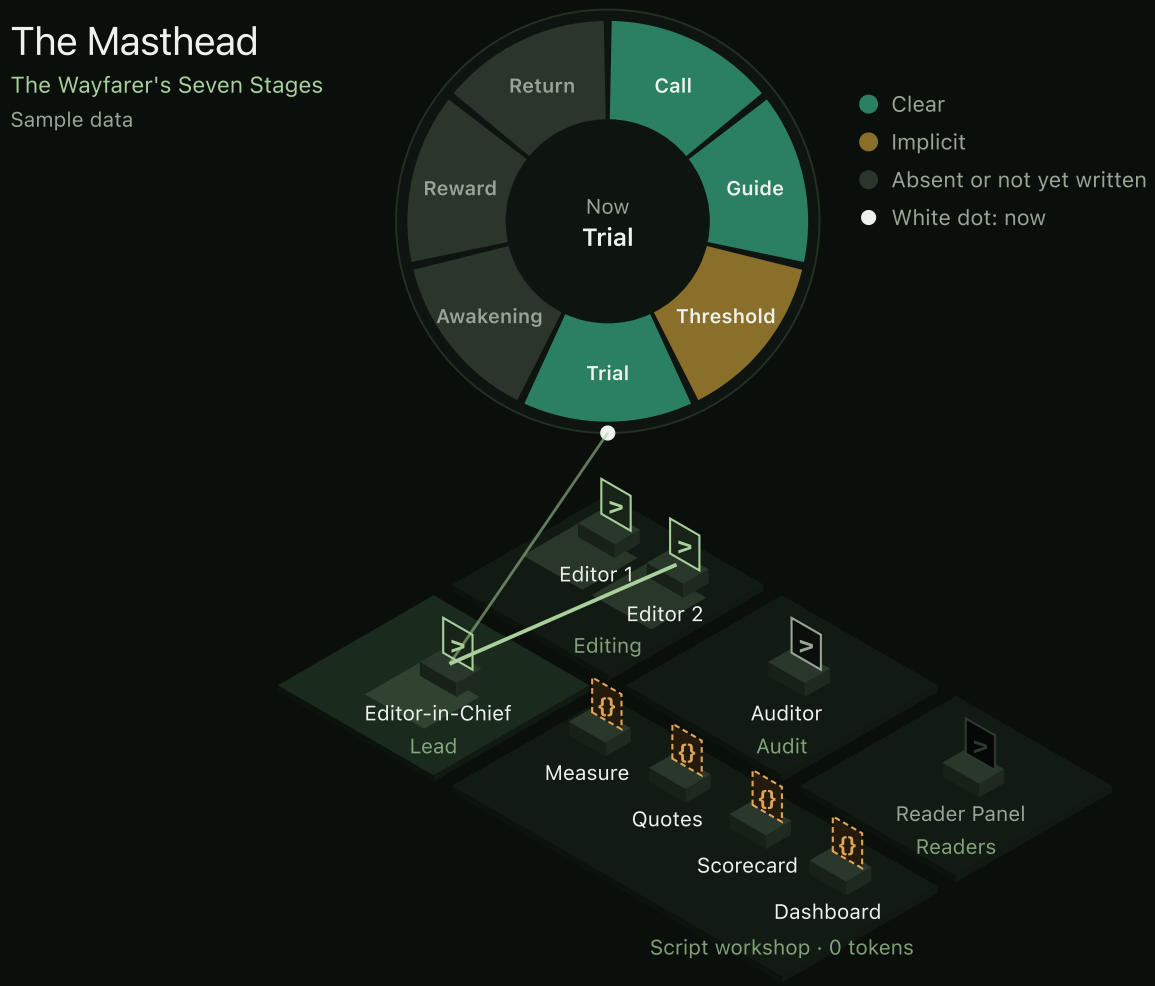
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A GIFT FROM PUBLISHIFY MASTHEAD

The Wayfarer's Seven Stages

A map for reading the journey of a story, drawn from ancient sources



The night press: the Masthead editorial board. The data in the Masthead drawing is sample data.

It begins with an inner need

The Wayfarer's Seven Stages is a narrative model developed by writer and entrepreneur Ali Osman Akçaoğlu. It draws on the Book of Dede Korkut, Attar's Conference of the Birds and the Sufi understanding of the path.

It shares stages with the Hero's Journey. The difference is its centre: not outward success, but the inner need that sets a person on the road and the change the road leaves behind.

> *The wayfarer sets out with an inner need, passes through seven stages and returns home changed.*

Key ideas

Wayfarer
The person whose journey is followed. A book can have more than one.

Inner need
The force that sets the wayfarer moving: love, revenge, the search for truth, grief, pride.

Stage
Each step of the journey.

Four states

Clear
The stage is plainly there.

Implicit
The stage is there, but only suggested.

Absent
It is not in the text. This is not a fault.

Not yet written
The book has not reached this stage.

The seven stages

01 Call

What is missing, and how does the wayfarer answer the call?

Something in the order of things begins to ache. The wayfarer notices what is missing, may resist, then answers. The first form of the inner need appears here.

02 Guide

Who shows the way, and what is being prepared?

Someone or something shows the way: a master, a mentor, a companion, sometimes a book or a voice. Having no guide is a choice too.

03 Threshold

What is left behind, and why is there no way back?

A step is taken that makes going back hard. The wayfarer breaks from the known world and binds themselves to a new order.

04 Trial

How does the road test them, and what is the rule of the new world?

Obstacles, desire, love and learning follow one another. The wayfarer learns the rule of the new world, often at a cost.

05 Awakening

What burned away, and what did they wake to?

The greatest confrontation happens here. Something burns away inside the wayfarer, and a new way of seeing takes its place.

06 Reward

What was the price, and who have they become?

What is won is rarely an object. It is a name, a truth or a new identity, and it comes with its price.

07 Return

What do they bring home, and has home changed?

The wayfarer brings what was won back home, to serve and to share. Neither home nor wayfarer is what it was.

Try it on your own book

1. Choose your wayfarer. A book can have several, so follow each one separately.
2. Write their inner need in one sentence. If you cannot, that is the first thing to look for.
3. Read through the seven stages and mark one of the four states for each.
4. Remember: this is a map, not a checklist. The order of the stages is not fixed.

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To see where your book stands on this map

publishify.app/masthead

Sources that inspired the model: the Book of Dede Korkut, Farid ud-Din Attar, Rumi, Fuzuli, Niyazi-i Misri.