

# HUMPTY DUMPTY AND THE EGO IN ALIC'S ADVENTURES

by:

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## Lewis Carroll

He was born on 27 January, 1832 in Cheshire, England and was the eldest boy of his parents. His father Charles Dodgson was a conservative clergyman of the Anglican Church and a supporter of Anglo-Catholicism. Young Lewis was educated at home until the age of twelve, when he was sent to a private school nearby Richmond. In 1846, he moved to Rugby School where he excelled in academy throughout, especially in mathematics. As a child, Lewis took a keen

interest in literature and read such authors as William Shakespeare, John Ruskin, Charles Dickens, and Lord Alfred Tennyson. He began writing short stories for his family magazine at a very young age. Though he never was a hard worker, success came to him easily because of his exceptional sharpness and intellect. He wrote short stories out of a passionate exploration of the world when he was just a child which grew into a merely great passion at his youth.

# INTRODUCTION

Humpty Dumpty has been carved in one's memory as merely an egg. But, the writer Lewis Carroll brilliantly puts him as a symbol of growth and fragility of the ego as it develops from embryo into full-blown being. Yet, Humpty is a very clever person who can



decipher puzzles and find new meanings for old concepts; has a lot of clever things to say to Alice and likes to trick her with riddles and making up meanings for words, but he is obviously very green around the edges when it comes to engaging in a pleasant sort of way. He seems to view his whole interaction with Alice as some sort of game, his goal for which is, to win.



The ego pontificates and confuses to avoid a depth that would quickly crack the protective container and reveal a very soft and undeveloped interior. Humpty is self-confident, over self-confident, which gives him a false sense of security that causes his downfall eventually. Humpty was sitting on a wall, maybe just enjoying the view from up there. But there is always a deeper



meaning to things. The wall separates two areas; fencing one's own worth! And at the same time a symbol of indecision. Sitting on the wall of indecision, giving in to his fears, stops his growth as human and spiritual being. It wasn't just a "great fall." It was a "GREAT FALL!" This is the fall from grace, the descent into darkness! It's not all bad though, because one actually needs to fall:



It is one's destiny to descend into the depths of humanity, to penetrate and experience the darkest places of being. One cannot grow without experiencing all feelings, including joy and pain, love and fear, peace and anger, and good and evil. Falling is built into one's destiny, because without the fall one is not going to



be able to reach the utmost level of spirituality. Thus, the shell must be broken into a thousand pieces. The egos must be shattered if there is any hope of entering the light of spirituality. One's defenses must crumble and be rendered useless if one is to open to her/his true nature and one's higher self. The shell of ego keeps the self in prison, locked

up in a cell of its limited thinking, allowing no spiritual growth. However, as Humpty Dumpty is an actual egg (in an early state of eg(g)o formation), he represents growth, and he also represents the need to find proper balance in any given circumstances.

# CONCLUSION

1. Humpty Dumpty is like so many of human beings, too afraid to really commit to a path of action, to a dream, ambition, aim, or to find a true purpose here on earth – and then live it.
2. One must not try to put himself together again, or try to piece together the barrier to his inner truth and beauty. It will only put him back on the wall. Instead, one should celebrate the spiritual journey, and tries instead



to revel in the kingdom of the heart, not the mind.

3. Fear is the first step towards change, once becomes an obsession; it becomes a disease and a psychological imprisonment.

**Thank You for Listening**

**Hoping that no one of you is  
going to be Humpty Dumpty**