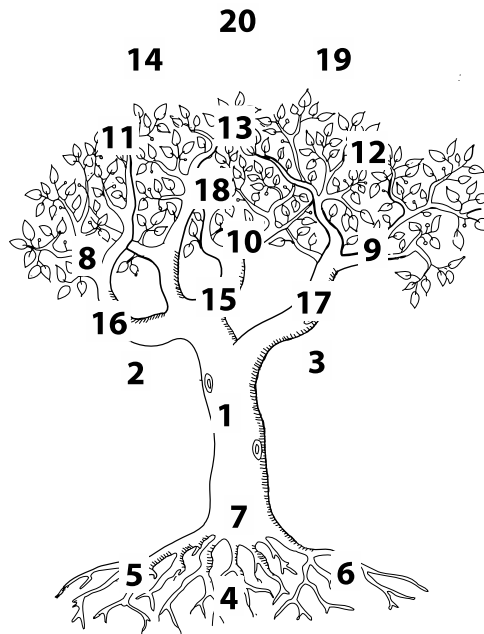
The right path is active and outward focused. This path is our work of self-growth that frequently operates within the light. It's what and how we action our explorative, instinctual, and more objective realizations and experiences.

The center path is integrative, stabilizing within male/female balance. It is based on the integration of our understanding as we mature.

We climb up the left and the right sides of the Ladder in an attempt to move up the center line. Ultimately, we are seeking to return to Source, to become the Great Spirit within our Highest High Self. This is the Warrior's intent of the Soul. The Warrior achieves this through controlled dreaming: gaining mastery in the 3rd dimension and reaching into the 5th dimension until the two dimensions become one as 4th dimensional determination.

The Ladder as a Flowering Tree

The Ladder can also be illustrated as a Flowering Tree.



Notice that the Shadow, Ego, and Persona (5,4,6) are part of the root structure of the Tree. Without doing our work at the roots, the Tree will not thrive, and we will not mature into a Sacred Human, a Flowering Tree.

At the base of the trunk, you will find the Shideh (7). It is the Shideh that must accept the Shadow, Ego, and Persona in order for our Core Personality and Moods of Stalking to be free to reach up and spread out. Along with the Shideh, our Core and Moods (2,1,3) form the strength of our trunk which supports the canopy of branches as we reach out to the as above.

The Warrior (15) is positioned in what is known as the crown of the Tree – the core part of the trunk that “sprouts” all of its branches. It is considered to be the powerhouse of a tree – it influences how the tree functions and determines its appearance.

The lower branches hold 16 and 17 (Character Structure Stance and Posture). These emerge out of, and are profoundly colored by, our Core Personality and Moods.

The Three Senses of Self (8, 9, 10) support and open us to the Three Chiefs, (11,12, and 13) through 18, the Magickal Mysterious Character. These Three Chiefs exist within the nagual, within dreamtime.

We come from spirit and will return to spirit: 14 and 19 call us back to Source at 20.

Review of the Twenty Aspects of the Ladder

There are twenty aspects of the Ladder, twenty characters that play a part in the movie we call Life. Many of these characters you will have met as you engaged the basic teachings of who we are, where we come from, for what purpose we are here and where we are going. See **SONG OF THE DEER** or the **LAVENDER MANUAL** for basic teachings. Here we will focus on of what each character brings and what role it plays in our maturational development. The cast of characters is presented in numerical sequence.

The personal working and ceremony included in this document will offer us opportunity to pause, reflect, and engage each of the cast of characters.

1. Core Personality

Our Core Personality is chosen during our final months in utero and finalizes by the time we are nine months old. It is chosen by our inner 18 as our best way to integrate what we bring forward from our prior incarnations into this lifetime so that we become ever more awake, aware, and alert. Its purpose is to clarify, validate and integrate the tools, weapons, roadmaps, and blueprints for our survival adaptability in this lifetime. We chose our Core Personality because it is the perfect way for us to learn what is needed for our evolution in this lifetime.

We chose either the Do Gooder, Space Cadet, or Fart as our preferred way of finding our way into, through and out of our mold.

Referring back to the Flowering Tree illustration, the Core Personality is situated in the “heart of the tree”, the inner space where the seeds are formed. We chose our type of seed (nature of light) because we knew it would allow us to deal with the molding, sculpting, and armoring well enough to allow us to grow up as a Warrior. From this knowing, we chose a combination of our Moods of Stalking – one as an anchor and the other as a projecting mood.

Each Core Personality also has a specific vulnerability or weakness which we call its “dark side”. The Far, for example, uses the Ego to “conquer” the reality it meets. The Space Cadet prefers the Shadow so that it can avoid realities it does not choose to confront. The Do Gooder prefers the Persona so that it can “buy” the reality it deems to be good.

2. Anchor Mood of Stalking

Our Anchor Mood of Stalking is how we hide ourselves from ourselves – it's a way of relating to self so that we remain safe. We accommodate our own internal demands so that we fit in, belong, and conform, so that we survive. The key to this survival mechanism is inner safety. We create an inner fortress of self so that our Children's Fire is always guarded, always safe from harm – even, and most especially, protected from our own inner tyrant. We chose our Anchor Mood to ensure that we could not sculpt ourselves into a “turkey” when in actuality we are an “eagle”.

The dark side of our Anchor Mood feeds the Shadow, as shown by the vertical relationship it has to Shadow on the Ladder. We use our Anchor Mood in dark to justify hanging on to what we don't want to confront in the Shadow.

Once we get the Anchor Mood in the light, it is what lights up the Shadow. As we evolve, we take on more moods – in their light expression – and thus we put more and more light into the Shadow.

We have four choices: Sweetness, Cunning, Ruthless or Patience.

- Sweetness protects by nurturing the self; but foolishness can lead to addiction.
- Cunning is used to clarify, validate, and integrate; cruelty can be used to justify and verify not changing because we already know “the answer”.
- Ruthlessness utilizes physical action through perseverance to make things happen. Harshness can lead to workaholism and often produces stress in the body.
- Patience gives us vision, imagination, and connection to nature; negligence leads to fantasy and illusion.

3. Projecting Mood of Stalking

Our Projecting Mood of Stalking is how we hide ourselves from others. It is our external, objective defense mechanism to protect or hide self from the outside world. We create a façade that projects how we want others to see our inner light.

Notice the vertical relationship on the Ladder – the Projecting Mood helps our Persona to choose the masks or disguises that are most suitable in any given situation. This mood defines the energy we use to make impact, to explore our world and gain clarification and validation within our life experience.

Once again, we have four choices for our Projecting Mood:

- Sweetness is an expert at shifting another's attention onto something other than ourselves or other than what makes us uncomfortable. It has us “make nice” so as not to rock the boat. In the light, Sweetness gives beauty into the space and uses a voice of power that facilitates people's ability to feel safe.

- Cunning shifts the symbols or the ideas to another channel. In the dark, this mood is skillful in spin doctoring by, for example, redefining a word, reframing a situation to our advantage, shifting the entire intent of the conversation in the direction we want it to go. This can be done both to avoid self-confrontation or to cruelly expose another. In the light, this manipulation allows one to see how parts fit together and facilitate getting a group to find common theme.
- Ruthlessness in dark re-directs the energy physically so we get our way – using whatever means necessary: “It’s my way or the highway”. In the dark, this lacks respect for others. In the light, this mood is very effective in drawing bottom-lines and establishing clear rules of engagement.
- Patience takes others into the greater, grander, or broader view of the issues at hand. In the dark, this lacks grounding in reality, or it may promote waiting it out with the consequence that no tasks get done. In the light, it brings vision and inspiration to others.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: Our goal is to reach Warrior’s Freedom – the formlessness that comes with the discovery, full recognition and embrace of our True Nature Spirit Personality. This is done when we have developed all four moods in both the anchor and projection places in the light. This means that we are responding to life’s situations without attachment to the outcome. We are then able to recognize which mood best assists us to further our intent and best serves the situation and ourselves within the light.

4. Personality Ego

Our Ego is our determiner, integrator, and validator of our experience. Notice that it sits on the Ladder between the Shadow and the Persona. Much of our Personality Ego is hidden from us because we are afraid to know the self. The Ego must navigate between the Shadow (who is most often driven by fear) and the Persona (who is most often deluded with fantasies).

Our Ego is encoded by the time we are 3 years old. Every three-year Circle of Life Experience offers us opportunities to learn and grow. It is the Ego that must choose or determine what and how to make the changes and integrate those changes as we go from one Circle of Life Experience to the next.

When speaking of our “Great Work”, the Ego is often identified as the “enemy within” for it determines our level of willingness (or resistance) to engage and change. Without integrating the challenges within our maturational development, we stay within unproductive patterns and refuse to pick up the Staffs of Power. It is the Ego that must confront and free us from the Mask of Self-Pity and the Mask of Self-Importance.

The extent to which we can be healthy and happy is the extent to which the Ego can recognize the Persona’s mask is on too tight and recognize that there is no need to be afraid of what is in the Shadow. In this case, the Ego can see the games of the Personal and confront the Shadow. When you are happy and healthy you can see the games of the Persona and are able to deal with the Shadow.

5. The Shadow

The Shadow is felt and experienced as our dark side but also carries the brilliance we are not ready to claim. It hides behind the Persona (i.e., the Persona makes sure no one sees our Shadow) and operates within the Ego (so we often don't know the Shadow even exists).

We have created the Shadow by ignoring or “shelving” what we consider to be negative within our physical existence. In so doing, we also hide our brilliance and beauty. A strong focus in the first three gateways is to turn on the light inside this “inner warehouse of self”. In so doing we will discover all the ways our imagemakers have molded and sculpted us away from who we truly are. The true self in the Shadow seeks to stop the armoring and painful repression. Hidden within the Shadow is your True Nature Spirit Personality, our Undiscovered Self.

When we feel offended (or hurt, put off, angered etc.) our Shadow has been triggered. Let this be the signal for us to look deeper into the Shadow to see what we can discover (or uncover) of our True Nature. When we uncover something more, we gain greater self-awareness, wisdom, kernels of truth about who we truly are.

As we examine the left side of the Ladder, we see that our Anchor Mood veils our Shadow, and our Character Structure Stance enforces and guards our Shadow. What we dump into the Shadow is largely what we cannot accept or what has been wounded in our Genital Sense of Self. And it is our Shadow Chief that we will need to fearlessly expose what is in the Shadow so that we can release our Shining.

6. The Persona

The Persona has many faces, many masks, holding the many ways we project our perceptions and pretense out into the world. Remember, it is veiled by the Projecting Mood of Stalking (see up the right side of the Ladder).

As young children, we mime and mimic as we learn how to interact with the world. In so doing we are absorbing infinite data, making sense out of what we witness and feel, and creating a knowledge base that defines our philosophy and belief system. Central to these are five core beliefs that we each formulate out of our interactions with key imagemakers. It is worthwhile to examine what we assume are the expectations of others, how they want us to speak or act, what role they want us to play, and which rules and laws or morals and ethics are demanded of us.

The Persona is said to be a “mask-dancer” learning how to do controlled folly. Too often we forget that the mask is only a mask, and we deceive ourselves as well as others. Whatever is unresolved in our substance shields, leaks into the masks we wear.

In dharma, the Persona becomes the Mirror of Self-Reflection.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: Pretender voices are formed out of the blocks to maturity. The Shadow's voice speaks with pretense. The Persona is in constant battle between pretense and command. The Persona fights for acceptance but is reluctant to accept the dark as well as the light. The Ego is between the Shadow and Persona and gets caught between the dark and the light. Sooner or later, the light side of the Persona must defeat the pretender voice of the Shadow and strengthen the Ego into command.

7. Shideh

Notice where the Shideh is positioned on the Ladder. It sits on top of the base (Shadow, Ego, Persona) and points up to the body of the Ladder called "the Great Work". In short, the Shideh has one goal: freedom! It has two ways to gain it: individuality and autonomy. And this is our sacred dream (7) for the Shideh desires to actualize itself as the Hokkshideh, the fully actualized Self. The Shideh is engages in the process of life to gain knowledge, sobriety, and become awake, aware, and alert to reality as it truly exists. To do so, it must wake up the Ego (or we cannot determine freely), increase awareness of the Shadow (or we won't know our truth), and be alert to the Persona (so that we stop projecting illusions out into the world).

However, in our karmic cycles (and thus in our darkest moment even now) the Shideh is known as "the one who does not see" and often does not want to see!

In dharma, the Shideh turns around towards the light and desires that we dance our dream awake at a pace we can maintain and sustain. The more we feed the Shideh accurate information about what makes us happy, the less the Shideh resists our self-actualization. The Shideh influences how the Core Personality shines as a Warrior dedicated to gain consciousness and empowerment so that it can become the Magickal Mysterious Warrior, the hero/heroine of this Book of Life.

The Shideh is composed of # 1-6 on the Ladder – a spirit dancing in this body to awaken and actualize as the Hokkshideh.

8. Genital Sense of Self (GSS)

Our spirit chooses a physical body to incarnate for the purpose of self-discovery, maturation, and development of that spirit self or soul.

The external genitalia of the fetus develops within the first trimester; the spirit enters the fetus within the second trimester. When we entered into this physical realm, we chose a specific fetus formed through the bonding of our birth mother and father, the embracing of a sperm by a fertile egg. With it came a long history of life-lived and genetics structured to provide just the right physical vehicle for our soul's evolutionary journey in this body-self. And, yet we entered as a free spirit with our own Book of Life, determined to remain free, express our individuality, and evolve our autonomy.

Great Spirit's design is for humans to be orgasmic with free will. Already in utero, genital stimulation creates movement and pleasure. Our Genital Sense of Self is the expression of our

vitality, our passion, our delight in being alive, and our drive to explore sensation and energy. It is also the part of us that was most severely affected by our molding, sculpting, and armoring. We were punished, denied, or shamed for exhibiting pleasure and this shut down our originality and creativity. Our armor dulled our senses and blocked our feelings of being alive. Our natural orgasmic nature was dumped into the Shadow and hidden within the pain of toxic shame. This becomes a primal cause to all imbalance, addiction, and illness. Our GSS, our sexual concepts of self, our passion and lust, our individuality and freedom is buried in the deepest layers of our Shadow.

The health of our GSS is connected to our speed of self-growth, our health and longevity, and our will to do and willingness to engage in life.

9. Personality Sense of Self (PSS)

Our Personality Sense of Self, is positioned on the right side of the Ladder. It is best understood through the 9-card, the Grand Architect for it holds our ability to deal with chaos, change, and movements created by the dualities and paradoxes of life. Our PSS sees how to make a change and how to create a more empowering pattern. It is dedicated to our success. It searches for the truth, our inner truth, through natural, spontaneous exploration of options and opportunities. The more natural and spontaneous, the closer we are able to get to our inner truth.

We could consider the PSS to be the “mentor” to our Persona for it has worn enough masks to know that it is wearing the mask – inside each mask is another reflection of self.

It does not really have a dark side, but it can and often is limited by the demands of the GSS when its self-expression is locked up inside repression, womb resentment, and illness. Our PSS did not surrender to our imagemakers as a child. It found a way to sculpt itself even with the impingements of the imagemakers’ sculpting.

10. Soul Sense of Self (SSS)

Our Soul Sense of Self awakens inside of us when we gain a measure of balance and stop the nonsense of our wounding as we de-armor. As we de-armor and re-sculpt, the hungers of our soul to become enlightened awaken within us.

The SSS carries all of our Toushilahey, including the encoding of the learnings held within our Akashic Records. And so, the SSS reflects the choreography of our Higher Self (18, 13, 14 and 19). It is totally objective, a benevolent accurate witness observer watching what we do and how we make our way. Thus, it can offer you moral discernment in your everyday decisions. When you made those life-changing pattern shifts, your SSS was in charge and even your Shideh could not stop you ☺

The armoring of our Genital Sense of Self can shut off our access to our Soul Sense of Self by locking pain tapes in our head and neck, blocking our 6th and 7th chakras. However, since the SSS is invested in our soul's determination for enlightenment, we will continue to seek pleasure and knowledge. Our pure essence, innocence, and the pure joy of being alive is eternal.

It is the SSS that brought you to your Path with Heart. Our SSS is searching for the priorities, the design that will manifest our Beauty. In a healing ceremony the sand painting holds open the SSS connection for the patient so they can restore the connection they had to Spirit before they shut it down. The SSS is the part of us that can give disease away.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: See Ladder of Maturation Development Part C for further teachings on the following Three Chiefs. These Three Chiefs remain primarily in the nagual, or spirit world and we catch only glimpses of their presence here in the physical. In dharma, these become the Trinity of Self, our inner 15, 18, and 19, who function as the Higher Self's guidance.

11. The Shadow Chief

Our Shadow is also called our Night Warrior for it sees into the Shadow, into the dark, and battles the darkness within you. Its job is to make sure you give away every negative piece in the Shadow's storehouse. It brings clarity, sobriety and understanding into the Shadow.

Notice that when we partner the Shadow Chief with the Shadow in this way – 11 + 5 – we are able to de-armor the Character Structure Stance (16).

As the "screenplay writer" it is our Shadow Chief that guides us towards our fate or destiny, knowing when our karma lessons are complete and leading us to close the karma book and open the dharma book.

The Shadow Chief is the driver of the spirit canoe that transports our Dancers from one lifetime to another and, as such, it carries a combination of all seven Dancers. It guides you back to the Great Round at the time of your physical death.

12. The Rainbow Chief

The Rainbow Chief is known as the "producer" of our sacred dream. It makes sure that all the actors are in place, and everything is set up for you to be successful in optimal learning opportunities. From the nagual, it looks after you – choreographing what is needed for you to actualize your highest intent.

Whenever you experience resistance, bump up against blocks, or feel overwhelmed, call on the Rainbow Chief to discern the cause and find a solution. In response, the Rainbow Chief is sure to help you relax, focus, assume authority and take responsibility. Attention = Power. Stalk the Ladder as a map for answers and tips for how to take right action. The Rainbow Chief is likely to suggest you put your Pipe together or go for a walk-in nature – for it is 12, the Teacher of Spirit.

Notice that the Rainbow Chief is in charge of the right side of the Ladder. It sheds light into and encourages the light side of the Persona, Projecting Mood of Stalking, and the Persona.

13. The Magickal Chief

The Magickal Chief is the director of our “movie”, our inner cast of characters. Its goal is for us to find meaning and purpose. As 13, it is also Benevolent Death who sits on our right shoulder and guides our process of death, change and transformation. It often appears as Death Bringer, helping us to meet death as an ally, companion, and advisor. The Magickal Chief has no fear of death or the unknown/unknowable. Its main purpose is self-healing and so it coordinates our spiritual priorities so that we can walk our Path with Heart towards the light with undeterred intending.

The Magickal Chief guides us through the web, maze, matrix and into the crystal matrix as we turn our karma into dharma.

14. Messenger of the Hokkshideh

Whenever we receive a “message from our Higher Self” it is likely that 19 is speaking through 14, our inner interpreter, our connecting link to our intent with Great Spirit. We look to our totems to help us access and the greater. The purpose of our Sweet Medicine totem guides is to communicate the messages from Spirit to us as two-leggeds. When we become/are balanced humans, we become Rainbow Warriors (14) and thus we too will carry messages from Spirit to others.

By the time you are reading these teachings, you likely have quite an “inner zoo”: Shideh animals based on our birth sitting place, a wheel of Hokkshideh animals, dream animals and even a wheel of Night Warrior Totems. Our latest addition are known as Dream Image Messengers and Power Totem Animals ... and even some Archetypal Dream Guide Totems.

Utilize your totems in prayer, meditation, and ceremony. The Holy Spirit (14) teaches us to break the Seven Dark Arrows, reach for the Seven Light Arrows instead, so that we may receive the gifts of the Seven Rainbow Arrows.

15. Warrior

Notice that on the Ladder it indicates that our Sacred Name is associated with the Warrior. To be a warrior one is willing to do whatever it takes, to wear whatever mask is necessary to get the job done. Its primary motivation is individual, autonomous freedom and so this part of us is like a sculptor constantly chipping away at the block of clay to reveal more and more of our true nature. The Contractual Soul, Author of our Book of Life, is persistently encouraging us to “be true to who you are in your essence of being”.

The way of the warrior assumes authority for our hearts' desires, takes responsibility for our behavior, operates within integrity by walking our talk. Its function is to gain power (orende) in order to develop the wisdom to co-empower self, life and others.

The Warrior takes the light side of our Core Personality, sparks it with our Soul Sense of Self in order to ignite the Magickal Mysterious Character who seeks the messages from its Hokkshideh so that it can align with Great Spirit in all of its Shields and Dancers.

16. Stance of Character Structure

We chose our character structure to create the best mobile home for our spirit. The Stance is foundational – no matter what, this structure will carry us through the challenges of the day. It is totally dedicated to our survival and capable of carrying us all the way into enlightenment.

We choose from one of five options. See wheel of the **NAMES OF OUR CHARACTER STRUCTURE** below.

Although chosen for its power and beauty, its capacity to carry us into our greatest potential, it is fundamentally impacted by the molding and sculpting by our imagemakers as well as our own sculpting and armoring in response.

Once we de-armor, we must let go of the autonomic survival impulse and re-sculpt into our natural self and the beauty side of our Stance. Our choice to armor comes from deep within the dark of our Shadow; our choice to de-armor comes from the light within the Shadow. Our Stance is how we will revive, restore, and renew ourselves into being a free autonomous individual.

17. Posture of Character Structure

Notice that the Posture is positioned on the right side of the Ladder, the outward moving energy of 17. The Dream Weavers reach for the stars. Our Posture has always held the inspiration and motivation to discover an alternative for the survival-focused Stance.

The Posture has not armored, just sculpted into a form that fit in and conformed. Therefore, if we have a dream that we have always wanted to actualize but we also believe that we “just can’t” do it, then the Posture is limited until we de-armor the Stance and re-sculpt the Posture.

We choose from one of five options. See wheel of the **NAMES OF OUR CHARACTER STRUCTURE** below. Study the light or beauty side of your Posture – it holds the key to your success!

The Names of Our Character Structure



18. Magickal Mysterious Character

This Magickal Mysterious Character is our Mirror of Self-Reflection and Sacred Image at the highest level of remaining within physical form. This character has access to the knowledge and wisdom we have accumulated across all lifetimes within this spirit personality and so it reveals our True Nature Spirit Personality. When this depth of memory is accessed, we become unpredictable and uncontrollable – truly FREE.

Thunder Strikes says, “Let your character determine how you live your life rather than letting your life determine your character!”

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19. Hokkshideh

Our Hokkshideh is the breath of life. It is formless, spanning across time, space, and dimension.

It is the highest vibrational frequency called Cosmic Consciousness (or sometimes Christ Consciousness). Consciousness is a combination of knowledge, awareness, and motivation to know, to awaken, to return to Source and be at One with God (the Greater). We are each a perfect spiritual being having a human experience in the physical.

20. The Inner Twenty Shields and Dancers – Our Inner Twenty Song

Our Inner Twenty Song integrates all that we experience as we climb the Ladder of Maturation Development. Through this Inner Twenty, we become inseparable from Great Spirit. We are a cell within Great Spirit's body. We may appear as separate individuals, but we are as one with Great Spirit.

The Ladder gives us access to this song, and conversely sometimes we can hear the song of the 20 most easily via the characters named on the Ladder. For example,

- The Heart of Child Substance Shield sounds like your Core Personality
- The Body of Child Substance Shield, how you explore world, is expressed via your Anchor Mood of Stalking
- The Mind of Child Substance Shield, how it makes sense of world, is revealed via your Projecting Mood of Stalking
- The Spirit of Child Substance Shield makes determinations through your Ego.
- And so forth. See the Personal Working using the Inner Twenty Dialogue Wheel below.

In Summary

The Ladder template is like a cognitive map, a static portrayal of the overall structure that shows how we learn and grow. Which parts of us lead, which pull us down, how the Creator designed it so that it is inevitable that we will reach enlightenment ... no matter how many times we are recycled, no matter how many incarnations it takes us to wake up and reach for the brightest star and keep our focus there no matter what. We shall and do continue to learn and grow – no matter what = until we become the bright star and return to Source, via the formlessness of our enlightened self.

Personal Explorations with the Ladder of Maturation Development

The Ladder provides an almost unlimited number of ways to explore mirrors of self-reflections.

The Ladder as a Cast of Characters in the Movie of Life

Thunder Strikes was fond of describing life as a movie. He used the Ladder to describe ourselves as a “cast of characters”. And so, the Ladder was used as a guide for our heart walk, our path with heart.

Getting to know our Cast of Characters

As you examine the Ladder on page 3 you will see that there is a line under each of the characters. These are for you to fill out with the names of your cast of characters. Who are the actors/actresses in your movie? Some, such as the Shideh and the Warrior, have tips for who that might be inside you; some are blank. Fill in descriptive names for your “cast of characters”.

- When we were first taught the Ladder, we were invited to do this in three forms: one for the characters as they appeared to be villains or dark side reflections of self; one as they appeared to be hero/heroines; and one as we are training ourselves to become as balanced humans.
- If you did this exercise in the past, re-visit your cast now that you are consciously assembling in dharma. Give each of the space a “character name” – make the names descriptive of how you know yourself at this time in dharma.
- You can also use the name of the corresponding card in the Mayan Tarot, for example, your Core Personality would be the Sorcerer at Cause. When doing this, pause to ask yourself: “What does this tell me about the nature of that aspect of self?”

The following questions or suggestions offer another way to get to know each character:

1. Core Personality: What is the power you carry in the essence of your being? What your soul’s focus to ensure your light will survive in all circumstances? Examine your early childhood to see how your Core Personality helped you survive the drama of your molding, sculpting, and armoring.
2. Anchor Mood of Stalking: What is the substance of how you protect yourself, how you hide yourself from yourself? How do you shut the door to true introspection and intuition? How do you get lost or depressed and refuse to look at yourself? How do you stay safe by fitting in, belonging and conforming?
3. Projecting Mood of Stalking: What is your form (3)? The projecting mood defines who you are and how you interact with others. How do you project the form of yourself out into the world? How do you explore your world? What flavor of character do you project out to hide yourself from others?
4. Ego: This is you as the image-maker and the image making view of YOU. It is your soul’s determination for stability, integration and resonance or harmony. How do others see you? What authority does the world give you (rank, title, certifications etc.)

5. Shadow: How do you gain understanding in the world - not just what you believe but how you integrate valid knowledge into working knowledge so that your behavior changes and your substance gains orende. Ask yourself: "Who am I?"
6. Persona: How do you present yourself to the world? How do you make your impact in the world? What is your image of self and how do you see yourself out there? How do you want others to see you?
7. Shideh: This is your current incarnating self. It is also your vocational identity: the authority that the movie, your life, your self-development gives you. What do you value in yourself based on the ego, shadow, and persona? What do you not want to let go of for fear of losing yourself in the process?
8. Genital Sense of Self: All pleasure is experienced through the body and the body has its pleasure connected to its own unique sexual genitalia. What level of orende are you holding (reflects the strength of your attraction)? How sexually active are you? Are you happy in your sexuality, in your sexual preference? How spiritual is your sexuality? Are you catalyzing with your life-force?
9. Personality Sense of Self: Who are you in the world? Who do you want to be in the world? The extent to which you have outgrown the masks of self-pity, self-importance and all forms of self-deceit is reflected in the strength of your Personality Sense of Self. What is your self-assessment?
10. Soul Sense of Self: Who do you want to become at the point of completion? We experience the Soul Sense of Self as a deep longing, an irrepressible desire for Beauty, Pleasure, and Knowledge.
11. Shadow Chief: This you as the screenplay writer of your own movie. What is the focus of intent for your movie? What memory will you awaken and what will emerge or happen in your movie as you step into memory?
12. Rainbow Chief: This is the producer of your own movie. The producer gets all that is necessary (tools, weapon, roadmaps, knowledge, resources) together in order to make things happen. What do you need to make happen? What is necessary to make it happen? Who do you need to be in order to be totally successful? Who are you as the master of Controlled folly? What is the focus of your attention to accomplish this?
13. Magickal Chief: The Magickal Chief focuses on actualization. It is the part of your character that knows its meaning and purpose. What of your cosmic form are you trying to communicate, to actualize? It is the director of your movie.
14. Messenger of the Hokkshideh: This is the essence of your sacred vision and portrays the spirit of your movie. It is your connecting link with intent. The Elders call 14 the "inner Sweet Medicine that we are". Listen deeply.
15. Warrior: What is your nagual understanding of what you are here to accomplish? Ask yourself: "what am I here for? Why am I here? What am I here to do?" 15 asks these questions.
16. Stance of Character Structure: The Stance is how you shield, armor, and protect yourself from pain – and from pleasure. Ask yourself: where do I shut off pleasure? How can I use the light side of my de-armored stance to move forward on my path towards enlightenment?

17. Posture of Character Structure: How did you use your armor, the tools, and weapons of your character in a good way? Where, how, and when did you allow yourself to experience pleasure? How, when, and where do you most easily gain knowledge? What is your way of reaching for the stars with what inspires and motivates you?
18. Magickal Mysterious Character: This is the true hero/heroine of your movie. This character reflects the overall choreography of how you put it all together. It is the way out of the dark pattern and into a new pattern. It is the dharma of your book of life. This hero/heroine runs through your entire akashic records and all spirit personalities of your soul through all lifetimes. What is the archetype that reflects this character for you?
19. Hokkshideh: Your Hokkshideh holds the life breath and male-female in balance at each step along the way. It is the thread or plot that runs through the movie. It is the one piece of Light that takes us on our journey back to Source. How do you feel this pull or see this Light?
20. Inner 20 Shields and Dancers: This is our Inner Twenty Song. This is the part of you that integrates all the knowledge you gain as you climb up the Ladder. Our song integrates all knowledge we gain as we climb the ladder, as an inseparable cell within Source itself. Sing boldly!

Climbing the Rungs of the Ladder

1. The left side refers to your inner work and gives you internal, intuitive, and subjective reflections of your experience. Walk up this left path and reflect on how receptive you are to your creativity at each rung.
 - a. How familiar are you with this character – are you directing or is it in charge of your internal process?
 - b. Reflect on its level of sobriety, dharmic flow, and the naturalness of your individual, autonomous freedom.
 - c. Create a Warrior's Task Assignment or Orende Charting Phrase to deepen your inner resolve, discipline, and self-acceptance.
2. The right side refers to your outer work and gives you reflections of your external, objective, explorative and instinctual actions. Walk up this right path and reflect on how conceptive you are to your actions?
 - a. How familiar are you with this character in your interactions with life and others? Are you directing or is it taking you wherever it chooses to go? Are you surprised by its behavior, waiting for something or someone before taking an action, or perhaps fighting hard and resisting the flow of dharma?
 - b. What would it take to actualize your dreams and/or achieve your goals? Reflect on your level of self-deservement and assess how you sabotage yourself or make your life more difficult than it needs to be at this stage creating a dharmic lifestyle.
 - c. Who can you call on for guidance and what might that sound like? Create invocations or intentional statements to begin your day or to set the stage for productive interactions with others.
3. The center path is the way you accomplish understanding and gain integrative determination.

- a. Walk this path and pause at each step to reflect on how you best learn and grow.
 - i. What is your most effective learning style?
 - ii. How do you maintain and sustain your personal self-growth and development?
 - iii. How do you sustain your motivational intent to mature and evolve?
 - iv. What opens your mind into the expansion of what is possible, into the greater mind of your soul?
 - v. Take some moments to open to that deep knowing of your inner 18. Allow your higher mind to show you images of who you truly are and who you are becoming.
 - b. Listen to the guidance of the benevolent wise one showing you the next steps, the needed changes, and the fertile soil for new growth.
4. Take this journey up the three paths of the Ladder into a personal ceremony. Go for a Nature Walk, sit in the four directions around a basic Flowering Tree, or put your Pipe together to deepen your connecting link to the call of your Highest High Self. Allow this call to become a beacon of hope and inspiration.
- a. Listen for your song, your voice, your way of being within Great Spirit.
 - b. Walk this into your everyday life – enjoy the journey as a sacred human on her/his way to becoming an enlightened human.