

AT THE TABERNAULE.

DR. TALMAGE ON BIBLICAL AND MODERN NARRATIONS OF DREAMS.

The Canon of Revelation Being Sufficient For Common Life, God Very Rarely Speaks to Man Today—Nevertheless on Occasion the Dream Is Employed.

BROOKLYN, March 26.—A remarkable sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Talmage in the Tabernacle today, the subject being a psychological and religious study of the phenomena of the mind during sleep and the significance of dreams as evidence of immortality.

Asleep on a pillowcase filled with hens' feathers it is not strange one should have pleasant dreams, but here is a pillow of rock, and Jacob with his head on it, and lo! a dream of angels, two professions, those coming down the stairs met by those going up the stairs.

God appeared in a dream to Abimelech, warning him against an unlawful marriage; in a dream to Joseph, foretelling his coming power under the figure of all the sheaves of the harvest bowing down to his sheaf; to the chief butler, foretelling his imprisonment; to the chief baker, announcing his decapitation; to Pharaoh, showing him first the seven plenty years and then the seven famine years.

Another morbid physician, experimenting with dreams, his feet uncovered through sleep, thought he was riding in an Alpine diligence. But a great many dreams are merely narcotic disturbance.

With 20 guidebooks to tell you how to get to Boston or Pittsburgh or London or Glasgow or Manchester, do you want a night vision to tell you how to make the journey? We have in this Scripture full direction in regard to the journey of this life and how to get to the celestial city, and with this grand guidebook, this magnificent directory, we ought to be satisfied. I have more faith in a decision to which I come when I am wide awake than when I am sound asleep.

Remark the First—The Scriptures are so full of revelation from God that if we get no communication from him in dreams we ought nevertheless to be satisfied.

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If in their dream they take the hand of a corpse, they are going to die. If they dream of a garden, it means a sepulcher. If something turns out according to a night vision, they say: "Well, I am not surprised. I dreamed it." If it turns out different from the night vision, they say, "Well, dreams go by contraries." In their efforts to put their dreams into rhythm they put their waking thoughts into discord.

THE DEEP SLEEP OF ADAM. Sound sleep received great honor when Adam slept so extraordinarily that the surgical incision which gave him Eve did not wake him, but there is no such need for extraordinary slumber now, and he who catches an Eve must needs be wide awake! No need of such a dream as Jacob had with a ladder against the sky, when 10,000 times it had been demonstrated that earth and heaven are in communication.

Another remark I make is that our dreams are apt to be merely the echo of our day thoughts. I will give you a recipe for pleasant dreams: Fill your days with elevated thought and unselfish action, and your dreams will be set to music. If all day you are going and grasping and avaricious, in your dreams you will see gold that you cannot clutch and bargains in which you are outshelved.

EVIL THOUGHTS MAKE EVIL DREAMS. If you are always oversuspicious and expectant of assault, you will have at night hallucinations of assassins with daggers drawn. No one wonders that Richard III, the iniquitous, the night before the battle of Bosworth Field dreamed that all those whom he had murdered stared at him, and that he was torn to pieces by demons from the pit.

Further, I have to say that there are people in this house who were converted to God through a dream. The Rev. John Newton, the fame of whose piety fills all Christendom, while a profligate sailor on shipboard, in his dream, thought that a being approached him and gave him a very beautiful ring and put it upon his finger and said to him, "As long as you wear that ring you will be prospered; if you lose that ring, you will be ruined."

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Every dream, whether agreeable or harassing, means so much that rising from your couch you ought to kneel down and say: "O God, am I immortal? Whence? Whither? Two natures. My soul caged now—what when the door of the cage is opened? If my soul can fly so far in the few hours in which my body is asleep in the night, how far can it fly when my body sleeps the long sleep of the grave? Oh, this power to dream, how startling, how overwhelming! If prepared for the after death flight, what an enchantment! If not prepared for the after death flight, what a crushing agony! Immortal! Immortal!"

Job had carbuncles, and he was scared in the night. He says, "Thou scarest me with dreams and terrifiest me with visions." Solomon had an overwrought brain, overwrought with public business, and he writes in Ecclesiastes, "A dream cometh through the multitude of business." Dr. Gregory, in experimenting with dreams, found that a bottle of hot water put to his feet while in slumber made him think that he was going up the hot sides of Mount Etna.

My friend, a retired sea captain and a Christian, tells me that one night while on the sea he dreamed that a ship's crew were in great suffering. Walking up from his dream, he put about the ship, tacked in different directions, surprised everybody on the vessel—they thought he was going crazy—sailed on in another direction hour after hour, and for many hours until he came to the perishing crew and rescued them and brought them to New York. Who conducted that dream? The God of the sea.

THE PURE IN HEART DREAM AS THEY THINK. All dreams that make you better are from God. How do I know it? Is not God the source of all good? It does not take a very logical mind to argue that out. Tertullian and Martin Luther believed in dreams. The dreams of John Huss are immortal. St. Augustine, the Christian father, gives us the fact that a Carthaginian physician was persuaded of the immortality of the soul by an argument which he heard in a dream.

THE DREAM OF THE JUDGMENT DAY. Rev. Herbert Mendes was converted to God through a dream of the last judgment, and I doubt if there is a man or woman in this house today that has not had some dream of that great day of judgment which shall be the winding up of the world's history. If you have not dreamed of it, perhaps tonight you may dream of that day.

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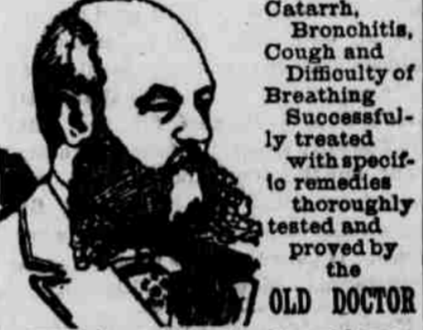
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