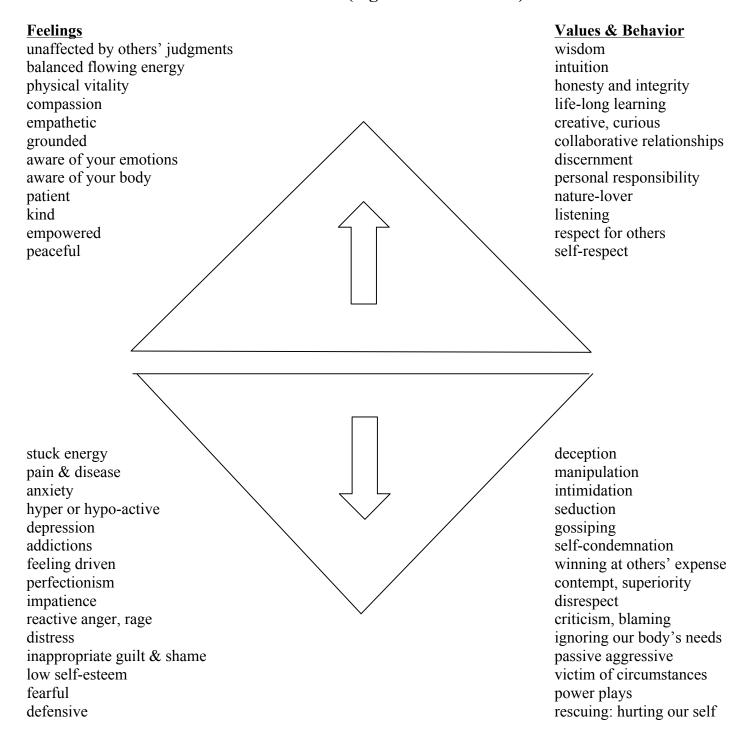
Authentic Self (higher consciousness)



Adapted Self (shadow material)

Sometimes we think we're seated in our Authentic Self, but we're not. An adapted "good" part of our personality is people-pleasing. We developed childhood coping strategies to seek positive strokes and avoid punishment. Before we can discover the Authentic Self, we must heal the unconscious emotional wounds that drive these adaptive coping strategies.

Ask this question repeatedly: "Who I am really?"
To move **up** into your Authentic Self, you have to go **down** into your shadow. The Hero's Journey requires us to make our unconscious material conscious. We're challenged to develop self-awareness, self-compassion and claim our true identity, which will enable us to make wise choices.