

## TO THE MOON AND BACK: THE ADAPTATION OF MOON AS SYMBOL IN MOON KNIGHT'S COMIC TO TELEVISION SERIES ADAPTATION

<sup>1</sup>Dimas Misbahul Munir, <sup>2</sup>Dian Leoni Andri, <sup>3</sup>Fadhilah Desy Handayani, <sup>4</sup>Gusti Faradila Indrayani, <sup>5</sup>Hadyan Rosyad, <sup>6</sup>Mariam Kusniah, <sup>7</sup>Tatik Apriliya, <sup>8</sup>Yanti Indah Suryani

<sup>1</sup>dimasmunir772002@gmail.com

<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8</sup>UIN Raden Mas Said Surakarta

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### Abstract

Moon Knight is one of the best-selling series in Marvel Studios, and no studies discussed the moon's symbolism in the comic Moon Knight and the TV series adaptations. This paper focuses on a shift in the meaning of the symbol from comics to TV series adaptations. In this research, the qualitative descriptive study is done to reveal whether the TV series adaptation of Moon Knight story faithfully reflects the moon symbolism in the comics. The research uses Hutcheon's adaptation theory as background to analyze symbol adaptation, from the comic to TV series, and Eliade symbol theory to discuss the shift in the meaning of the symbols. The theory of Dissociative Identity Disorder from Kluft is used to analyze the three characters appear in the one body of the Moon Knight. Using Spradley's analysis method, we conclude that there are differences between the story from the Comic Moon Knight and its TV series adaptation. There were deficiencies that did not fully reflect the moon, and three symbols in the scene were unrelated to each other. The benefit of this research is to find out the significance of the differences in symbols in the adaptation of the Moon Knight series and to become reference material for future researchers who want to discuss the symbolization of the moon in the Moon Knight film.

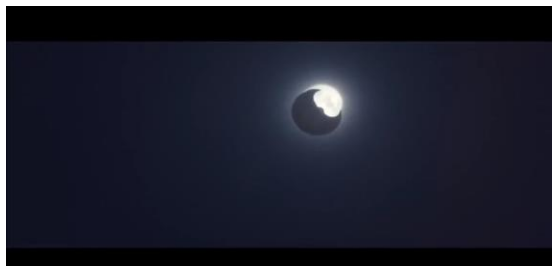
## INTRODUCTION

Adaptation is a common method for presenting well-known, valuable works in the creative industry, particularly in the form of film and TV series. Hutcheon (2006) notes that adapters, like storytellers, use various tools to convey the stories, make choices, simplify, amplify, and extrapolate. Adaptations overtly relate to prior texts, referred to as "sources". Despite aiming for similarity, there must be a discernible difference between a literary work and its adaptation. An example of such adaptation is the uprising TV series "Moon Knight" (2022), adapted from the comic of the same name, notably catching the attention of Marvel fans. Moon Knight (TV Series Version) is a story about a museum employee named Steven

Grant who is drawn into a conspiracy of Egyptian gods when he sees irregularities in his everyday life. He discovers the identity of his alter ego, Marc Spector, who works and gains power from Lord Khonshu. Steven Grant has a sleep disorder where he cannot tell whether the events he sees are real or just memories from another life. He experienced an incident where he woke up in a different location from where he initially slept. Meanwhile, Marc is a person who suffers from DID, a mental disorder in which a person has several distinct personalities.

***Figure 1***

*The Picture of Moon in Moon Knight Series Adaptation*



It is quite difficult to determine whether Moon Knight is a villain or a superhero. This is because he suffers from dissociative identity disorder (DID), where he has more than one personality with different characters, traits, and behaviors. Moon Knight's character, having more than one personality, is similar to the characteristics and symbolism of the moon, which has more than one phase and form. The scene showing a night sky with a shining moon in figure one is taken from the series, which indicates that the story is closely related to the nature of the moon.

The moon, as an object of nature, has different sides when human sees it from the earth. Moon has different phases and so does the main character in the story being discussed, the Moon Knight. This character has three personalities, each with a different name. Marc Spector is symbolized as a moon creation because he is the first personality of Moon Knight's character. The second is Steven Grant who is symbolized as moon growth. He is described as a developed personality who is able to accept the existence of other personalities. The third is Jake Lockley, who illustrates the moon death symbol. When Jake's personality appears, the previous two personalities disappear (unconscious), and he will dominantly take over the consciousness of the Moon Knight character. On the other hand, when the other two personalities, Steven or Marc dominates, one of them still has control, and both still communicate. In this study, the researchers focus on the symbolization of the moon cycle on the Moon Knight character, who has several personalities just like the moon.

There are many changes when the story from the Moon Knight comics is adapted into tv series. One of the most obvious changes is that moon in the comic is indicating new life, a creation. This is different from the case in the film adaptation, which depicts death. Based on Eliade's theory of moon shapeshifting (1961), creation and death are opposites. Creation means the invention of life while death means taking life. This change is not uncommon in adaptation. According to Hutcheon (2012), adaptation is repetition, but it is repetition without replication. There are manifestly many different possible intentions behind the act of adaptation. One of the most obvious is the urge to consume and erase the memory of the adapted text or to call it into question.

Several studies discuss adaptation through various point of views including dissociative identity disorder (Kluft, 1996), visual semiotic (Canto, 2018), culture (Primorac, 2017), *Semiotics in Avengers' Movie* (Ginting, et al., 2022), and *Analysis of Character Translations in Film Adaptations of Popular Literature* (Camarillo, 2014). The adaptation of Moon Knight has not been explored before, let alone the transition of moon as a symbol from the Moon Knight's comic to its television series adaptation. The previous adaptation research left a gap in which the Moon Knight adaptation has never been discussed. It makes this research still relatively new.

In presenting this research, we use adaptation theory and symbol theory. The purpose of this theory is to reveal whether the adaptation of the TV series Moon Knight consistently reflects the moon's symbolism in the character. Thus, the focus here is not the symbol taken from the image of the moon but its nature, especially the phase. This study implements Hutcheon's (2012) adaptation theory which is the basis for analyzing the adaptation of comics to TV series, and Eliade's (1991) symbol and image theory to discuss shifts in the meaning of symbols that appear in the Moon Knight comic and its series adaptation. Aside from the theory of adaptation and theory of symbols in analyzing Moon Knight, Kluft's (1996) theory of dissociative identity disorder is also implemented to analyze Moon Knight's mental disorders.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Television series adaptation is one popular form of adaptation. According to Hutcheon (2006), adaptation is seen as the result of formal product of an announced and extensive transposition of a particular work. This transposition involves changes and shifts in media or genres that tell the same story but have a different point of view and form.

The adaptation in this discussion can include various things, including the adaptation of symbolism in the TV series. Symbolism, according to Eliade, is a tool or depiction of ideas

or meanings that contain an understanding but do not contain direct information. All human activities on earth involve symbolism, which is a special way of recognizing religious things. Symbolism took a very important role in religious life and became transparent and able to show transcendence (Eliade, 1961). This is reinforced by the many depictions of symbolism as a religious belief or system. In this discussion, the moon is one form of symbolism that will be the object of the discussion. The moon is used to measure the most striking periodicity, where it was first used to measure time (Eliade, 1961). The lunar symbol starts with "creation" (new moon), followed by "growth" (to the full moon) and "decrease and death" (three moonless nights). In the TV series and comics, it can be found that the appearance of the moon symbol depicts a change in an era that has become an identical icon and the main topic of discussion. The symbols that appear periodically describe the life of human periodicity.

On the contrary, what is found in this comic and TV series is an adaptation to changes in human form in the appearance of the periodicity of the moon. Moon Knight's character is described as having DID. Kluft (1996) stated that DID is a distinct mental disorder in which the characteristics of the sufferers will consistently alternate and the identities will be objectively separated, accompanied by memory disturbances, amnesia, or both, and/or amnesia for a period of non-contemporary autobiographical memory.

In the adaptation of the Moon Knight comic into the Moon Knight TV Series, the meaning of the moon symbol can be the same but can also be different. The moon can be a symbol that means time. The lunar rhythm regularly presents a "creation" (the new moon), followed by a "growth" (to full moon), a diminution "death" (the three moonless nights). It was probably the image of the eternal birth and death of the moon that helped to crystallize the earliest human intuitions about the alternations of life and death and suggested, later on, the myth of the periodic creation and destruction of the world (Eliade, 1961). Eliade (1961) stated that the time in this world is cyclic, like the lunar symbolism of "Birth-death resurrection", which means the world is undoubtedly created and destroyed in many great myths and rites that are present in the world mythology.

The focus, moon symbolism and character's personality, are chosen because the title and story intensely indicate the close relation with moon as an object of nature and yet there is no study done to look through it. Additionally, this study aims to add insight into science, especially in the branch of psychoanalysis of the main character. Thus, it becomes a challenge and a stepping stone for further research.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

In this study, the authors used descriptive qualitative research design. The data in this study is in visual and textual form, taken from the comics and screenshots of the TV series Moon Knight. The textual data is taken from dialogues in the comics and the TV series. The visual and textual data from the comics that show moon phase symbolism are compared to ones taken from the TV series. The meaning of the phase symbolism is then analyzed to see whether or not changes occur.

Technique of analysis from Spradley (2016) was applied in this study. Four phases of analysis namely domain, componential, and finding cultural theme were taken to complete the analysis. First, in domain analysis, Hutcheon's adaptation theory was applied to find various forms of replacement and adaptation from the original comic book to its adaptation the Moon Knight series. Hutcheon's (2006) theory can help identify some transitions from the original source to the adapted form. The theory can also be used to find shifts that bring differences between the comic and serial versions so that it will present something new and different.

The second phase of analysis is taxonomy, where the symbolization theory by Eliade (1961) is used to show the symbolization of the moon and its changes in the Moon Knight comics and television series. With this theory, the symbolization of the changing phases of the moon in Moon Knight series is found, which includes creation that is the phase where a new moon starts, then growth which is the phase towards the full moon, and death which is the dead moon phase. Then the phase will continue to the moon's circulation from its initial position, which in the Moon Knight franchise is a symbol of three personalities that exist in the Moon Knight. Finally, the theory regarding dissociative identity disorder by Kluft (1996) is utilized since there is a close relation between the moon's rotation phase and the dissociative identity disorder that Moon Knight suffers from.

The third step was componential analysis. Here the findings from domain and taxonomy analysis were presented into a paragraph to correlate the relationship between the two of them. This relationship should give the description and correlation between the adaptation theory by Hutcheon and moon symbolism by Eliade, by pointing in psychological changes using DID explanation from Kluft. The last was finding cultural theme. In this phase, the correlation between adaptation theory and moon symbolism theory is seen to comprehend the textual and visual data of each type.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

This section is divided into two parts that reveals two objectives. The first objective is

to reveal whether the TV Series adaptation of Moon Knight faithfully reflects the moon symbolism in the comics. The second is to identify dissociative identity disorder in Moon Knight by applying the symbolism of the moon in each character, which can be found in the comics and TV series adaptations. It is presented into two sections. The first deals with the source comics of Moon Knight, which discusses how the symbolism of the moon is found in the comics, and the next section deals with the TV Series adaptation, where the moon phase is presented by the character and is divided into three phases namely Creation, Growth, and Death.

### **Moon Symbolism in Moon Knight Comics**

This research is focused on three Moon Knight volumes of the comics, which were written by Jeff Lemire, consisting of volume 1 (2016), volume 2 (2017), and volume 3 (2017). Jeff Lemire's version, compared to the other Moon Knight comics written by the other authors, is the one presenting the birth, growth, and death of the Moon Knight character, and thus this version contains more of the moon phase symbolism compared to the other comic version.

#### *Creation*

Creations are parts in the comics that show the birth or the appearance of the Moon Knight character. In the lunar conception discussed by Eliade (1991), the world is evolving in a cyclical phase of creation - growth - and death (1991, p.72). The cycle, or rhythm, regularly presents the birth, death, and resurrection of the moon, and so do other beings in the universe. In Moon Knight comic volume 1, episode 1, entitled "Welcome to the New Egypt," the first phase, creation, is presented by the reborn of the main character, Marc. In this scene, Marc meets Khonsu, a moon god in Egyptian mythology, for the first time and asks to be someone new and to be released from the pain he is suffering. It is illustrated by the following dialogue taken from the comic

Marc: "I don't want to die. Hurts"

Khonsu: "If you are to be reborn, you must suffer through pain. It is the way of things, my son."

Marc: "This is mine? This is who I am?" (Marc is facing a chest full of jewelry)

Khonsu: "You are nothing, not anymore. But before you can become something new, you must remember who you have already been..."

**Figure 2**

*Beginning Creation of Moon Knight*



The textual data is taken from the conversation between Khonsu and Marc in the comic. It contained the gist that Marc asked Khonsu to release him from pain and he does not want to die because it hurts. Konshu responded by saying, "If you are to be reborn, you must suffer through pain. It is the way of things". It can be seen in the word "reborn," which means to want to be born again into something new. The following statement by Konshu also indicates that what is happening to Marc is something cyclic because he was something or someone before, but then when he is reborn, he will no longer be the same. However, he has to know and remember the person he once was to show that it is a cycle that is repeating.

In Volume 3, episode 1, entitled "Birth and Death," the moon symbolism is classified as the creation. Figure 3 shows Steven's appearance after Marc draws someone on the ground and shows the DID, which is a personality that can accept one another. In that scene, Marc creates a character named Steven who appears in his imagination, and then Steven's character suddenly appears behind Marc.

Figure 3

*Marc Started to Create Steven's Personality*



Steven: "Hello."

Marc: "Huh? Oh, Hi."...

Marc: "My name is Marc Specter. I live there in that apartment building."

Steven: "I know." (then they go to Marc's house together)

The main point of the conversation is that the character Steven, created by Marc, greets Marc, who is busy drawing. They then became acquainted and Marc invited Steven's character to visit his apartment. This was known by Marc's father, and at the same time, Steven's character disappeared, and Marc's father did not see any kid besides Marc.

### *Growth.*

Growth is a symbol of the full moon in the comic series Moon Knight, and there is character development from the role or personality. In the first volume entitled "Lunatic," the second part, "Welcome to Egypt," moon symbolism is categorized as the "growth". It is called growth because it shows the existence of character development in the character played by Mr. Knight (Steven). Mr. Knight here, besides helping Marlene, also became a protector for other friends. Growth is not only interpreted as a symbol of the full moon, but it is also described by changes that have a good effect on others.



**Figure 4**

*Steven as Mr. Knight Grew His Sympathy Characteristic*



In the first volume entitled "Lunatic", the fourth part "Welcome to Egypt", the symbolism is also included as a growth and described as growth because of the development of the two main characters. In figure 4, Mr Knight did not know who he had met, namely Moon Knight. The position of Mr. Knight, who was saving Marleen and meeting Moon Knight, who thought he was crazy, caused growth or changes in the character's development.

**Figure 5**

*Mr Knight and Moon Knight Started to Accept Each Other*



The panel also explained that the more prominent character was Moon Knight when he showed himself before Mr. Knight. The meeting of these two characters is also part of

growth. It leads Moon Knight's character into a betterment.

### Figure 6

*Steven and Marc Agree to Collaborate*



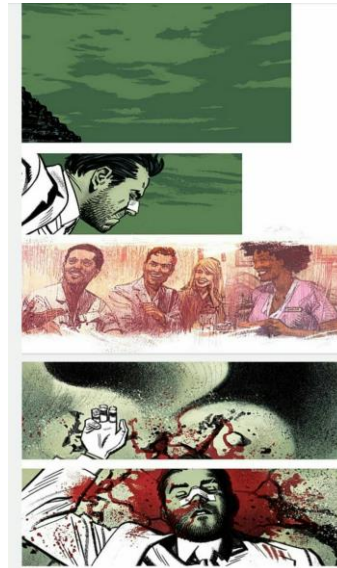
In the Second Volume of Moon Knight series “Reincarnation” Episode 4 “Incarnation”, Growth is indicated after Marc fought and killed Jake who tried to kill him. Marc tried to find Steven who was afraid about Jake killing both of them. Marc ask Steven who help him to collaborate. H has been tired to live fighting other personalities and just wanted to accept that both of them are in one body and Steven Ask Marc to be happy. They are hugging each other and finally Marc controls the Moon Knight's body and start fighting again. This acceptance, which leads to peaceful life, is showing growth in the personality and it is related to the growth in moon phase, when the moon is growing fully. In other word, a person is living his life to the fullest.

### *Death*

Death is a symbol of the dead moon or moonless night and the character's death from the Moon Knight's personality. In the first volume entitled "Lunatic", there is a symbolism of death. It shows the death of Steven's character after talking to Khonsu who wants to take over his body to be reborn in the world. This shows DID, which is a type of dominant personality at a certain moment. It is shown by the death of the character Steven, who controls the body. Before the death of Steven, he said, "I will never leave. You have me," to Khonsu while jumping from above and dying with blood splattered all over his body.

**Figure 7**

*Steven decided to jump from above and died*



The first picture in figure 7 shows a sky without moon. It is symbolizing the character's death, that Steven's character died as a result of a free fall from the top of the Egyptian pyramids while meeting with Khonsu who was disguised as Marc wearing a Moon Knight costume. Khonsu wants Steven to serve Khonsu and take Steven's body so he can be reborn in the world and rule the world.

**Figure 8**

*Marc changed into Jake Lockley to Kill the Hospital Staff*



Then in the first volume, the fifth part, it can be classified in the death category due to

the personality degradation of Marc who changed to Jake Lockley to avoid being chased by mental hospital staff because Marc Spector ran away from the place. It was found that there was DID, when Jake Lockley's character controls Marc's body to escape. Jake has no humanity and cold bloodily kill people. In figure 8, Gena, Jake's friend, asked how he was doing and offered to accompany him. Jake refused and got caught by the hospital staff assigned to arrest Marc, who was controlled by Jake at that time. Jake fought and killed the officer, and then he escaped.

In the third volume, the fourth part, entitled "Birth and Death," is categorized as death due to the reduction of the character from Marc and being replaced by Jake Lockley. There is also DID seen in the panel when Jake took on the personality of Marc because he did not feel sad at all, unlike Marc, who was unable to accept the fact of his own father's death.

**Figure 9**

*Jake Escaped After the Death of His Father*



Figure 9 shows that Marc's father never loved him and tended to turn his eyes away

from him. Then Mrs Spector talked to Marc but the personality occupying the body was Jake Lockley. Silently, Jake went and jumped out the window, and there was a crescent moon after Khonsu's voice called Jake to come to him.

**Figure 10**

*Marc Kills Jake who's try to kill Marc and Steven Personality*

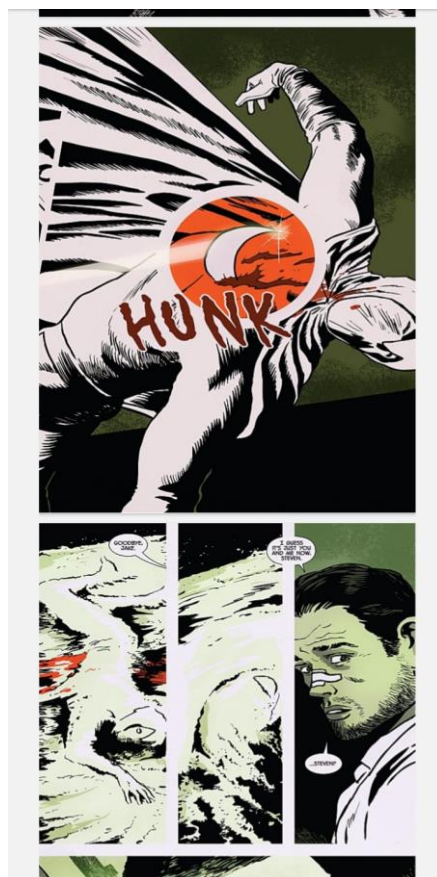


Figure 10 is taken from the second volumes of moon knight (Reincarnation) from episode 4 “Incarnation”. It shows that the data is symbolizing death. Marc Spector fought other personality, Jake Lockley who tries to dominate and kill Marc and Steven. After a hard fight Marc won and succeeded to kill Jake by throwing Crescent Dart slightly to Jake heart. This, again, is showing moon’s death phase, a phase when the night has no moon at all.

### **Moon Symbolism in Moon Knight TV Series Adaptation**

The TV series Moon Knight is an adaptation of the comic Moon Knight, which has six episodes with the background story of Moon Knight (Marc) along with two other personalities, Mr. Knight (Steven) and Jake, who must prevent the rise of an Egyptian god named Ammit who will harm many humans. In this series, Moon Knight is the avatar of the god Khonsu who has to fight Harrow (Follower of Ammit). The data obtained from the Moon Knight adaptation series are Creation (Personality Emergence), Growth (Personality

Development, when two personalities begin to accept each other) and Death (Loss of Personality).

### *Creation*

Creation in TV series are shown from scenes when a personality is present and becomes the personality controlling the character's body. It is symbolized in the form of a crescent moon that marks the appearance of a new moon. The data from the TV series adaptation Moon Knight episode 5 shows the presence of 'Creation' in Marc Spector as the dominant personality. The visual data has shown the birth of a new figure, the figure of Moon Knight, which symbolizes a new moon born and was created to bring new light in the midst of darkness.

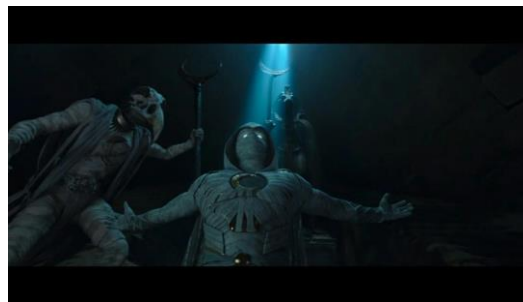
Apart from visual data, textual data was also found in the dialogues at minute 25:28, showing the process of the appearance of the Moon Knight. Khonshu said:

*"Rise and live again, as my fist of vengeance, as my Moon Knight!"*

The dialogue shows that Marc Spector, who was dying at the time, was revived by the ancient Egyptian moon god, Khonsu, and was reborn with new powers. This scene is similar to the early part of the comic volume one. This can be a symbol of the 'creation' of the new moon that appears after the dead moon phase.

### **Figure 11**

*The Reborn of Marc Spector*



In the Moon Knight Series episode 5, minute 29:53, little Marc Spector is shown hiding in his room because he annoyed his mother and was about to be beaten up by her. It is shown there that to overcome his sadness and his fear, then to get rid of all his trauma, Marc Spector finally created a new figure to replace his position and it is his other personality, Steven Grant. The creation of this other personality is done differently from the comic, in which Marc drew a character on the floor and Steven appeared.

Figure 11 symbolizes 'creation', because the scene shows the birth of a new personality from Moon Knight, which is a symbol of the new moon phase that was born after passing

through the darkness. At the same time, the data can also be categorized into the 'death' phase because with the birth of a new personality, Steven Grant, Marc Spector's personality, which was originally the dominant personality, is now replaced by Steven, who is actually a derivation of Marc Spector's personality. The TV series adaptation presents more 'creation' phase because what is focused on in this scene is the process of Steven Grant's first appearance.

**Figure 12**

*The Creation of Steven Grant's Personality*



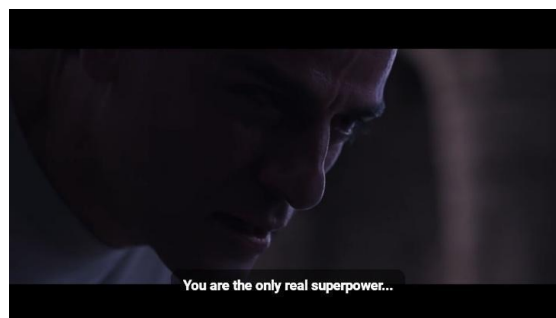
### *Growth*

Growth is a symbol of the full moon in the TV series Moon Knight and there is a character development from the role or personality of the Moon Knight character. At the beginning of episode 6, in the minutes of 16:26, data can be found in textual form indicating the presence of 'growth'. The dominant personality is Marc Spector because, at that time, Steven Grant's personality was in a state of petrification or 'death'. The textual data shows "Marc: "You are the only real superpower. "

The data shows that Spector has acknowledged that Steven is the superpower he has. Previously, Marc thought that Steven was his escape from pain; now, he sees Steven as his protector and strength. This is a development in the characteristics of Marc Spector and is symbolic of the moon going into a full moon phase.

**Figure 13**

*Marc Accept Steven as his Power*



In episode 6, in the minutes of 16:44, visual data can be found showing the existence

of 'growth', which represents the symbolization of 'to the full moon'. This data is found in the scene where the hearts of Marc Spector and Steven Grant, which were originally white and empty, full of imbalances, now begin to glow, like the full moon that shines brightly at night. It also shows that the confusion and distance between Marc and Steven's personalities has now disappeared, and they have completely accepted each other.

**Figure 14**

*Their Heart Glow as a Sign to Start to Accept Each Other*



### *Death*

Death data taken from the TV series is data from scenes showing the death of one or all of the Moon Knight characters. In the scene in episode 5 minute 41:50, moon phase symbolism seen is "death". The scene shows that Steven's personality becomes dead or petrified after falling from Tawareth ships. This is death data because Marc has failed to help Steven, that falls into the land of death in the Tawareth worlds.

**Figure 15**

*Steven petrified after falling from Tawareth Ships*



In episode 6 minute 33.32, shown in figure 15, the presence of 'death' is shown. In the scene, the Moon Knight's power, which is in Marc Spector and Steven Grant, has been taken by Khonsu, the moon god who gave them strength. This is the death or disappearance of the Moon Knight figure, which is a symbol of the dead moon that has lost its light. Therefore, this data is included in the category of 'death' data.



**Figure 16**

*The Death of the Power from Moon Knight*



In the secret ending scene of the last episode in minute 39:19, episode 6, 'death' was found and shown in figure 16. It can be included in the 'death' symbolism because in that scene, Jake Lockley's personality reappears. In this Moon Knight series, every time Jake Lockley's personality appears, there will definitely be a murder. This contradicts the other two personalities (Marc and Steven). This is evidenced by Jake Lockley, who had the heart to kill Harrow, who was their enemy, whom Marc and Steven had not previously killed. However, Jake easily, even with a smile, kills Harrow using a gun. This is a moral decline that happened to the Moon Knight.

**Figure 17**

*The Death appears "Jake Lokely first apperance"*



The moon phases, in this case, according to Eliade's theory (1961), and the diversity of personalities, according to the theory of DID by Kluft (1996), show that there is a connection between the two to reflect the three Moon Knight personalities with the three phases of the moon symbolism. The problem is when the moon symbolism uses the literal meaning from the moon, which is divided into a nine-phase rotation of the moon, and cannot reveal whether the TV series adaptation of Moon Knight faithfully reflects the moon symbolism in the comic.

The study that has been carried out focuses on the change and switching of personality, which shows the existence of creation, growth, and death of the Moon Knight personality, which is in accordance with the theory put forward by Eliade (1961). Such as the change in personality from Marc Spector to Steven Grant's personality, which is a change that tends towards the creation phase because Steven is a personality created by Marc Spector with a specific purpose. Then Steven Grant's personality changes to Marc Spector which tends to be growth or character development, because Steven guides himself and also Marc to find the identity of who he is and who the moon knight himself is, and how the two of them (Steven and Marc) can accept each other.

The last change that occurred was the personality change experienced by both Marc Spector and Steven Grant to the Moon Knight's secret personality, Jake Lockley showing a phase of death or regressing the character or identity of Moon Knight according to Eliade (1961). However, this study does not focus on the symbolization of the three moon phases according to Eliade (1996) individually for each moon knight personality. With the discovery of these findings, in the future a more focused discussion can be carried out to be able to discuss the personality of the moon knight individually.

Another problem found in the adaptation of the Moon Knight TV series is the existence of a third personality, Jake Lockley, whose existence from this Moon Knight personality was shown very vaguely by Marvel Studios in its first season. Even the appearance of Jake Lockley is usually only shown through a short transition, which makes anyone wonder who is the personality that takes over during this short transition. And this Jake Lockley personality is the personality that completely dominates when it takes over the body of the Moon Knight, and causes the other two personalities, namely Steven and Marc, to lose control and not even remember what just happened. Because of that the appearance of Jake Lockley's personality must have entered the Death phase type, because Jake's cruel character made Moon Knight's morale as a hero drop, and coupled with his appearance which made the other two personalities seem to temporarily disappear. Jake lockley is the dark side of the moon for Moon Knight and is also the 'death' phase for Moon Knight. However, in this study, visual data from Jake Lockley's personality can only be found briefly in the post credit scene of the last episode of the Moon Knight series. This means there are still many gaps that the researchers found in Jake Lockley's personality.

## **CONCLUSION**

The TV series "Moon Knight" by Marvel Studios adapts the comic of the same name,

emphasizing the moon symbol and its varied symbolism. The study examines how the moon cycle's symbolization, derived from the three personalities of Moon Knight representing the phases of the moon (Creation, Growth, and Death), is portrayed in both the comic and TV series adaptations. The main character, Moon Knight, embodies Marc, Steven, and Jake Lockley, with a focus on Dissociative Identity Disorder as a reflection of the moon cycle. The research questions whether the TV series aligns consistently with the moon symbolism in the source comic, considering adaptation theories like Hutcheon's.

In exploring the transition from the Moon Knight comic to the TV series, the researcher uncovered insights into moon symbolism theories by Eliade (1991) and Dissociative Identity Disorder by Kluft (1961) in addressing Moon Symbolism issues. The adaptation from the comic to the TV series revealed inconsistencies, particularly in the transformation process of Moon Knight. While the comic version allows Marc Spector, Steven Grant, and Jake Lockley to become Moon Knight, the TV series only permits Marc Spector's transformation. Steven Grant can change into Mr. Knight, and Jake Lockley's transformative abilities are yet to be shown in the first season.

The research on the symbolism of the moon cycle in Moon Knight's character in the TV series adaptation offers a fresh perspective for further exploration by other scholars. It goes beyond discussing the moon's symbolism to delve into its real significance in the character's life. This study marks the beginning of more in-depth research on moon symbolism and the adaptation of the Moon Knight TV series.

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