

CHRONOLOGICALLY EXTRAORDINARY PSI CORRESPONDENCES IN THE PSYCHOANALYTIC SETTING

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The psychoanalytic method has proved to be a valuable adjunct to the methods already in use for the study of so-called "precognitive" occurrences. Its value is chiefly two-fold:

1. It enables us to bring within this category many correspondences which would otherwise go totally unremarked or else regarded as insignificant chance coincidences. This "unmasking effect" is related to the recognition of latent but ordinarily unsuspected factors in a complex probability situation.

2. Due to the fact the participants in a psychoanalytic relationship are, ideally, under continuous observation, with major emphasis placed on the various factors determining behavior at any given time, it is possible to correlate the so-called "precognitive" event, when it occurs in such a setting, with other events in the past and current history of an individual.

Two presumptively "precognitive" dreams of a patient in analysis are presented. These may be regarded as examples of psi-conditioned behavioral correspondences to normally unpredictable future events. The emphasis on "behavior" in this designation appears warranted in view of the purposive, needful context from which both dreams apparently arose. Both were preceded by the same kind of premonitory events in the dreamer. Both are highly complex but condensed structures incorporating references to, and giving expression to needs in, both the patient and the analyst.

No theories about this type of event are offered, but it is indicated that alternatives to conventional hypotheses about "precognition" are not unwarranted when considered from the psychoanalytic point of view.