

## TELEPATHY AND TELEPATHIC TRACER EFFECTS IN INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

JAN EHRENWALD (*U.S.A.*)

In my paper "Psi, Science and Psychoanalysis," I tried to show that there are three principal criteria upon which assumption of telepathic incidents in the psychoanalytic situation can be based. They are (1) Uniqueness, (2) Telepathic tracer effects, and (3) Psychological significance.

Three brief case histories may illustrate my point. In the first case a patient, aged 53, produced a dream containing reference to a key with the number 117 stamped on it. The therapist happened to possess a similar key, bearing the imprint 1017. Statistically speaking, the telepathic or clairvoyant interpretation of such a dream is hardly justified. However, its psychoanalytic evaluation made such an interpretation "psychologically significant." It supported the hypothesis of its telepathic nature, otherwise based on the presence of a "tracer element."

In the next case both criteria can likewise easily be recognized. It is the case of Lottie, aged 40, who had throughout her life been closely attached to her mother. Separated from her during the war, her mother committed suicide in Europe. Lottie, at that time in the USA, was suddenly seized with a fit of anxiety. This happened within 24 hours following her mother's suicide. She felt that something terrible had happened to her mother—or mother-in-law. On the next day she went out of her way to redeem her guilt feelings toward her mother by carrying out an involved transaction with her family jewelry. It was weeks later that she learned that her mother's death was due to suicide.

Lottie's behavior showed that the telepathic "message" provoked three different reactions in herself as a percipient:

1. She tried to attach her anxiety to the fate of her mother-in-law, that is, she displaced the telepathic impression gained to another person.

2. She sought to deny its reality by the symbolic gesture of parcelling out her jewelry as if her mother were still alive.

3. In doing these things she allayed the guilt feelings connected with her mother's death.

A third observation refers to a neurotic mother and her son, suffering from bed-wetting. With the improvement of his mother's condition following the interpretation of a crucial dream, the son's condition too showed a dramatic improvement. In the absence of tracer elements the telepathic nature of this incident cannot, however, be taken for granted. It is one of the many observations which do not "oblige" by presenting us with unequivocal evidential material. Indeed, we find that the more "evidential" or the more "striking" an incident may appear, the lesser is its significance to the case's underlying dynamics. Conversely, it is just those observations which lack the requisite unequivocal criteria of telepathy that have the deepest emotional relevance so far as interpersonal relationships are concerned.

We should keep an open mind on all observations of the parent-child type. If confirmed by more clinical evidence they might suggest that telepathy is capable of affecting interpersonal relationships decisively. This could have an incalculable effect upon our therapeutic approach, fashioned as it is after the model of the parent-child relationship.