



SWEDENBORG

INFORMATION

OF LOS ANGELES

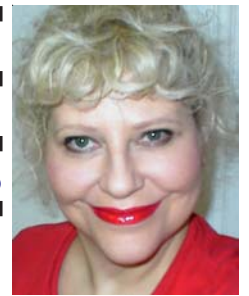
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Dreams are from the spiritual world

Dear Candace,

I saw on TV that Abraham Lincoln dreamt of his death. What does Swedenborg say about dreams predicting deaths?

S. R. L.
Pasadena, California

Dear S. R. L.,

Lincoln, the documentary that premiered on The History Channel, January 16, was different than previous Abraham Lincoln documentaries as it examined the American President's life "through the filter of his lifelong depression". This documentary opens up with Lincoln seeing people crying over his body lying in a casket.

Lincoln and many other individuals have had premonitions about their own deaths and the deaths of others given to them in dreams. This is more common than you may think. And it is "in order"—something the Lord wants. Swedenborg wrote in his 12-volume *Heavenly Secrets* (#5091):

The reason a dream, in the highest sense, means foresight is that dreams which come directly from the Lord by way of heaven foretell things to come. Such was the nature of Joseph's dreams, the cupbearer's dream and the baker's dream, Pharaoh's dream, Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and prophetic dreams in general. The things to come that are foretold in dreams have no other origin than the Lord's Divine foresight. From this one may also realize that every single thing is foreseen by Him.

Knowledge of an upcoming demise, for us today, is less relied upon because the human race is further from the Lord's leading than in the beginning of time. While dreams are very real depictions of personal spiritual growth and events yet to happen laid out for the viewer from the spiritual world, they aren't understood fully as the link between God and humanity that they are. And for that reason of distance, Swedenborg tells us that to know the future destroys our very humanness which is to act from freedom according to reason.

In his book *Divine Providence* (#179) he says, "it is not granted to anyone to know the future; but everyone is permitted to form conclusions concerning future events from reason." For if someone knew the future for sure, Swedenborg explained, they would no longer think from a spiritual angle and only live externally in order to fulfil the foretold event missing the whole point of making choices along the way.

Swedenborg said, "A longing to know the future is innate with most people; but this longing derives its origin from the love of evil." Many have heard the stories of the people that don't go on a flight because they had a dream the plane

would crash and it did. Others have dreamed about mundane things that came true. My husband had a dream about a specific race horse and while he doesn't go to the track, his dream was so strong he placed a bet based on it and won \$600.00.

It's one thing to listen to your dreams and to listen to your intuition and to listen to your conscience—all vehicles which are used to send spiritual messages of guidance—and another to seek out what your future holds. Those that do that are not trusting that their God is providing for them, every second, exactly what they need for *their* eternity. Trusting in Divine Providence is comforting to those that accept it. Anxiousness about the future is awful. Remember, it is from the love of evil.

Emanuel Swedenborg was one of the first writer's to write about dreams, visions, and the afterlife. Dr. Carl Gustav Jung (1875 - 1961), Swiss psychologist, psychiatrist, and the founder of Analytical Psychology was an avid reader of Swedenborg: "I admire Swedenborg as a great scientist and a great mystic at the same time. His life and work have always been of great interest to me."

Carl Jung, who at first collaborated with Sigmund Freud, was the most widely read writer of the twentieth century on the psychology of the human mind with his approach emphasizing the psyche through dreams, art, mythology, religion, and philosophy.

Swedenborg was not the first to analyze dreams, but what he recorded has contributed greatly to dream analysis. The uniqueness of Swedenborg is that he never published his dreams. His dream world was private. It only became public a century after his death!

Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772) recorded his dreams for one year, 1743-1744—approximately 150 dreams—starting with ones he had while journeying from Sweden to Holland to publish his book, *The Animal Kingdom*—a book about the realm of the soul. His dream entries written into a "notebook" weren't published.

After Swedenborg died, "all" his manuscripts were donated by his heirs to the Royal Academy of Science in Stockholm, but not his dream notebook. It was obviously too hot for the public, too embarrassing for the family! His heirs had destroyed pages from another travel diary he kept during 1736-1740, most likely because of some erotic dreams he recorded in it as erotic dreams are recorded in his dream notebook of 1743-1744 which was saved, but not handed over to the Royal Academy.

Swedenborg's year-of-dreams notebook was passed "allegedly" from 1) the son of Swedenborg's nephew to 2) a professor to 3) a descendant of his

and then sold to The Academy in 1858. Yet, still, several pages were missing from it!

It was in 1859 that *Swedenborg's Dreams*, 1744 was first published in Swedish, but only 99 copies! The legal limit for a book with sexual content was 100.

The following year in 1860 a second edition (1,000 copies!) of Swedenborg's dreams were published with a preface explaining the dreams in their proper context. Swedenborg's dreams notebook has been translated into several languages either as 1) *Swedenborg's Dreams*; 2) *The Spiritual Diary*; or 3) *Spiritual Experiences*.

An insightful book to read on this subject is *Swedenborg's Dream Diary* by Lars Bergquist published in Swedish (1989). It has been translated into English by Anders Hallengren (2001).

There will be some that say Swedenborg was "crazy" and that he experienced visual and auditory hallucinations and that his "writings" aren't to be taken seriously. Not so, for it is highly unlikely that he could have continued functioning exceptionally in his government job as publicly as he did, and to correspond in letters as well as he did routinely with friends, if he was experiencing any delusional disorders.

Emanuel Swedenborg—it's claimed by his friends and acquaintances—did not demonstrate a) immaturity—inappropriate emotional behaviour; b) bipolar illness—abnormal, exaggerated mood swings; nor c) schizophrenia—impairment of function. His words on paper, while unbelievable to some, are logically organized and creative, to say the least.

For example, in a letter Swedenborg wrote to his friend, Ludwig IX (1719-1790) on July 13, 1771, it clearly shows that he knows who he is and takes a stand:

What is being said about me having predicted the death of the daughter of the Margrave of Schwedt is a fabrication coming from some gossiping newsmonger or other. I was not present there, nor did I know anything about that lady.

In *Lincoln*, the question whether Lincoln was a homosexual or not was addressed. He apparently, it's recorded, slept in a bed with a male friend for 4-years, and shared beds with other men over his life. The documentary pointed out that in that time period, it was common practice to share beds with the same sex because beds were in short supply.

Context is everything when studying the past, and our dreams. Swedenborg tells us dreams are brought on by spirits. He talked with some spirits after he woke up, that had "acted" in his dreams. He said that some spirits use only illusions, amounting to almost nothing but games for them! They will seize upon whatever is easily brought out of the dreamer's mind.