

Post-Freudian Dreaming

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I had a dream Tuesday night in which I was either attending a lecture or watching a television show about the nature of dreaming. The thesis of the lecture was that increasingly, by almost 45 percent, the content of our dreams is becoming more refined. This is due to the fact that an increasing number of us tend to dream statistically; that is, the visual content of our dreams consists more and more of pie charts, bar graphs, and plotted equations. Usually the charts and graphs are labeled to indicate their meaning, although this is not always the case. Furthermore, the graphs and charts tend to be in color, with bold blues and vivid oranges predominating.

According to this thesis, such statistical dreaming is construed by some to be an indicator of human progress. Over 60 percent of the experts surveyed felt that humankind is entering a post-Freudian dream-world in which dreams actually mean something. Their meanings, therefore, can be charted and quantified rather than just guessed at. Premonitions are decidedly "out," as are sexual longings, emotional states, and foolish actions as so often predominated in the Bible and in other primitive mythologies. This is because the so-called "Reptilian Brain," the inner cortex that is concerned only with heat and cold, food and sex, is becoming increasingly encrusted by the expansion of the outer cortex, which gives us mathematics, science, and human progress.

It should not be surprising then, that studies showed, by a 2 to 1

margin, men tend to dream in charts and graphs more than women. Further studies indicate that, when analyzed by income groups, the top 20 percent economically tend to have almost 80 percent of the statistically based dreams, and that the dreams of this socioeconomic group tend to show more advanced labeling of the dream coordinates, clearer color delineation, and more accurate correlations. Clearly, something is happening in the post-Freudian nature of dreaming that signifies great changes for mankind, although further study is needed.

Some observers have suggested improved controls of dream *content*, perhaps through the use of electrodes implanted in the cortex to determine the accuracy of the dream, as studies have suggested that men and higher income groups tend to lie more about their dreams, a result the researchers found unsurprising.

I woke up screaming. □