

The Magic Square:
ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TYPE & SUBTYPE

by Susan Rhodes, Jan. 2007

I N T R O D U C T I O N

When I began to study subtypes, I noticed that some types and subtypes seemed fairly congruent, while others seemed to pull in opposite directions. So I played around with arranging the types and subtypes, and came up with the chart on the next page—what I call the “magic square.”

It looks at type and subtype in terms of two dimensions: the three subtype arenas in life (self, sexuality, and social interaction) and three domains: the Deep, the Earth, and the Sky. So what we’re looking at is both at whether attention is on self, partner, or the group and whether the movement of attention is inward/downward/away (toward the Deep), outward/against/horizontal (on the Earth), or upward/uplifting/vertical (into the Sky).

Not coincidentally, the three domains (on the horizontal axis) are the same ones that Riso & Hudson use with their Hornebian triads (points 459, 378 and 126) to describe the subconscious, ego, and superego. But I like to use place names because the Freudian terms can be interpreted in diverse ways.

The subtype arenas (on the vertical axis) correspond to the three equilateral triangles that are formed by points 147, 258 and 369. I view these triangles as three stages in a process: the beginning/creative/cardinal/ stage (147), the middle/consolidation/mastery/fixed stage (258), and the end/receptive/changeable/mutable stage (369). From this perspective, beginning = sexual subtype arena, middle = self-preservation subtype arena, end = social subtype arena.

The nine subtypes in the squares are the ones that seem to be particularly prototypical for each type.

I see the magic square less as a discovery than as a playful concoction. For me, it’s one way to explain why some types seem to be more “in sync” with certain subtypes than others. Take a look. What do you think?

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TYPE & SUBTYPE

(Which subtypes tend to be most congruent with which types)

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<p>Preserving ("Self-preservation")</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Focus is on power</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Manner is dominant</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Energy is still & concentrated</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Holding vertical & horizontal axes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"I"</p>	<p>Creating/Destroying ("Sexual")</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Focus is on the creative process</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Manner is expressive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Energy is intense & vibrating</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vertical axis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"We"</p>	<p>Integrating ("Social")</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Focus is on integrating & blending</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Manner is receptive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Energy is dispersed & interactive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Horizontal axis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"They"</p>
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Domain = the Sky	<p>EIGHT</p> <p>Ruler of the Sun (The Patriarch)</p> <p>SP 8</p>	<p>SEVEN</p> <p>The Angelic Host (Creation in the heavens)</p> <p>SX 7</p>	<p>THREE</p> <p>The Aspiring Adapter (Social ascension)</p> <p>SOC 3</p>
Domain = the Earth	<p>TWO</p> <p>Ruler of the Earth (The Matriarch)</p> <p>SP 2</p>	<p>ONE</p> <p>The Selective Idealist (Creation on the earth)</p> <p>SX 1</p>	<p>SIX</p> <p>The Dutiful Worker (Social adaptation)</p> <p>SOC 6</p>
Domain = the Deep	<p>FIVE</p> <p>Ruler of the Subconscious (Conception of the child)</p> <p>SP 5</p>	<p>FOUR</p> <p>The Deep-sea Diver (Creation in the depths)</p> <p>SX 4</p>	<p>NINE</p> <p>The Receptive Participant (Social submergence)</p> <p>SOC 9</p>