

A Considered Life

The Sage Archetype



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A marble statue of Socrates, depicted in a classic 'The Thinker' pose. He is shown from the waist up, with his right hand resting on his chin and cheek, and his left hand tucked into his voluminous, draped garment. The statue is set against a clear, bright blue sky. The lighting is bright, casting shadows that emphasize the texture of the marble and the folds of the clothing.

The unconsidered life is not worth living.

Socrates

You cannot open a book without learning something.

Confucius



Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend.
Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.

Groucho Marx



The Sage Philosophy

I spent three days a week for 10 years educating myself in the public library, and it's better than college. People should educate themselves - you can get a complete education for no money. At the end of 10 years, I had read every book in the library and I'd written a thousand stories.

Ray Bradbury



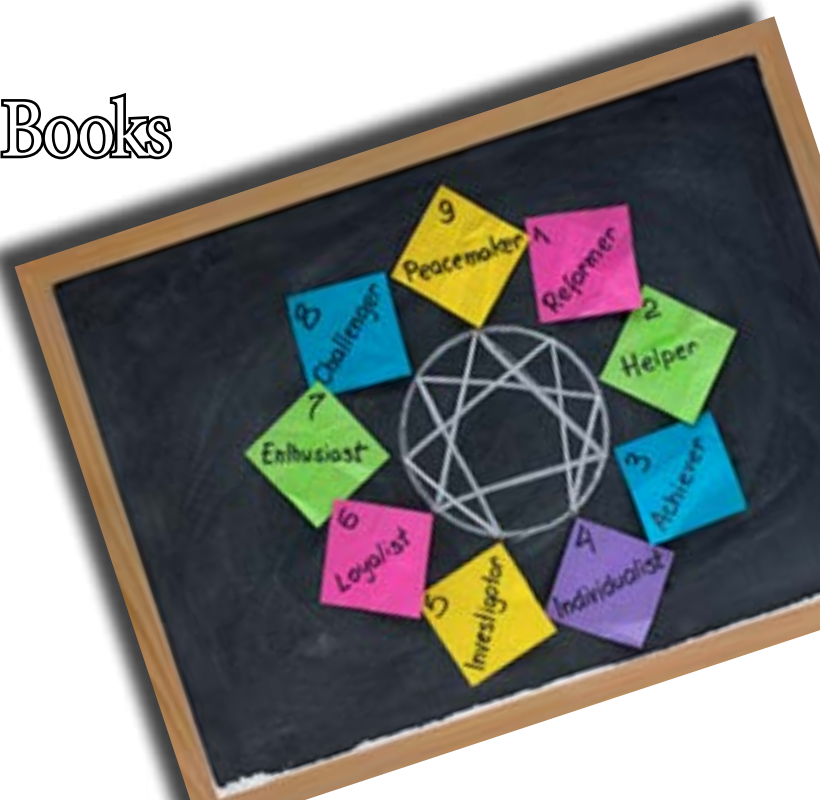
The Sage's

Toolkit



Sage Books

The Wisdom of the Enneagram: Don Richard Riso and Russ Hudson. The Enneagram is a stunning personality typology that all Sages will treasure. It is complex, scholarly and eminently practical. Its insights are so profound you'll never look at yourself and others in the same way again. The Sage will also delight in its mysterious origins - some Enneagram scholars suggest it sprung from medieval Sufi mystics, but others dispute this. It was used extensively by the enigmatic 20th century spiritual teacher G.I.Gurdjieff and then extended and popularized by many theologians, psychologists and writers since.





Project Gutenberg: A free online library with 40.000 books. They can be read online or you can download them. What are you waiting for?

The Consolations of Philosophy: Alain de Botton's engaging book invites us to enter the world of our most esteemed philosophers and suggests how we can apply their insights to our lives.

The Meaning of Things: Applying Philosophy to Life – Philosopher A.C. Grayling explores the perennial human concerns of love, betrayal, cruelty, and wisdom through the eyes of brilliant philosophers.



Famous Sages

Margaret Mead (1901-1978): At the time of her death, Margaret Mead was the most famous anthropologist in the world. She spent a lifetime exploring dozens of cultures and was one of the first to notice how gender roles differ from one society to another. This led her to propose that gender differences are more culturally based than biologically predetermined - a startling proposition in its time. Sages may enjoy her classic book, *Coming of Age In Samoa*.

Simone Weil (1909 – 1943): This French philosopher didn't live much past her 34th birthday. However, she packed a philosophical punch in the few years she was with us, writing on education, politics, religion and spirituality. Challenging, otherworldly and brilliant, she won't suit everyone, but the Sage will appreciate her. She came first in her entrance exam for the highly prestigious 'Ecole normale superieure in France. Simone de Beauvoir came second. This should give you an idea of Weil's intellectual capacity. Believe it or not, this woman also fought in the Spanish Civil War in 1936, earning her extreme Daredevil status to boot.



Maria Montessori (1870-1952): This woman was a quintessential sage whose ideas on educating young children and the intellectually disabled are still used today. She made study a life-long affair and pursued her interests in anthropology, psychology and educational philosophy long after her stint at The University of Rome. Not one to do anything by halves she graduated from university, took a demanding research job and then tells us she spent her spare time reading, "...all the major works on educational theory of the past two hundred years."

Hypatia of Alexandria: Born around 350-370 AD and murdered by a Christian mob in 415AD, Hypatia was a brilliant, composed and well-respected philosopher and mathematician who drove men crazy with her beauty and brains. She was also an excellent teacher and public speaker.

Places The Sage May Be Drawn To

Universities at

☞ Oxford, Yale,

☞ Cambridge

☞ US LIBRARY OF

CONGRESS

☞ The local library

☞ Bookshops

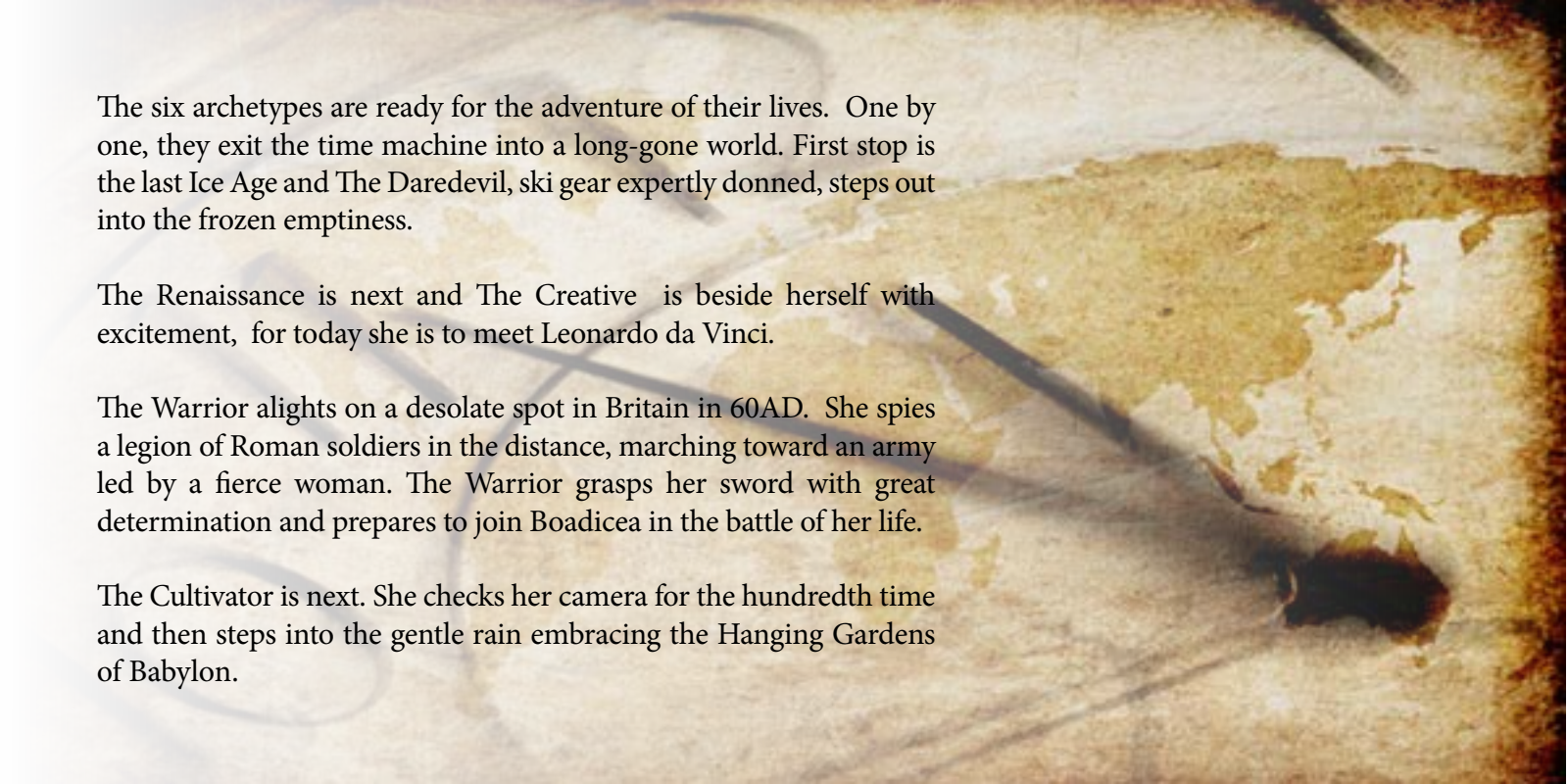


And, if they had a
time machine,
☞ The Ancient
Library of Alexandria
in Egypt

A Sage's Worst Nightmare

Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury's dystopian masterpiece about a listless society addicted to soap operas, drugs and trivia (sound familiar?) on the verge of nuclear war. Books are burned and so is anyone caught reading one. Firemen in this bizarre future go around setting fire to books. One of them decides to rebel and he is forced to re-examine his entire life.

Destruction of the Ancient Library of Alexandria in 48BC - According to Plutarch, Julius Cesar accidentally burned it down. He was trying to stop a military commander from disrupting his sea communications and somehow the library got in the way.

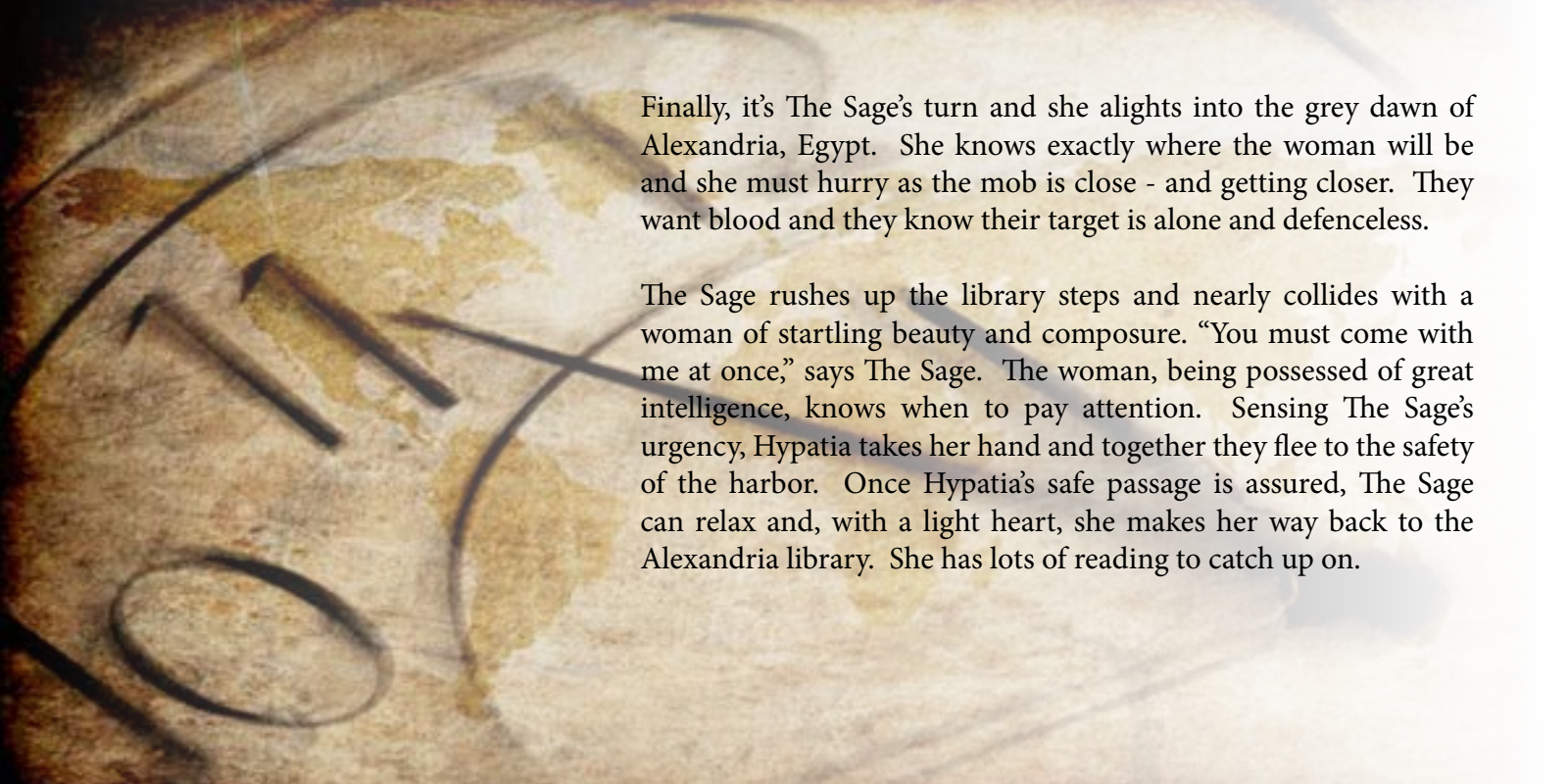


The six archetypes are ready for the adventure of their lives. One by one, they exit the time machine into a long-gone world. First stop is the last Ice Age and The Daredevil, ski gear expertly donned, steps out into the frozen emptiness.

The Renaissance is next and The Creative is beside herself with excitement, for today she is to meet Leonardo da Vinci.

The Warrior alights on a desolate spot in Britain in 60AD. She spies a legion of Roman soldiers in the distance, marching toward an army led by a fierce woman. The Warrior grasps her sword with great determination and prepares to join Boadicea in the battle of her life.

The Cultivator is next. She checks her camera for the hundredth time and then steps into the gentle rain embracing the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

The background of the slide features a close-up of an ancient, yellowed parchment scroll. A magnifying glass is positioned over the scroll, with its handle extending from the bottom left towards the center. The scroll's surface is textured and shows signs of age, with some darker spots and a prominent circular hole on the left side. The text is overlaid on the right side of the scroll.

Finally, it's The Sage's turn and she alights into the grey dawn of Alexandria, Egypt. She knows exactly where the woman will be and she must hurry as the mob is close - and getting closer. They want blood and they know their target is alone and defenceless.

The Sage rushes up the library steps and nearly collides with a woman of startling beauty and composure. "You must come with me at once," says The Sage. The woman, being possessed of great intelligence, knows when to pay attention. Sensing The Sage's urgency, Hypatia takes her hand and together they flee to the safety of the harbor. Once Hypatia's safe passage is assured, The Sage can relax and, with a light heart, she makes her way back to the Alexandria library. She has lots of reading to catch up on.