**The Dream of Geese Nesting in Trees**

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**Audio record of complete class:** <https://youtu.be/mzpwFeUUxPY>

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**Abstract**

In an online, participatory class, we interpreted *The Dream of Geese Nesting in Trees* knowing nothing of the dreamer beyond age and gender, and having none of the dreamer’s associations.

Our interpretation included predictions about the dreamer. When it was complete, we asked the bringer of the dream (who had until then been mostly silent and who also gave no visual feedback to our discussion) to give us more information about the dreamer. Our main predictions were confirmed. Goslings are falling on the dreamer’s head.

This record is another iteration of an experiment that will be described more fully in the paper *The Dream of the Six-Legged Dog: An Experimental System that Tests Meaning*, soon to be published. This iteration repeats and confirms the evidence given in that paper.

**The Dream:**

There was a dream the other night, a night or two now. Not a pleasant one, but a nightmare either. Geese were nesting in the trees and the goslings were falling out of the trees. We, me and someone else, no clue who, had to run underneath them to get to safety. There was a restaurant in what appeared to be a craftsman-style house and the woman from the city, in AA, that I was close to, was in car parked into side of the hill that was covered in vegetation. She got out like it was nothing! But she doesn’t drive because, city, and well the vegetation was overgrowth style as if the car had been sitting there for a long time.

[You may prefer to scroll down to Results 2 to read the transcript of the complete class. This will make it easier to understand how the class proceeds and to learn the technique of interpretation.]

**Results 1 Predictions**

[Paragraph numbers refer to the transcript in Results 2]

**Prediction 1 with evidence that we made it:**

*The dreamer is oppressed by heavy, compulsive thoughts*

‘Something is out of whack’ (21). The dreamer has ‘heavy, clunky, oppressive, thinking’ (24), ‘that haunts you, makes you feel bad, persecutes you, is unconscious, like paranoid thought, that takes possession of you… rather than [being] free-ranging.’ (28). His ‘misplaced ideas are having baby ideas. There’s fallout, being hit on the head.’(37) ‘Ideas that are unnaturally bred, not healthy, he’s not safe’ (39). ‘Compulsive ideas that attack’ his mind (40).

**Evidence that confirms prediction 1.**

That dream is a crisis. He's a former alcoholic, recovered for more than a year. So he's doing great, but he's fighting with his boss. He's been working with the same boss, a narcissist, for 20 years, who really took advantage of him. And now he's suddenly rebelling and he's saying enough is enough. But he's sent an email, words, ideas, and he's sending long emails to his boss, really long (76). Flooded his boss. ‘You did that, you did this, you did that.’ Suddenly he's expressing his anger. I think that's why the good, you know, his anger, he's really angry. But the thing is he did, he talked, Yes, he did that. So he's, yes, it's something has to change and he has enough now (78). No control (80). He's scared. He's scared because, you know, it's very scary. He's very scared. It's a new home. He's looking for a new home within. And it's a lot going on (82).

**Prediction 2 with evidence that we made it:**

*The dreamer can use culturally-learned procedures, to ‘craft’ these ‘compulsive thoughts’ and then assimilate them to be constructive in his personality.*

 “A restaurant that's a place where food is cooked and served to eat. A goose could be cooked in a restaurant and served up as food. So these oppressive ideas could potentially be cooked and digested. They could be somehow transformed. Cooking is a transformational process. It's metamorphosis. It's transforming something difficult into something more useful, or going through a maturation process (44).”

“Craftsman style (48). Crafted by hand. You can see the person out there with a saw and a hammer and a plane making a nice building for himself. Like a restaurant. It's the idea of taking natural products and crafting them to make a structure within which you can live. So all of this is about building something or transforming something that will become useful for human purposes. And here we're saying for psychological purposes (49). So this converts, this continues and reinforces the idea that these oppressive, the initial difficulty with these oppressive thoughts could perhaps be transformed in this restaurant or in this craftsman house with tools (50).”

“Alcoholics Anonymous (52). Isn't that a place for getting help dealing with oppressive compulsive thoughts? (54). AA is a place where you try to craft your psychology, tame it down and crafted into something you can live with more easily (62).”

**Evidence that confirms prediction 2.**

“He's a former alcoholic, recovered for more than a year. So he's doing great” [He is in AA and also in therapy]. He is “a rational being, extremely rational. And he has difficulties to be really connected to his emotion. And suddenly, there's a breakthrough right now, and he wants to free himself from that situation (76). Suddenly he's expressing his anger. I think that's why the good, you know, his anger, he's really angry. But the thing is he did, he talked, Yes, he did that. So he's, yes, it's something has to change and he has enough now. He has (78). It's a new home. He's looking for a new home within (82).”

**Prediction 3 with evidence that we made it:**

*His female friend in AA also has her individual journey blocked by oppressive, compulsive entanglements that fall from above.*

“A woman from the city who's in AA, who participates in this work that's done to deal with the oppression (65). Vegetation (66). It's overrun the car. So again organic impulses like unconscious energy is overwhelming. It's a repeated idea. Unconscious growth, energy, unconscious developments, psychological developments entangling or overwhelming the vehicle of consciousness. I mean, a car is a bit like a bicycle. You can drive it wherever you want. You can proceed on your individuation journey by driving a car. But if it's all tangled up in vines, in a jungle of vegetation, you can't take it anywhere. So it seems like this woman has also got her oppressive vegetation, just like the guy has got his geese falling on his head. She's got her vegetation falling on her head (68).”

“It's something's going wrong. something's not right And also something you cannot control. Uncontrollable impulses or thoughts or unconscious thoughts. You're controlled by unconscious (70-2).”

 **Evidence confirming prediction 3?**

There was no evidence from the bringer about this prediction. She had no information about this female friend.

**Discussion**

The bringer participated in our interpretation discussion in some places, but a review of the the transcript shows that her contributions did not guide or change our interpretation.

Predictions 1 and 2 were confirmed by the bringer. Prediction 3 was neither confirmed nor disconfirmed: no information available. A review of the transcript shows that there were no other predictions. This proves that I was not cherry-picking predictions that I already knew would be confirmed.

**Results 2: Transcript of our class.**

**The Dream:** (40 year old male)

There was a dream the other night, a night or two now. Not a pleasant one, but a nightmare either. Geese were nesting in the trees and the goslings were falling out of the trees. We, me and someone else, no clue who, had to run underneath them to get to safety. There was a restaurant in what appeared to be a craftsman-style house and the woman from the city, in AA, that I was close to, was in car parked into side of the hill that was covered in vegetation. She got out like it was nothing! But she doesn’t drive because, city, and well the vegetation was overgrowth style as if the car had been sitting there for a long time.

**Our interpretation**

1. Bringer. Speaker 2: There was a dream the other night, not a pleasant one, but a nightmare.

2. Geese were nesting in the trees and the goslings were falling out of the trees as we, me and someone else, no clue who, had to run underneath them to get to safety.

There was a restaurant in what appeared to be a craftsman's style house, and the woman from the city in AA, that I was close to, was in car parked into the side of hill that was covered in vegetation. She got out like it was nothing, but she doesn't drive because, city, and the vegetation was overgrowth style as if the car had been sitting there for a long time.

3. It's a 40-year-old male. Anything else or nothing?

4. Lead author. Speaker 1: No, nothing. No other information. Let's just think about ...

5. Speaker 2: Helping me with this one because,

6. Speaker 1: Well, let's see if we can, we haven't done it yet. We'll try. So we start off with geese nesting in the trees and the goslings. Let's just start the setting. Geese nesting in the trees. That's the setting.

7. Speaker 3: I have a question. Do geese nest in trees?

8. Speaker 1: I don't think so. They do in this dream, but that's very interesting, isn't it? , it's extremely significant because

9. Speaker 2: It's high.

10. Speaker 1: You don't see geese nesting in trees. So this is the setting. What is the setting, the setting of the trees, right? There's the beginning of the dream is there are trees and there are trees that he's underneath. He and someone else. And in the trees there are geese, nesting. So what have we got? This is pregnant with meaning. I don't know what it means, but dreams are wonderful because they, this is saying something. Geese are big birds. They're heavy. They waddle around, they look big enough to fight you. If they felt like it, they could attack you. They could attack a dog or a cat. Yes.

11. Speaker 2: Also, they are awkward on land, but they are awesome in flight.

12. Speaker 1: Yes. when they fly, they're magnificent; on land, they're awkward. And trees, they would be impossibly awkward, right?

13. Speaker 2: Yes. Silly or nasty animals.

14. Speaker 1: They what?

15. Speaker 2: Silly or nasty? They can be nasty animals.

16. Speaker 1: Yes. They're not pets necessarily. They can be hostile, aggressive.

17. Speaker 2: Their bite is very painful.

18. Speaker 1: Okay. I didn't know that.

19. Speaker 2: They're very well known for being aggressive.

20. Speaker 1: So what have we got? This is weird. We got these aggressive big animals. I guess they're not more aggressive than a dog could be. Right? A dog's bite can be very painful too. And a dog can bark. They're not always hostile, but they're birds. They're creatures of the air, and of the land. They're not creatures of trees.

 21. Something is out of whack here, right? . It's like if pigs could fly, you know, that would be out of whack. They don't nest in trees. Geese don't nest in trees. So what are geese? They're birds. If we think of them as a representation of the dreamer psychology, they represent , spirit or thoughts or ideas, you know, things that can fly above fast and fast. So that's what we do with our thoughts, or our spirits can fly around. On the other hand, they're big heavy birds with heavy bones and lots of flesh. So they're spirits which are also connected to the ground,

23. Speaker 2: And they're very territorial. They're aggressive to protect their territory.

24. Speaker 1: It's kind of like thoughts, which are heavy, heavy thoughts and, and jealous thoughts. They're not, they're not light thoughts. It's not like a swift or a seagull. They're heavy, clunky thinking. It's kind of oppressive thinking. I suspect.

25. Speaker 4: I was going to say also they're in the water too. They swim around in the water.

26. Speaker 1: Not in this dream though.

27. Speaker 4: Not in the dream, but in reality.

28. Speaker 1: Yes. It's interesting though. You're right. They partake of the air and of the water and of the land. The only thing they don't partake of is trees. Right? but I think this idea of heavy thoughts might be significant. Thought is potentially like piano playing, you know, like Mozart music, it can fly around with wonderful freedom, but sometimes thought is heavy and clunky and oppressive. You know, you can have oppressive ideas that weigh you down and, and, and haunt you and make you feel bad. Sometimes when thought is unconscious, it persecutes you. If you have unconscious ideas that keep coming back to you, like you keep thinking that people are hostile towards me, like a paranoid thought, then the thinking which takes possession of you can be, yes oppressive rather than free and free ranging. To me, geese have that potential to be oppressive.

29. On the other hand, we have to be careful because geese can fly very far. So they also have the potential to be far flying creatures. They can migrate across Asia, Across Canada. But these geese are nesting in trees. We have to deal with that. It doesn't make any sense, but we have to deal with it because it's right in the beginning of the dream.

30. Speaker 2: And it's a nest. It's like a home,

31. Speaker 1: The wrong place for a goose to nest.

32. Speaker 5: Well, not only are they nesting, they're having babies actively.

33. Speaker 1: Yes. And look at what's happening to the babies. They're falling as they were.

34. Speaker 5: Yes.

35. Speaker 1: The whole thing is screwed up

36. Speaker 5: From a natural.

37. Speaker 1: So there's a discrepancy. See geese have their natural behavior. If they behave in their natural way, they do fine. They can swim fine, they can fly fine, they can walk fine. They're just fine. They can protect themselves on land with those big beaks of theirs. but if they're in trees, they're not going to do fine. So this instinctual energy, this instinctual thinking energy is somehow in the wrong place. They're essentially misplaced. So this is like misplaced ideas, misplaced ideas, and these ideas are having baby ideas. And the, and the baby ideas are falling out of the trees such that the person have to run to avoid being hit on the head by a baby goose falling out of the tree. So there's quite a lot of fallout from these geese and trees. There's problems associated with these geese being where they shouldn't be. It's not a nightmare, but it's not great.

38. Speaker 5: I want to follow your of thought because it, it works. It's, there's the geese are heavy ideas, maybe oppressive, maybe unhealthy. They're spawning other possible not healthy ideas. And the dreamer is, has to run through them and it's not safe. He's trying to get to safety.

 39. So there's something about these ideas that are unnaturally bred, maybe not healthy, and he has to go through them to get to, to get to somewhere safe. So he's not safe now.

40. Speaker 1: Yes. And there's something else. It could be compulsions, compulsive ideas that attack him almost.

41. Speaker 5: It's the ideas are, I don't want to use the word unhealthy, but compulsive yes overwhelming something that, it's not natural.

42. Speaker 1: Yes.

43. Speaker 5: It's not. So that suggests some pathology.

44. Speaker 1: I don’t know. Yes. Now since we only have 10 minutes, let's just race down, see what we can think in the remaining 10 minutes, there's a restaurant and what appears to be on a craftsman style house. Now what have we got here? This, we can't skip over this. It's important. It's a restaurant that's a place where food is cooked and served to eat. Right? A goose could be cooked in a restaurant and served up as food . So these oppressive ideas could potentially be cooked and digested. They could be somehow transformed. Cooking is a transformational process. It's metamorphosis. It's transforming something difficult into something more useful, or going through a maturation process. 45. So there's a restaurant, what about a craftsman style house? What is craftsman style?

46. Speaker 2: Unique? Something unique.

47. Speaker 1: A unique house.

48. Speaker 2: It's not a chain. It's something craftsman style. It's something unique. Something more artistic.

49. Speaker 1: Yes. More artistic. Crafted by hand. Yes. It's like you can see the person out there with a saw and a hammer and a plane making a nice building for himself. So again, we have this idea of, like a restaurant. It's the idea of taking natural products and crafting them to make a structure within which you can live. So all of this is about building something right? Or transforming something. So that it will become useful for human purposes. And here we're saying for psychological purposes.

50. So this converts, this continues and reinforces the idea that these oppressive, the initial difficulty with these oppressive thoughts could perhaps be transformed in this restaurant or in this craftsman house with tools. And then there's a woman from the city in AA.

 51. Speaker 2: It's Alcoholic Anonymous

52. Speaker 1: In Oh, yes, Alcoholic Anonymous. So Alcoholics Anonymous. What's that?

53. Speaker 3: The support group for people who are addicted to alcohol.

54. Speaker 1: Yes. So isn't that a place for getting help dealing with oppressive compulsive thoughts?

55. Speaker 3: Right I know we're going to go further, but I just happened to look up a craftsman house. There is a style called a craftsman house. Maybe we'll get to it next week, but, There is an actual style of a house called a craftsman style house.

56. Speaker 1: Okay. And what do they say? Do they say anything about the style?

57. Speaker 3: Yes. It says that the most common characteristics of a craftsman style house include a covered french porch tapered columns that support the roof and are typically more sturdy at the bottom, becoming smaller at the top exposed rafter tails, which are the beams that stick out of the house and can be seen under the eaves.

58. Speaker 1: I see. Okay. Interesting.

59. Speaker 3: Very pretty

60. Speaker 1: Yes And you get a sense of the carpentry, maybe is is is visible, right? You can see the wood.

61. Speaker 3: Yes. Oh yes. Absolutely.

62. Speaker 1: So again, it comes back to this idea of things can be crafted here. And AA is a place where you try to craft your psychology, tame it down and crafted into something you can live with more easily.

63. Speaker 5: Well, I see that as repetition, the AA because as you said, it's a place where people go to overcome compulsive or oppressive behavior. Repetition of maybe the oppressive thoughts as the geese image.

64. Speaker 1: I think so, yes. And then there's a car packed into the side of the hill and covered with vegetation.

 65. So a car, a woman from the city who's in AA, who participates in this work that's done to deal with the oppression, but she's driving a car that seems positive. She's got a way of getting around, but this car is overgrown with vegetation.

66. Speaker 1: So what's going on here? This is interesting. The vegetation is, first we had the geese guzzling falling down from the trees. Now we have vegetation descending upon the car.

67. Speaker 5: It's overrun the car.

68. Speaker 1: It's overrun the car. Yes. So again organic impulses like unconscious energy is overwhelming. It's a repeated idea. Unconscious growth, energy, unconscious developments, psychological developments entangling or overwhelming the vehicle of consciousness. I mean, a car is a bit like a bicycle. You can drive it wherever you want. You can proceed on your individuation journey by driving a car. But if it's all tangled up in vines, in a jungle of vegetation, you can't take it anywhere. So it seems like this woman has also got her oppressive vegetation, just like the guy has got his geese falling on his head. She's got her vegetation falling on her head. So it's a repeat of the same idea.

69. Speaker 5: It's again, it's also unnatural. That tends not to happen.

70. Speaker 1: Well yes. It's something's going wrong. something's not right.

71. Speaker 2: And also something you cannot control.

72. Speaker 1: Yes. An uncontrollable impulses or thoughts or, you know, unconscious thoughts. You're controlled by unconscious

73. Speaker 5: Thoughts.

74. Speaker 4: Well, also being stuck on the side of the hill too.

 75. Speaker 1: So in the remaining two minutes [bringer] can you tell us about this guy?

**Bringer’s subsequent information**

76. Speaker 2: So this is a forty-year-old male. He's a lawyer and he's very in crisis right now. That dream is a crisis. He's a former alcoholic, recovered for more than a year. So he's doing great, but he's fighting with his boss. He's been working with the same boss, a narcissist, for 20 years, who really took advantage of him. And now he's suddenly rebelling and he's saying enough is enough. But he's sent an email, words, ideas, and he's sending long emails to his boss, really long. And I mean it totally correspond to what you are saying, a rational being, extremely rational. And he has difficulties to be really connected to his emotion. And suddenly, there's a breakthrough right now, and he wants to free himself from that situation.

77. Speaker 1: So there's a breakthrough and he's sending very long emails. You mean he's driven.

78. Speaker 2: Oh, flooded his boss. ‘You did that, you did this, you did that.’ Suddenly he's expressing his anger. I think that's why the good, you know, his anger, he's really angry. But the thing is he did, he talked, Yes, he did that. So he's, yes, it's something has to change and he has enough now. He has.

79. Speaker 1: I see, I see. So that's so interesting because his thinking, his thoughts now are suddenly flooding out of him. And he's compulsively sending out these emails with no censor.

80. Speaker 2: No control.

81. Speaker 1: No control. But it's interesting because maybe it's a good thing, right? It's good that he fights his boss. I see.

82. Speaker 2: He's scared. He's scared because, you know, it's very scary. He's very scared. It's a new home. He's looking for a new home within. And it's a lot going on.

83. Speaker 1: I see. Interesting. Yes All right, well, great. Thank you. Okay.