

# There is no spoon: Hero and Soteriology in the Modern Myth of the '*Matrix*

'*Matrix* is the name of a movie. Starring:Keanu Reeves, Laurence  
Fishburne.Director/Screenwriter: Andy and Larry Wachowski. RunTime:  
150 Minutes. Release Date: 1999

Seong, Hae-Young\*

## **Matrix - the modern myth**

Human beings cannot live without myth. It is a little bit daring to proclaim this, however I believe it to be so. Throughout human history myth was the important tool that provided us with insight into the origin of life, however in modern times the essential value of myth has been forgotten due to rationalistic trends. In this way, modern people have lost the power of myth, which is often closely connected with the ultimate meaning of life. Furthermore, as Mircea Eliade has pointed out, we do not realize the danger of losing myth altogether Eliade, Mircea. *Images et Symboles*, 11p-29p(translated) by Lee, Jae-Sil. Kachi Press.1997. Even though this might be the case, some people continue to feel the

---

\* 서울대 종교학과 석사

importance of myth and, intuitively and sensitively are looking for an alternative myth, or a modern myth. This myth is the movie, which is one of the latest forms of cultural creation and was made possible only due to the developments of science. The theater is now the modern 'sacred cave' in which the sacred story is heard. We satisfy our thirst for essential power by watching the 'sacred story' that enables us to regain the power of life.

In the dark space of the theater we exert our a priori imagination and capacity of empathy to the utmost degree. Watching the 'festival of light' on the silver screen, we transcend the limits of time and space, which constrain our mundane existential condition. It is true that we are physically in the theater, at that particular time, however in fact we may not actually be there but in the movie itself. This is the paradoxical situation that we experience in the movie theater. In this way, we discover new sources of power necessary for our living and the movie comes to function as an important reservoir of mythical instincts. However, the theater does not always become a playground of myth for everybody. Someone who wants to taste the existential catharsis should adopt an open attitude towards the movie. Furthermore, the focus should be limited to movies that have mythical values. After all, not all movies could be considered mythical.

The movie 'Matrix' is a typical example of modern myth. This movie reveals mythical insights about relationships between the hero and the essential power of life. Also, 'Matrix' deals with a variety of themes such as the unification of several opposite poles, like immanency and transcendence, anima and animus etc. This movie tells us that through the unification of opposites we gain true knowledge of 'who we really are'. In other words, it

can be best described as a way of unification that all peoples should undertake. In this respect, 'Matrix' is a modern myth, because it deals with the very old themes of myth but in a contemporary context. There are several experts who specialize in myth, especially C. G. Jung See *Man and His Symbol*. Carl G. Jung (ed.), Dell Publishing, New York, 1964 and J. Campbell See *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*. Joseph Campbell, Princeton University Press. 1949., whose approaches to myth will be very helpful in deepening our understanding of myth in 'Matrix'.

Keanu Reeves, who already has experienced enlightenment in 'Little Buddha' Little Buddha is the name of a movie. Starring: Keanu Reeves, Ying Ruo Cheng Director: Bernardo Bertolucci. RunTime: 123 Minutes. Release Date: May 1994, has the opportunity to gain a second experience of enlightenment in 'Matrix'. Indeed, reading 'Matrix' as a 'text' in this regard is very productive since it has the potential for diverse interpretations. The movie includes various themes such as digital culture, technological dystopia, extrasensory power, New Age, enlightenment and salvation. Proportional to the openness in our attitude, it can be read as anything from a modern Science Fiction film full of violence to a mythical story about immortality and salvation. Thanks to the skillful work of the Wachowski brothers, 'Matrix' provides us with an ideal text that not only galvanizes our 'mythic instincts', but also allows us to analyze some interesting aspects of modern myth. Firstly, let's take a closer look at this movie in regards to the 'Heroic Myth'.

### **What is the Matrix and who is Neo?**

The world of 'Matrix' is based upon bipolar or antagonistic structures. One day in the late 20th century, human beings developed the magnificent and efficient system of Artificial

Intelligence (hereafter AI), which organized the whole of society. For some unknown reason AI revolted against human beings and a destructive war was waged between humans and machines. To turn the tide of war human beings attacked AI with nuclear weapons, however this delivered an irreversible and fatal blow to the environment. After losing the war, human beings fled deep underground, since then they had fought continuously with AI. AI won the war, though not without being seriously damaged. Due to the aftermath of nuclear destruction, there was a shortage of energy. At last AI figured out a way to use human beings as an energy source and they made a gigantic complex in which they could grow human being like crops. In this way AI harvested the bioelectricity energy of living bodies. People were cultivated as nothing more than an electric cell or battery!

The movie is set in 2199, a long time after the outbreak of war. The earth remains divided into two antagonistic parties: AI and the human beings who are still fighting for the liberation of all people from AI. These two parties are waging war in the virtual space called 'Matrix'. In the Matrix, people are sleeping in a deep dream without realizing they are being cultivated because the dreams seem so real that they could not awaken from it. The Matrix was devised by AI after several trial and errors and is used as the mechanism for collecting bioelectricity from living people. Naturally it is also the main target of the rebel army. They aim at liberating all human beings from the Matrix and plan to move people to 'Zion' The hill of Jerusalem on which the city of David was built. The New Oxford Dictionary of English, Oxford University Press, 1998., a land that the rebel army still controls. Zion is the last remaining human city and it is located somewhere deep in the earth with its exact location hidden.

'Matrix' An environment or material in which something

develops; a surrounding medium or structure. The New Oxford Dictionary of English, Oxford University Press, 1998. is the most crucial concept in this movie, so it is important that we have a clear understanding of it before we proceed. Morpheus In Roman Mythology Morpheus is the son of Somnus (god of sleep), the god of dreams and in later writings also the god of sleep. The New Oxford Dictionary of English, Oxford University Press, 1998., the legendary and indomitable leader of rebel army said that the 'Matrix is neural-interactive simulation it is a computer generated dream world built to keep us under control Matrix is everywhere. It is all around us, even now in this very room... It is the world that has been pulled over your eyes to blind you from the truth The truth is that you are slave caught in a prison for your mind. Unfortunately, no one can be told what the Matrix is. You have to see it for yourself'.

Considering his words, we can see that Matrix is not just the neural-interactive simulation program that collects bioelectricity. Rather, it is better to describe Matrix as Maya, which is the opposite concept of Nirvana(涅槃) or ultimate reality. The Matrix is only the illusion or dream. Although it seems so real, it is not real and we could only know the unreality through waking from the dream. Furthermore, the Matrix is the field full of pain and desire and also where the experience of enlightenment is possible. Like the dream of Chuang-Tze(莊子, 399-295 B.C) Dream of a Butterfly(胡蝶之夢): One day, Chuang-Tze dreams that he is a butterfly. The dream is just like reality and he acts exactly like a butterfly in the dream. After he wakes up, he was unable to differentiate whether he was Chuang-Tze dreaming that he was a butterfly or whether he was a butterfly dreaming that he was Chuang-Tze. Chuang-Tzu, Burton Watson (translator), The Complete Works of Chuang-tzu, Columbia University Press, New

York London, 1968 p.49. , the Matrix is so real that it is almost difficult to know whether it is real or not. What if we were unable to wake from that dream, how can we know the difference between the dream world and the real world? Morpheus said that 'If you're talking about what you can feel, what you can smell, what you can taste and see, then real is simply electrical signals interpreted by your brain'. In the movie, the Matrix provides all signals that make people believe that they live in a real world.

Matrix is so important to both sides that they desperately vie for its dominance. AI created powerful agents who wage war against the rebel army in the Matrix. The leader of the agents is agent Smith. He is the gatekeeper who represents AI, while Zion's gatekeeper is Morpheus. Both character are wise, strong and adamant fighters. Agent Smith is especially strong having killed many rebels. Agent Smith has been trying to catch Morpheus so as to end the revolt. Until now, agent Smith and A.I were the dominant party, however decisive variables emerged that changed the environment. Namely, Neo who will liberate all people from the Matrix.

Neo is the mythical hero and warrior destined to bring freedom to the people. In this respect, we could refer to him as a savior. He is the typical hero of a myth who dreams of gaining transcendence and immortality. Further, he is the reincarnated figure who started the revolt against AI. Neo should win against agent Smith, the gatekeeper of AI, and put the Matrix under his own control. In other words, he should discover his real identity through overcoming his existential conditions and his main obligation is to realize Zion in the Matrix.

His character as a mythical hero is well represented in the course of his life in the movie. He follows the typical path of a

hero, which Joseph Campbell described in the three stages of 'separation-initiation-reintegration' Campbell, Joseph. *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*. 34p-35p. Lee, Yoon-Ki (trans), Dae-Won Press, 1996.. Neo is separated from ordinary life for the world of supernatural wonders. While there he encounters the mystical power and obtains this power by solving the mystery. Finally, he returns to the ordinary world with a power that will benefit other people. In this way, he will make a drastic change to the Matrix. As we can see, Neo's life is exactly consistent with the three stages typically followed by a hero. Using these three stages we will now make a more detailed examination of the heroic journey of Neo.

### **The first stage: separation from ordinary life**

Neo works in a big software company. His othername is Thomas A. Anderson and he has bright future as a computer programmer. Curiously enough, the name of his company is Meta-cortex. Cortex is the most evolved part of the human brain, which takes charge of complex thinking processes. The word, Meta means that the company plays an important role in making and organizing the Matrix through controlling the thought processes of human beings. Thomas A. Anderson relieves his frustrated desires caused by his dull life through resorting to computer hacking. However, his anti-societal activities lack concrete direction or aims, so they are fragmented and meaningless. The duality of Neo's life is best represented as the deep abyss between the social persona and the inner self. Furthermore, this rift signifies the frustration and anger of a social outsider.

Escape from ordinary life starts with Neo obeying the direction: 'Follow the white rabbit' Carroll, Lewis. Alice in

Wonderland, New York: W. W. Norton Press, 1971. Like Alice in Wonderland, Neo follows the white rabbit and meets the mysterious woman Trinity. Without knowing what the encounter will bring about, Neo was excited at meeting Trinity, the legendary computer hacker. In fact, she is his suppressed anima that hides in his innermost consciousness. She said to him, 'I know why you hardly sleep, why you live alone...You're looking for him... I was once looking for the same thing. And when he found me, he told me I wasn't really looking for him. I was looking for an answer. It's the question that drives us mad. It's the question that brought you here. You know the question just as I did. The answer is out there, Neo. It's looking for you. And it will find you, if you want it to'. She also implied that she has the key to the answer. After he met her, everything in his peaceful life cracked unknowingly.

Neo is arrested by the agents and is taken to their headquarters. While there, Neo is warned by an agent about the danger he will face if he does not cooperate. Agent Smith said to Neo that he will lose everything he has earned such as social position, economic security etc. Especially, agent Smith threatens Neo that he will lose his future and asks him to help them to find Morpheus. Agent Smith's remark shows that safety of an ordinary life is the biggest obstacle hindering the separation from the known world and a journey to the unknown world. Anyway, Neo could not tolerate his monotonous life any more; hence he was attracted to the dangerous path.

### **Second stage: Initiation and self-training**

Neo decides to meet Morpheus and to find out answers to his long-held question 'what is the Matrix?' He goes to the meeting place with Trinity. On his way to the meeting it rains

continuously. The rain signifies purification that precedes a sacred initiation rite. Morpheus gives Neo a red pill; by which Neo is able see the true appearance of the Matrix. The red pill is the same symbol as the fruit of the 'Tree of Knowledge' The tree in the Garden of Eden bearing the forbidden fruit which Adam and Eve disobediently ate (Gen. 3:22-24). The New Oxford Dictionary of English, Oxford University Press, 1998. in the Bible. Before giving him the red pill, Morpheus asks 'Do you believe in fate, Neo?' Neo answers firmly, 'NO, because I don't like the idea that I'm not in control of my life'. Now he is more adamant than everbefore, but he does not have any idea of the danger and wonder he will soon go through.

The red pill Neo chooses signifies that his past will be completely burned away and his future path will be violent, passionate and bloody. Due to the effect of red pill, Neo experiences an altered state of consciousness and finally he see the true and real world behind the doubtful life. Cypher, another important member of rebel group, said to Neo, 'It means buckle your seat belt, Dorothy, because Kansas is going bye-bye'. Cypher's remark implies that Neo's past life is a submissive one, while the coming life will be more violent, magical and far from ordinary, just like Dorothy's journey to the wonderful wizard of Oz. Baum, L. Frank. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Oxford University Press, 1997.

Neo suffers his first death in the initiation. After he regains his consciousness in the ship, Nebuchadnezzar, he asks Morpheus, 'Am I dead?' and Morpheus replies, 'Far from it'. Morpheus means that the first death in the initiation rite should be completed by another death to bring about a real birth. At this point he turns his back on the familiar and false world that he had believed to be true. Morpheus' first saying is 'Welcome to

the real world'. Neo has to move forward into the unknown and dark area. It is full of innumerable possibilities. The ship, Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon 605-562 BC. In 586 BC he captured and destroyed Jerusalem and deported many Israelites in what is known as the Babylonian Captivity., is their home and headquarters, meaning that the small cult group is collectively undertaking a spiritual journey. The ship holds the same symbolism as a church in the sense that it represents a spiritual community. Furthermore, their collective fate largely depends on the interpretation of their dream - for them the Matrix - and adaptation to it, like a Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon in Old Testament Old Testament, Daniel 4:1-34. The Holy Bible, 1489p-1491p (common translation), Work & Play Publications, Kwang-Ju, 1995.. In short, they are undertaking a spiritual journey for truth and salvation, and their most important task is to discover the secret of their dream, the Matrix.

Neo is regarded as 'the one', who is destined to solve the mystery of the Matrix and liberate all people by putting the system under his will. However, not all of the members of the rebel group are confident in Neo's ability, except for Morpheus. Even Neo himself could not fully accept Morpheus' word. Knowing the situation, Morpheus teaches everything to Neo. He starts his training and it can be best described as a way of knowing who he really is by breaking his old and learned ignorance. He said to Neo, 'Free your mind. You have to let it all go, Neo, fear, doubt, and disbelief'. Also, the way is the way of the warrior to fight desperately and it is the inner way that one should learn how to control one's mind by will power. At the end of the way, there is an invincible agent Smith. No one could defeat agent Smith, everyone who fought with him was killed. Smith is the dragon that guards the door to secret of the Matrix.

Consequently, all members are afraid to confront agent Smith face to face. However, Morpheus said to Neo that surely Neo would defeat agent Smith, since agent Smith is only a being in the Matrix. He said to Neo, 'I've see an agent punch through a concrete wall. Men have emptied entire clip at them and hit nothing but air. Yet their strength and their speed are still based in a world that is built on rules. Because of that, they will never be as strong or as fast as you can be'. Morpheus' implication is obvious. Agent Smith only exists in Neo's dream, or Neo's consciousness, and the power of agent Smith is proportional to the degree of Neo's conscious projection. In that case, agent Smith does not exist apart from the dreaming person. Neo should fight with agent Smith, the creature of his very own consciousness. In order to win the battle, Neo should break his ignorance first, and Morpheus always says that the one who fights agent Smith is Neo himself, saying 'Neo, but I can only show you the door, you're the one that has to walk through it'.

### **Neo and the characters of his consciousness**

In fact, all the characters in this movie represent the diverse dimensions of consciousness. This is the secret of the film. As C. G. Jung has pointed out, we should pass through 'the individuation', in which people meet the diverse power of the unconsciousness Jung, C. G(ed.), *Man and His Symbol*. 157p-254p. Dell Publishing, New York, 1964. Usually power in the unconsciousness is represented as a symbol, especially in the form of a human being. It is only through realizing that the all of the characters are merely one's own creation that one can unify that power. Surprisingly, Neo's way is consistent with the individuation process explained by Jung. Neo's inner path is full of meeting various people that are completely different to one

another. Let's look at the important figures in this movie. By taking a close look at them, we find that all the characters are only the projection of Neo's consciousness.

Above all, let's take a look at the two most antagonistic characters, agent Smith and Morpheus. In a word, Morpheus is 'Philemon' In Greek Mythology Philemon is a good old countryman living with his wife Baucis in Phrygia who offered hospitality to Zeus and Hermes when the gods came to earth, without revealing their identities, to test people's piety. The New Oxford Dictionary of English, Oxford University Press, 1998., the wise old man who frequently appeared in Jung's dreams Jung, C.G., Aniela Jaffe (ed.) Memories, Dreams, Reflections, Vintage Books, 1989, pp. 182,190. . He is the guru who taught the wisdom of life. In Greek mythology, he is the god of dreams and in this movie he is the guru living in Neo's dreams who continuously guides Neo in his dreams. He even said to Neo, 'You see you may have spent the last few years looking for me, but I've spent my entire life looking for you'. Neo could never be separated from Morpheus, since Morpheus is the guide of his soul and exists in his unconsciousness. Morpheus' crisis forced Neo to make a final decision. Neo comes to know fully that those who do not discover the source of wisdom cannot complete the journey into one's soul. In the movie, Morpheus only points out the way and it is Neo who walks the path alone.

Agent Smith is the shadow of Neo's consciousness. Agent Smith wears a black suit, black shoes, and black glasses. As mentioned above, his power is proportional to Neo's ignorance about himself. In this respect, all the oppressed hostility, brutality, anger and basic instinct of Thomas A. Anderson are symbolized as agent Smith. Without defeating him, Neo will never reach the ultimate secret of his life. However, the fight is far

from an easy one. No one can eliminate or destroy one's own shadow. In the movie, Neo has to do endless 'shadow boxing', until he can discover the right way to unify the shadow with himself. See the chapter 'The realization of the shadow', 171p-185p. *Man and His Symbol*. Jung, Carl G. (ed.), Dell Publishing, New York, 1964.

Contrary to Morpheus and agent Smith, Cypher A figurative expression of a person or thing of no importance, especially a person who does the bidding of others and seems to have no will of their own. The New Oxford Dictionary of English, Oxford University Press, 1998. exists in Neo's consciousness. Cypher represents human desire in Neo's world of consciousness and these desires are mainly physical ones. Cypher craves delicious food and he regards Trinity as an object of sensual desire. In addition to that, he wants to be a famous figure like a movie actor. He even offers an alcoholic beverage to Neo. He talks sarcastically about sacred mission and advised Neo to run away from it, saying '.... So you're here to save the world. What do you say to something like that? A little piece of advice. You see agent, you do what we do. Run. Run your ass off'. Finally, Cypher betrays all of them and sells Morpheus to agent Smith for his own sake. In this way, Cypher symbolizes the weakness and fear which makes people refuse to walk the inner path. Cypher's rudeness in the movie toward Neo is natural and Neo's passiveness is also reasonable, since all of Cypher's remarks to Neo are virtually the inner voice of Neo talking to himself. Cypher is the night of Neo's conscious world. Not surprisingly, the mantra, which Cypher gives to Neo, is 'Ignorance is bliss'. The last word he said to Neo is, '(Have) Sweet dreams'.

Now we meet Oracle A priest or priestess acting as a medium through whom advice or prophecy was sought from the

gods in classical antiquity. The New Oxford Dictionary of English, Oxford University Press, 1998., the most mysterious character in the movie. Oracle is the god principle or ultimate being that exists in the deepest part of human consciousness. According to Morpheus, *'She is very old. She's been with us since the beginning'*. She is the source of great wisdom and creation she does not judge anyone. However, we could easily suppose that she is a goddess. Oracle, as her name represents, prophesizes the divine calling, the inner voice from the deep part of unconsciousness, to Neo: *'Accept the given fate, and make one's own life in it'*. And the phrase, *'Know yourself'*, is the key to the mystery of life. She explains to Neo, *'Being the one is just like being in love. No one can tell you you're in love, you just know it'*. That is, the experience is possible only when a person uses all of one's intuition and feeling. When Neo leaves her house, she reminds Neo, *'You're in control of your life'*. On the other hand, Neo meets several candidates for 'the one' in the Oracle's house, all coming from diverse ethnicities. The children signify that Divinity can be manifested in various forms or ways. Among them a little boy, who probably symbolizes a Buddhist monk, said to Neo *'Do not try to bend the spoon. That's impossible. Instead only try to realize the truth...the truth that there is no spoon...'* and he presents Neo the divine mantra with which he will break the Maya. The mantra for enlightenment was, *'There is no spoon'*. It means there is no such reality in the way you

think.

The other important character in the movie is Trinity. Her name means the perfection or the aim of unification. In fact, Trinity is Neo's See the chapter 'The anima: the woman within', 186p-198p. Man and His Symbol. Jung, Carl G. (ed.), Dell Publishing, New York, 1964 suppressed anima. If Neo wants to complete his way, he should unify with Trinity, his anima. In the next chapter, we will see the important role she plays.

### **Third stage: reintegration**

Due to the betrayal of Cypher, Morpheus falls into a crisis. His crisis forces Neo finally decide to confront agent Smith. Trinity declares to Neo that without her, the mission will not be successful. Neo enters the Matrix and in front of the agent's headquarters he recites his mantra, 'There is no spoon'. In doing so he really wants to realize the mantra in the Maya, or Matrix.

After he rescues Morpheus from agent Smith, he becomes aware of his own power as a warrior. He will even fight with agent Smith in person. However that kind of pride or hubris In Greek tragedy hubris is an excessive pride towards or defiance of the gods, leading to nemesis. The New Oxford Dictionary of English, Oxford University Press, 1998. is the fatal flaw of all heroes. It is especially dangerous that Neo fight against agent Smith without Trinity, his anima. Consequently when he does agent Smith shoots him dead. His death however is necessary for his true mythical re-birth. We do not know exactly where Neo has gone and what he did during his death, however it is sure that he really experienced true death. Who is the savior that rescues him from Hades? It is the Trinity and the rescuing power is love!

Now he completes his inner path by resurrection. The first thing he does after he returns from death is to destroy the reality of the Matrix. He stops a moving bullet (Time), and he flies into agent Smith's body after making his own body infinitely small (Space). In this way, Neo transcends the restricting conditions (Time-Space) of the relative world. Among other things, the fact that Neo neutralizes agent Smith from inside of him with light means he knows how to unify his shadow. It also means that one's own shadow is never destroyed from the outside. This illustrates that his rebirth is complete.

After having returned to the Nebuchadnezzar, Neo kisses Trinity for the first time. This kiss symbolizes the sacred marriage (hieros gamos) between various binary opposite such as 'Knowing the path' and 'Walking the path', 'anima' and 'animus'. There is no more confusion and conflict for him. Neo knows his true self and gains the power with which he can control the Matrix. Now he returns to the Matrix as a savior to liberate the people. His aim is obvious. Now he knows his calling, accepts his fate willingly and walks that path with bravery. In doing so he becomes the master of his own life. However he does not stop there, as a messiah or hero he returns to share the wisdom and power he has acquired. He announces his will as follows: 'I'm going to show them a world without you, a world without rule and controls, without borders or boundaries, a world where anything is possible'.

### **Inner path and the Hero**

Who is Neo? He is one of us; rather he represents all human beings. His enlightenment and salvation is the one we should try to obtain in one's own life. In this respect, Neo is the typical mythical hero who shows us the way of human beings. Although

the background of this movie is the technologically developed future, it is not merely a Science Fiction movie. Rather, the cruelty and hugeness of mechanical dystopia in the movie is the suppressed shadow of modern culture. Agent Smith, the gatekeeper of AI, criticizes human beings as being a virus, saying 'every mammal on this planet instinctively develops a natural equilibrium with the surrounding environment but you humans do not. You move to an area and you multiply and multiply until every natural resource is consumed.... There is another organism that follows the same pattern...A virus. Human beings are a disease, a cancer of this plane'. According to Smith, human beings are the only species that does not know harmony with nature.

To live with nature harmoniously, we should overcome modern civilization's greed and we should meet the mysterious and unknown power inside our own consciousness. Furthermore, we should internalize it through being aware of that power. As C. G. Jung observed in his books, our restricted, narrow ego should learn the wisdom of unconsciousness, and ego should meet the divine principle Jung, Carl G. (ed.), *Man and His Symbol*. 83p-94p. Dell Publishing, New York, 1964. This way is the inner path which will be completed by 'conicidentia oppositorium' between the contradictory pairs in life, such as absoluteness / relativity, anima / animus, transcendence / immanence, and unconsciousness / consciousness.

As I mentioned above, 'Matrix' is the good text. It contains wide possibilities of interpretation. In particular, it can be read as a typical heroic myth. Neo is the character that shows us the essential wisdom of life. In this respect, Matrix can be referred to as a 'modern myth'. At first glance, it looks like a kind of irony or oxymoron. Myth has long history, which we in fact we

do not know the exact beginning of, yet this movie is one of our latest cultural phenomenon. Nowadays we often see the mixture of both these elements. Matrix is a typical episode of this trend. Human beings cannot live without myth, which help people to rediscover the fundamental meaning of life. Especially since people in modern society have forgotten the value of myth. In this way all of the inhumane incidents of the 20th century reflect this obsessive neurosis. However some people still remember or recover the importance of myth and they have made mythical wisdom into the latest form of cultural creation. I think this is the main reason why Matrix has been so popular all over the world since its release.

Matrix is not just a neural-interactive simulation. It is not just the hell in which all people were robbed of their bioelectricity either. 'Zion' is not the paradise that exists over the Matrix. In fact, the Matrix is only the field of possibility that can be changed into heaven or hell. The key to Zion, or the access code to the last human paradise, is 'self-awareness'. Myth has kept these secret keys throughout all times and even in modern times, in which we lack the mythical wisdom of the past, myth has been continuously with us though in a very secular and modern disguise.

## **Bibliography**

- Baum, L. Frank. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, Oxford University Press, 1997
- Bertolucci, Bernardo (Director). *Little Buddha*, May 1994
- Campbell, Joseph. *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*. 34p-35p. Lee, Yoón-Ki (trans), Dae-Won Press, 1996
- Carroll, Lewis. *Alice in Wonderland*, New York: W. W. Norton Press, 1971
- Chuang-Tzu, Burton Watson (translator), *The Complete Works of Chuang-tzu*, Columbia University Press, New York London, 1968
- Eliade, Mircea. *Images et Symboles*, 11p-29p(translated) by Lee, Jae-Sil. Kachi Press.1997
- Jung, C.G. Aniela Jaffe (ed.), *Memories, Dreams, Reflections*, Vintage Books, 1989,
- Jung, Carl G. (ed.), *Man and His Symbol*. 83p-94p. Dell Publishing, New York, 1964
- The Holy Bible*, (common translation), Work & Play Publications, Kwang-Ju, 1995
- The New Oxford Dictionary of English*, Oxford University Press, 1998
- Wachowski, Andy and Larry (Director/Screenwriter). *Matrix*, 1999.
- Wehr, Gerhard, *Carl Gustav Jung: Artz-Tiefenpsychologe Visionar: Eine Bildbiographie*, Han, Mi-Hui(trans), Kachi Press. 1998.