

# Inferiority and compensation. Considerations on a fundamental symbol in western culture

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The full article is available for download in Italian only.

*Summary.* The considerations developed in this poster can be summarised as follows: firstly, the symbol of Christ on the cross, a religious symbol per se, is read using other keys to interpretation (psychodynamic, literary, sociological and philosophical) on an Adlerian basis; this highlights that the basic dynamics is always the inferiority/superiority dialectic. Secondly, the symbols "cross" and "crossing" - very rich in meaning and present in several cultures - are analysed; the definition of a genetic phenomenon as a crossing-over brings us back to Adler's brilliant intuition of the psychological and biological world of human beings as based on an inferiority/compensation dynamics, as if these two forces were "crossing" for survival's sake. Finally, this poster suggests a possible formalisation of the way in which compensation and inferiority operate, by drawing a xy Cartesian coordinate system on which normal and pathological psychological manifestations are placed.

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