

May 10, 2020
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Repetitive Dreams
Genesis 41: 17-21



Perhaps you went to church as a child and learned about Joseph's coat of many colors. Or maybe you never went to church but you saw a production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Joseph's story is from the Bible and it reads like a modern soap opera with the messed up family dynamics of Joseph - the Dreamer.

Joseph is Jacob's favorite son - like his father - he is given vivid dreams. He bragged about his dream of power over his brothers, so they sold him into a traveling caravan which transported him to Egypt. Did you ever wonder how the Israelites ended up in Egypt? You know, story of Moses and ten commandments and the exodus out from the Pharaoh's slavery? How did the Israelites end up there? This is where it starts. Joseph sold to travelers by his older brothers, who despised him.

The travelers took him to Egypt and sold him as it happens to one of the Pharaoh's officers, Potiphar was his name. Potiphar saw that Joseph had success in everything he did. The Egyptian officer put his whole household under Joseph's management.

The Hebrew text says that Joseph was "well-built, handsome and good-looking." Potiphar's wife thought so too. She tried to seduce him. The young Joseph - who once wore the Technicolor Dreamcoat- the Hebrew word for that coat is literally a word that means the dress worn by a king's daughter- the princess dress wearing man refused the woman's advances. Go figure. She took offense, to retaliate she told her husband that Joseph had accosted her, and Joseph, the immigrant, was sent to prison. Go figure.

When other prisoners can't figure out their dreams, Joseph remarks "Do not interpretations belong to God?" God's Spirit reveals their meaning through Joseph. Several years in prison, then the Pharaoh begins to have recurring dreams. He calls for all the magicians and the wise men of Egypt to interpret his troubling dreams. They cannot. Then someone suggests, "Joseph, the guy in prison is good with dreams."

Joseph is brought from the dungeon, cleaned up and brought before the Egyptian Pharaoh who told Joseph to explain his dreams. Joseph replied to the Power of Egypt, "I cannot do that. I can't interpret your dreams, but God will give you the answers."

Joseph announces a great truth. In boldness and courage, he does not appease this political might before him. He does not pretend to have powers to avoid the Pharaoh's fury.

In honesty, he confesses, it is the Dream Giver who will show you the meaning of your dreams. It is the spirit of God, that will explain the dreams.

Joseph learned a long time ago to let go of his ego. He is no longer proud or boastful. He doesn't allow his ego to get hooked into bragging about his dream interpretation ability. He says "It is not I, but God" who reveals your dreams."

God is the giver and the interpreter of our Dreams. The Hebrews who wrote the biblical stories thousands of years ago seemed to have great knowledge and spiritual wisdom that we modern humans are only now re-learning. Dreams are sent to give us a message, to process something buried within us, to teach us something about ourselves and our purpose. If we doesn't get the message, if we don't figure out what we are suppose to learn from a dream, the Dream Giver keeps sending the message until we do. Sometimes it's the same dream again and again in a recurring dream.

Do you have a dream that you play as a rerun? In your sleep, you say, 'oh, this is the house dream again. Oh, I'm having the running dream again, or the animal dream again.' Many people recognize repetitive dreams. Sometimes the same message comes in the same dream, sometimes it is in different symbols.

I have had 'my house dream' for decades. Details in it change, but the essence is the same. In my dreams, I have just bought a house. I am walking through the new house, and I open a door and find a whole room that I didn't know was there. Sometimes it's an attic room, sometimes it's a basement room, sometimes there is a river running through the room. (all those details have significance by the way), but I'm always astounded that I didn't know this room was part of my new house.

Like I said, I've had this dream for decades. When I would tell my daughters, I had the house dream last night, they would respond, "oh, we are moving!- a new house." Yes, and no. In learning about dream interpretation, I finally unlocked the message of my house dreams.

We are everything in our dream-world. I am the house in my dream. I am the rooms of the house. My unconscious is telling me in each of my house dreams that there is a part of me that I have yet to discover. There is a part of me that I didn't know existed. And it is time - I am ready - for me to discover another aspect of myself. Looking back ,I can see that after each one of my house dreams, I did end up learning something more about myself- which usually brought a change in my life -which literally took us to a new location, a new house address.

If you don't figure out a dream, you will receive the message again. If your subconscious has something to tell you, it will continue to send the message - even for years-

until finally you hear it. Once you unlock that message, you will no longer have the same repetitive dream. Your Dream Giver can move on to your next lesson. Pharaoh tells Joseph about his series of dreams. Joseph replies “The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same.”

Wisdom teachings offer us insight into ourselves and they give us teachings for community wholeness. The Pharaoh’s dreams were for the good of all the people revealing how they can survive a severe famine ahead. Ancient people understood the importance of listening and responding to the dreams and visions God plants within all.

We give thanks for God’s abundant care for all God’s people. In all times, God is with us. In our waking and in our sleeping, in our journey to wholeness, God is with us.

May we have the courage to listen and to love as God awakens in you new possibilities.