

Dreams; God's Forgotten Language.

All ancient and aboriginal cultures appear to have seen dreams as the voice of the Divine. Have we grown beyond this approach? We tend to treat dreams as the static of our over busy lives. "A slight disorder of the stomach makes them cheats" Says Ebenezer Scrooge to Marley "You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of underdone potato."

The Bible's attitude is very different from Scrooge or many of us. The scriptures say much about dreams and visions. They are not separated. The dream is: "a vision of the night." The most common vision is that of an angel.

The Theological Word Book Of The Bible tells us "that the word 'seer' is the widest and most general title given to those who were able to interpret signs or to explain dreams." Samuel (I Chronicles 29:29), and Amos (7:12) were seers. Isaiah equates the prophet and the seer (29:10), as does Micah (3:6-7).

Abram left Ur on the strength of a 'vision of the night.' Joseph declared 'do not interpretations belong to God?' He interpreted the Baker's, butlers and later Pharaoh's dream foretelling their future. At the time of Moses God declares 'if there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make myself known to him in a vision, I speak with him in a dream.' King Saul is distraught that God will not answer his enquiry in a dream and Solomon is supposed to have obtained the source of his wisdom in a dream.

Dreams were critically important to the ancient Hebrews, and the Early Christians. For a variety of reasons they have fallen into disfavor. Morton Kelsey traces how dreams have gone from being the voice of God to Scrooge's fragment of underdone potato in God, Dreams and Revelation.

Dr. Sigmund Freud and Dr. Carl Jung have rediscovered the importance of dreams for our generation. They have discovered the powers of the unconscious, or the soul are still speaking to modern people, in the same way that dreams spoke to the ancient people.

I have been recording my own dreams for the past 30 years and have been working with clients with their dreams for the past 23 years. In this process I have come to realize that our modern dreams truly are God's forgotten language. If we will remove the shutters that blind us to the power and importance of our dreams, we can be greatly enriched by their messages.

In the Maranatha Counselling Centre's office in the basement of the Diocesan Centre, I work with people in dream groups and individually on how they are being led by the messages in their dreams. People tend to take their dreams literally and are embarrassed and fearful that sexual or violent dreams mean that they are a mess. This is almost never the case. If you are interested in understanding your dreams as part of God's call on your daily pilgrimage please call Rev. Henry Sharam 864-0410

God has not stopped speaking to us as he did to the Hebrews. If we will listen, our lives can be greatly enriched by a careful and attentive study of our own dreams.