

Map of Dionysus: BTS' Modern Appreciation for Mythical Madness

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Definitions to Note for Clarity:

Idol- A Korean Pop performer; they are often signed to a large label and idolized by fans for their talents and attributes

Madness Complex- the satisfactory outcome of defining Dionysus and "undefinable"

Who Is BTS?

- Korean Pop group who debuted in 2013
- The most decorated Korean artist in history,
- Creators of the UNICEF Anti-Bullying "Love Yourself" Campaign
- UN Ambassadors for the nation of South Korea

Who/What is Dionysus?

- more of a feeling/experience than anything else
- wine and theatre, as nouns don't do him justice
- rather, diminishing him
- wine loosens the strict boundaries of logic and reality.
- the Broca's Area of the brain: the "brain-to-mouth" filter
- voluntary drinking: ritual madness
- theatre crosses the boundaries of reality naturally
- staged transformation of character by actors
- evoking of illusion and alternate reality

Acoetes: The God is Most Distant from Mortals When he is Physically Present

- Dionysus represents personal, human experiences
- a composite figure through culture and time
- has presented paradoxes, complexity, and some unknown

"Intro: Persona" A Pig with Pearls

- begins in the second act of the hero's journey, crossing the threshold
- ubiquitous "who the hell am I?" question
- persona is Latin for mask
- internal battle between idol's fame and natural self
- mask becomes all-encompassing and irremovable
- inability to reign in the madness of fame
- Carl Jung's psychology of shadow:
- unknown part of self that stops an individual from reaching their full potential
- BTS antithesis to Dionysian form— puppets in theatre of madness

A Brief Side-Step Outside of the Journey

(Boy with Luv, Mikrokosmos, Make it Right)

You Know You got That... "Home"

- finding a home amongst fans outside of their country of Korea
- Dionysus found his home outside of Thrace, "becoming Greek"
- Both BTS and Dionysus known to show their best feats outside of their home
- what it means to be able to have a sense of power and control in outside of your comfort zone

- transforming into multiple variations of your comfort zone
- drop your mask at home

You're Mad n a "Jamais Vu" Blur

- self outside of interpersonal relations
- Jamais vu opposite of deja vu
- a mirror maze lost in self
- intense introspection leads to the budding of the madness complex
- success of BTS' journey give fact to the madness complex
- experiencing attributes of Dionysus
 - paradox
 - confusion
- embracing of the shadow banishes its daunting status

"Dionysus": Art is Alcohol, Too

- triumph from idol to artist
- hero's resurrection and return
- rebirth as idols
- return to self
- "drunk on art" conflation of art and alcohol
- ritual intake and output
- Modern Dionysus at its Finest

How to find more information on this paper, the music that inspired it, and my contact information:

