

2021 Missouri Department of Mental Health's Spring Training
Institute

“When heroic force fails:
trickster stories show the way”

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(Outline — rough draft)

Examples of trickster tales:

Dealing with darkness/background:

- * Astronaut returning from space
- * Nasreddin: looking for his key
- * Nasreddin: The moon is greater than the sun

Traits and characters of trickster tales

Raven

Fox

Coyote

Rabbit

Are fairy tales "true?"

- * Story of Truth and Lie
- * Story of The Independent Bird

"If you want to tell people the truth, make them laugh, otherwise they will kill you."
—George Bernard Shaw

Tricksters compared with heroes— what is heroism?

“Loyalty in action, regardless obstacles or challenges, to one’s most cherished values — this is the essence of moral rectitude — and it is the foundation of heroism.” Andrew Bernstein

Heroism as initiation or hero's journey

* The Half Boy — stages of the hero's journey

Global initiation today — Covid and climate change?

Fame replacing actual heroism

Extremism as enantiodromia

Superheroes: by-passing heroism

* The Snake Prince — hyper-masculinity

The ultimate trick?

* Story of god hiding

“If you bring forth what is within you, what you bring forth will save you. If you don't bring forth what is within you, what you do not bring forth will destroy you.” Gospel of Thomas

Bringing hero and trickster together:

- * Story of Eísik's Dream

- * Story of Fatíma (gift with wound)

Trickster offers non-violent conflict resolution:

* Dealing with drug dealers knocking at your door
(you know, by mistake!)

Other examples of dealing with bullies

Summary and discussion of the objectives

Discuss how stories better connect us to self/world

Discuss insights/creativity from stories

Discuss non-violent conflict resolution through story