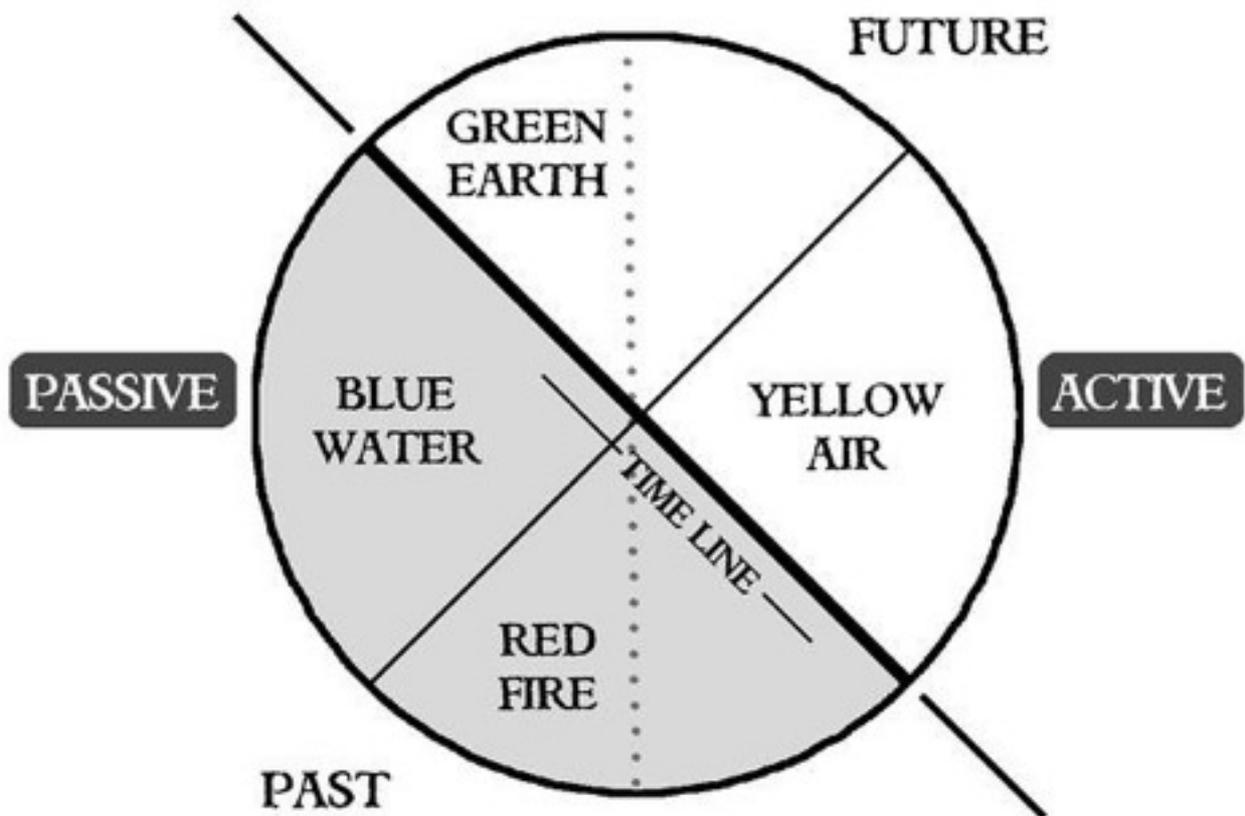

Active and Passive

First Degree Paper for *The Historia Illius Itineris*

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Introduction

This symbol is a dynamic representation of one of the ways in which the metaphoric landscape is arranged according to a number of different representational values. There will always be exceptions and this symbol is offered not so much as a statement of fact, but rather to stimulate thinking about the different qualities within the landscape.

The Vertical Axis

The vertical dotted line divides the left from the right. The passive and the active.

What is left is what is left for the person to explore. It is unexplored. It is left waiting, it is left over there, it's the leftovers. Hence what is left is generally denoted in passive terms.

What is right exerts a dynamic force on the person. It's right for me, it's the right way to go, it's right over there. Hence, what is right is denoted in active terms.

The Diagonal Axis (Time Line)

Actually, this is thresholded - generally what is left is historical and what is behind is also historical. The rear left quadrant possesses the strongest historical qualities (left behind), and the strength of this aspect fades as we move away from of the quadrant in the forwards and/or the right direction.

The inverse of this is true for the future. We look forward to the future (forwards) and also to what is right. The right way forward has the strongest future quality.

The Elemental Diagonal Axis

The elemental diagonal axis allows us to divide up the four quadrants into elemental qualities. Earth (green) is the element associated with the North, and for our purposes in *The Historia Illius Itineris* is forwards.

Thus water (blue - West) is to the left, air (yellow - East) is right, and Fire (red - South) is behind.

A greater practical understanding of these correspondences is a key part of the 2nd degree work.

Exploration exercise - this exercise has no conclusion or outcome and is designed to initiate conversation and discussion.

Part 1. Active/Passive

Elicit a metaphor and expand out into the metaphoric plane.

Examine and map out the following qualities within the metaphor:

- those features that have an influence upon me (“They change me.”)
- those features that I exert influence upon (“I change them.”)

Now it’s confusion time. Looking at The Symbol, consider: “Active with respect to what?”, “Passive with respect to what?”

Can anything in the metaphor be both active and passive?

Are there any representational differences in these metaphoric features that give clues with regards to the levels activity/passivity?

Part 2. Past/Future

Now examine all features within the metaphoric plane and consider the placements of those which are future orientated, and those which are historical.

How does this interact and/or overlap with activity and passivity?

Now consider the orientation of these features within the metaphoric plane. for example, which way does a house orientate - which direction does the front of the house point to? If there is a person, which way are they facing? What do these orientations tell you about this particular feature?

If items in the metaphor have mobility, what is the direction of their trajectory? Again, what does this tell you about these features?

Part 3. The Elements.

Earth = North
Fire = South
Air = East
Water = West

Examine the orientation in the metaphor and the generalisations that *lie* within. For example, if my metaphor is me standing on a cliff, facing the edge and in front and below of me is the ocean as a primary feature, it may be suggested that I am facing East.

If in my metaphor I am in a room and in front of me is the fire place as a primary feature, then it might be said that I am facing South.

But what of the other elements, do they align accordingly too?

Once you have decided which way you are orientated, turn clockwise to the north.

- What do you notice?
- What happens?
- How does that change things?