IN MEMORIAM

Frank N. McMillan and the Circle of Friends of Analytical Psychology at Texas A & M University

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One step, a thousand new pathways
Confucius

In 1985 Frank N. McMillan, Jr. endowed a professorship in analytical psychology at Texas A & M University. As far as I know, it is the first such permanent academic post in the world. In 1986 I was honoured to have been selected to be the first holder of this professorship. Indicative of Frank's character was his insistence that the professorship be in analytical psychology rather than in general psychology. Further demonstrating Frank's individuality was his insistence on being involved in interviewing applicants who were being considered for the professorship.

The genesis for Frank's decision to endow the professorship goes back to his childhood. The following is taken from one of the many journals that Frank kept throughout his life (it concerns a Big Dream that Frank had when he was a boy of seven):

An Early Dream (1914)

Setting: My mother is in the hospital in Temple, Texas, for an operation. My father and I are alone on the farm.

The Dream: My father and I go to the house of one of the negro tenant families for supper. The people there are black and hospitable. After returning to our house and retiring, I awake to see [an enormous] maned lion standing in the door and looking at me with great yellow eyes. I am paralyzed with terror — unable to move or speak. The great lion slowly approaches and licks my face with his huge tongue. The terror is released and I let out a mighty yell that scared my father half to death.

Interpretation: For forty years this was simply a nightmare — but I never forgot it. After becoming acquainted with Carl Jung, I began to see the symbolism. The meal with the black folks (a thing not done in those days) was a meeting with
and acceptance of my 'shadow'. The lion was that autonomous part of the psyche, the collective unconscious. When faced and recognized, he (it) proved to be a powerful and friendly force. In later years, this dream has become a comforting, sustaining force.

It was this dream that Frank once shared with Sir Laurens van der Post. Their encounter is recorded for posterity by Sir Laurens and he calls Frank a white Bushman — as he himself is identified (van der Post 1988, pp. 4-5). Frank and Sir Laurens initiated a friendship and correspondence. After Frank's death in 1988, the connections have remained strong between the van der Post and McMillan families. An indication of this is that Sir Laurens is the godfather of baby Frank McMillan IV. Another sign is that Sir Laurens informed me in a recent letter that he forwarded a copy of a eulogistic 'Tribute to Frank N. McMillan', which I had sent to him, accompanied by his correspondence with Frank to the Archives in the Frank N. McMillan Library at the Cape of Good Hope Centre for Jungian Studies in Cape Town, South Africa.

But how did Frank get to the C. G. Jung Educational Center in Houston where he met Sir Laurens van der Post? This is a most interesting tale, which Frank shared with me when I asked him how he came to know Jung's work. The context for this incident is important. Frank was living in Corpus Christi, Texas. Although happily married with an excellent job and a growing family, Frank questioned the meaning of his life. At times he even felt lost.

Dante expressed it so well when he wrote in his Inferno:

In the middle of the journey of our life
I found myself in the dark wood,
For I had lost the right path.

At the time, Frank was working near Bay City, Texas. It was in Wadsworth, Texas — a village near Bay City — that Frank's Grail quest began. He was in the village country store and café, having lunch, when a local eccentric artist came in. The artist was ecstatically waving a letter in the air as he shouted out: 'He wrote back to me!' After the fellow calmed down, Frank asked, 'Who wrote back to you?' The eccentric said: 'Carl Jung from Switzerland.' Frank responded, 'Who's that?' The artist said, 'Jung is a master psychologist and one of the greatest healers of all time. Just read his books.' Frank asked the fellow if he could buy his books in Bay City and the painter answered, 'Oh no — you'll have to go to the Jung Center in Houston.'

The search for meaning led Frank to the C. G. Jung Educational Center in Houston where he bought The Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious, Volume 9: of the Collected Works. He took it home and
read it through several times. He was moved and felt that Jung was writing to him. This led Frank to buy and read the rest of the *Collected Works* and he attributed his rebirth and becoming his 'true self' to Carl Jung. Frank used to say 'Jung saved my life.' Frank followed Jung's example and read widely; he was self-educated in the humanities (especially literature and philosophy) as well as in the sciences.

A fitting tribute to Frank, which now hangs on the wall along with two photographs of him (one of these is included here) and a plaque
regarding the endowed professorship, was presented on 12 April 1992 at a ceremony dedicating a Frank N. McMillan reading area contiguous to the Shirley Bazar Steer Analytical Psychology Book Section in the Department of Psychology Steer Library (the Sells Resource Collection).

Frank impressed me and others who got to know him as a wise man. He was born and raised on a ranch in Milam County near Calvert, Texas, which is not far from College Station. He followed the lead of his father who also graduated from Texas A & M; Frank was an Aggie through and through, with degrees in Geology and Petroleum Engineering. I will never forget when I first met Frank, in his rancher clothes (khaki pants and long sleeve shirt) and wearing a black eye patch. His handshake was firm and his embrace genuine. Frank was a warm and engaging person. His endowment of a Professorship in Analytical Psychology at Texas A & M University was an act of individuation, a giving of himself so others could learn. Already hundreds, and eventually thousands, of students and citizens will hear about Carl Jung and his ideas because of Frank N. McMillan.

Frank died, after a long illness, on 4 March 1988; but his legacy and spirit live on. He touched many people, one of whom was Carolyn Grant Fay, who, in April 1988, while she was President of the C. G. Jung Educational Center of Houston, endowed an annual Lecture and Book Series at Texas A & M in Analytical Psychology. The Fay Lectures, like the Terry Lectures at Yale (which Jung gave in 1937), are subsequently published by the Texas A & M University Press. This scholarly activity extends Frank McMillan’s vision that analytical psychology be at the heart and soul of the university. Another person who knew Frank was Shirley Bazar Steer who, in 1989, endowed an analytical psychology book section in the Sells Resource Collection, Department of Psychology, at Texas A & M. Sadly, Frank did not live to see these developments, but he did know that they were in the pipe-line.

There is another ‘grassroots’ endowment, open to all, honouring Frank’s dream – the forever enlarging Circle of Friends of Analytical Psychology at Texas A & M University. This group’s philanthropic commitment complements the McMillan, Fay, and Steer endowments and will enable us to publish a monograph series on research topics in analytical psychology, for the most part based on worthy dissertations of PhD students in analytical psychology. Frank sowed the seeds for the serious study of Jung’s psychology and the first harvest has taken place. In August 1991, Sharon Julsonnet became the first graduate student to receive her PhD in clinical psychology from Texas A & M specifically in analytical psychology. Her dissertation on Androgyny, Individuation and Self-Actualization merits publication. The Circle of Friends will also allow for support of research at the pre-
and post-doctoral level and provide assistance to visiting researchers, lecturers, and professors in analytical psychology. Holly Huston is currently working on her doctoral research in the area of analytical psychology, studying nightmares. She completed her master's thesis on Collective (Archetypal) Memory and has co-authored one publication on this subject (Rosen et al. 1991). Donna Smetana also completed her master's thesis in the area of analytical psychology, investigating typology, self-esteem and neuroticism in veterinary medicine students. In addition, undergraduate and graduate students have worked with me on the following analytical psychology research projects: a Jungian approach to the treatment of depressive and suicidal states, colour preference and typology, numbers as related to gender, Taoism and Jung's psychology, evidence of spirituality in primates, an inborn basis to the doctor-patient relationship, and the nature of the healing process.

Frank was one of the main influences for my coming to Texas A & M University. In March 1986, during my first visit to Texas A & M, I spent two uninterrupted hours with Frank, riding from College Station to Houston. We talked about Carl Jung and his psychology, spirituality, and the Tao. Frank, who called Carl Jung 'the old man', felt very close to him. That evening at the Houston Jung Center, Frank introduced me as his friend, and it was mutual.

Analytical psychology at Texas A & M? How did Frank know that it would work? He felt that there was no better place than Aggieland, a rural setting with ranch terrain, to sow the seeds of Carl Jung. Frank said to me, 'You'll be like Davy Crockett coming over the Cumberland Gap. The students will respond: they are searching for meaning in a world that seems increasingly meaningless.' It also is common sense: there are no urban distractions and Aggies respond to Jungian ideas and archetypes that speak of something that is growing and developing (using an agricultural model) or of something that is being developed and constructed (using an engineering model).*

Frank used to say that Texas A & M is the 'real frontier', and he was correct. To be a pioneer, like him, is rejuvenating. Frank has allowed me and many others to experience, as he once called it, 'the leading edge... where opportunity lives'. He was accustomed to 'taking the road less travelled', and his gift, by example, encourages each of us to embark on our own journey, which brings new life, knowledge, creativity, and joy to oneself and one's significant others, whether they be family, students, patients, or colleagues along the way. For this opportunity, I will be forever grateful to Frank N. McMillan.

Frank models what the nineteenth-century woodcut 'Spiritual
Pilgrim Discovering Another World’ shows. (Frank loved this woodcut and it was on the cover of a compendium of quotes that he put together from Jung’s *Collected Works.*) He was an inspiring man, discovering another world in life, death, and beyond. My hope and prayer is that much peace and love accompany and surround Frank as he continues on his journey, and my sense is that this is so.

Frank McMillan’s testament will live on forever. He helped bring analytical psychology into the mainstream of university life. His action has illuminated the dark halls of academic psychology. A fitting amplification of Frank’s deed would be for others, so moved, to endow professorships in analytical psychology at universities around the world. Frank did his part, now it is up to us. We can also join the ever-enlarging Circle of Friends of Analytical Psychology (Please contact the author for more information about this or other activities in analytical (Jungian) psychology at Texas A & M University).

**NOTE**

* Texas A & M, founded in 1876, is the oldest university in Texas. Originally A & M stood for Agriculture & Mechanics, but in the 1960s A & M was to be dropped from the name with a plan that it be renamed something like Texas State University,
like Ohio State. Aggies protested and so A & M by a state-level edict was kept. However it became a symbol. I’ve quietly wondered if it stands for Analysis and Meditation!

REFERENCES
