

ANTAGONISM IN MENTAL IMAGES AND THE PROBLEM OF PSI-MISSING

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This report discusses the problem raised by Dr. Rhine as to whether Psi-missing is a normal and conscious function of inversion. The author begins by presenting instances of Psi-missing through his own introspective observations of hypnagogic states, to determine to what extent he can influence these images by his conscious will. His conclusion is that the more his state of consciousness approaches the ordinary waking state, the more his will can influence these images in the direction he desires.

Conversely, the more his mental state approaches sleep, the more ineffective his will is. This inhibition often amounts to what seems to be a definite trend of opposition and intentional resistance, which may lead to a double or split personality, providing the images of inanimate objects with independent activity not subject to willful manipulation.

Similar observations by others, cited in this paper, offer evidence confirming these conclusions. It is maintained that since conscious activity is essentially concerned with memories and visual images, it cannot master the tactile and muscular that encroach upon these. There is agreement with Mrs. Upton Sinclair that the state favorable to ESP is one that is slightly different from, but very close to, the waking state. Inversely, the effort of concentrating the attention on the visual centers removes one slightly from the waking state.

Examples, resums, and some experimentation dealing with phenomena of inhibition and the transition to inversion in dreams, inversion in hypnagogic images, quoted from Have-

lock Ellis, George Russel and others, are presented. Certain experimentation in influencing dreams, published by Hervey St. Denis, are summarized; persons who have succeeded in influencing their dreams are considered very rare. A distinction is made between memories and mental images in the waking state: memory images are vague and subject to conscious will; mental images can have a semi-hallucinatory character and are subject to will only in rare instances.

Theories related to the above data are discussed. Analogies to the phenomenon of inversion and inhibition in mental states in the field of physics and physiology are noted as significant. In the psychological field, the striking fact of the two poles of psychological life is discussed, e.g., affectivity and thinking, emotion and conscious awareness; the conscious and the unconscious.

Examples of inversion in art, psychiatry, mediumship and parapsychology are mentioned briefly. The data of this report confirm Dr. Rhine's suggestion that Psi-missing is not a specifically parapsychological phenomena, since it also seems to have psychological, physiological and even physical components. Havelock Ellis once remarked that dream processes might give a clue to the metaphysical and even physical problems of our thoughts in a waking state. This suggests why, in ESP phenomena, subjects do well in certain mental states and badly in others.