

I'm human



Oneirocritica english pdf

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Book on dream interpretation by Artemidorus of Ephesus from ancient Greece; edited and translated into English by various scholars, including R.A.Pack and Robert J. White, with critical matter in English; published by Oxford University Press in 2012; physical description is a large book of 584 pages with Greek text and facing English translation; available for download but users should exercise caution when downloading files from the internet. a vision of things yet to come is distinguishable from a reflection of what presently exists; this distinction can be clarified by considering experiences during sleep which re-present themselves as manifestations within dreams; consequently, a lover in his dream envisions being with his beloved, while the fearful person sees his deepest anxieties, and similarly, a hungry man dreams of eating, a thirsty one of drinking, highlighting that such recollections are not indicative of future events but rather a recalling of past experiences; furthermore, certain experiences are unique to the body alone, whereas others pertain to both the body and soul, or vice versa; from these examples it becomes clear that body-related dreams stem from either surplus or deficiency, while soul-related ones arise from either hope or fear; hence, an understanding of visions, whether in sleep or otherwise, is crucial for comprehending their significance, as they often operate during periods of slumber and fade upon its cessation. The ancient Greeks believed that dreams were a reflection of an individual's personal life, including their social status, relationships, and even occupation. To understand the meaning of a dream, it was essential to know as much about the dreamer as possible, including their identity, birthplace, financial situation, and health. In his book "Oneirocritica", Artemidorus provided interpretations for specific dreams and symbols. He believed that certain parts of the body could represent different aspects of life, such as the penis representing one's parents or a wife/mistress. The penis was also seen as a symbol of strength, fertility, and wealth. When it came to sexual intercourse in dreams, Artemidorus suggested that the dreamer should consider whether the sex was consensual, lawful, and in line with nature. If the sex was with one's own willing partner, it was generally considered positive. However, if the wife or mistress was reluctant, it could signify the opposite. The interpretation of dreams about sexual intercourse became more complex when involving prostitutes or brothels. In these cases, Artemidorus saw them as a symbol of scandal and a small expenditure for those who frequented them. But even in such situations, he believed that the women were ultimately "hustlers" who gave themselves without hesitation. Ultimately, Artemidorus stressed the importance of understanding the context and nature of the dream, as well as the individual's personal life and circumstances. He warned that failure to do so could lead to misinterpretation and potentially disastrous consequences. In dreams, prostitutes at their stalls or engaged in visible acts are auspicious signs, whereas those seen walking the streets are even more beneficial. Dreaming of sex with an unknown woman signifies success and good fortune if she is attractive, well-dressed, and willing; however, if she's unattractive, unkempt, and unwilling, it portends the opposite. The dreamer should interpret the woman as a symbol of events that will befall them, so their experience mirrors her nature. If the woman is familiar, desirability has no bearing on the dream's interpretation, but an unfamiliar woman with whom one is attracted can lead to material gain or success. Dreaming of sex with one's own mother poses significant complexity and multiple interpretations. The act alone does not guarantee insight into the dream's meaning; instead, examining the manner of embrace, body positions, and other factors reveals the outcome. Living mother-mother intercourse signifies potential father-son rivalry, likely leading to conflict or even death if the father is ailing. However, this fortune applies to craftsmen, laborers, politicians, and demagogues. It means controlling one's native city, symbolizing total governance over its affairs. Having sex with someone familiar does not impact the dream's meaning, but it intensifies desire. In contrast, an unfamiliar woman often brings material gain or success through her agency. The dream suggests that the individual will reconcile with their mother and rekindle their bond due to the sexual encounter, which is also referred to as "friendship." However, this dream often signifies that people living apart will be reunited in the same location and coexist. It can also indicate a son's return from a foreign land to his native country if his mother resides there or that he'll travel to where she lives. If the dreamer is poor but their mother is wealthy, they may receive what they desire or inherit her estate after her death, bringing them joy. Conversely, many sons have cared for their mothers and provided for them following this dream, allowing the mothers to take pleasure in their sons' company. The dream indicates that the sick will recover and return to their natural state since nature is the common mother of all things. However, if the individual's mother has passed away in the dream, it signifies that they will soon pass away as well, as their body will return to its original earthy composition. For a person involved in a land rights dispute or seeking to purchase or farm land, having an affair with one's dead mother can be beneficial. Some believe this dream is only negative for farmers, as it may indicate unfruitful endeavors. However, if the individual repents or feels distressed by the encounter, this interpretation holds true. The dream also signifies that a person abroad will return to their homeland and a man involved in a dispute over his mother's property will prevail, taking delight not in her body but rather in her property. If an individual has this dream in their native land, they'll depart from it. It's impossible to remain near one's maternal hearth after such an encounter. If the individual feels grief or remorse due to the intercourse, they'll be banished from their native land. If not, they'll travel abroad of their own accord. It's unfavorable to possess a mother who is looking away from one. For then either the mother herself will look away from the dreamer, their native land, trade, or any present undertaking. It's also unlucky to have intercourse with one's mother while she stands upright, as this position signifies constraint and oppression. Having an affair with one's mother while she kneels is equally unfortunate, signifying great poverty due to her immobility. In general, the mother symbolizes birth, chance, or some fate, making this dream a complex and multifaceted phenomenon. A dream about a woman riding on top of a man, with her genitals touching his belly, signifies good luck in business affairs or as a universal first principle. However, it can also indicate death to the dreamer if they feel their mother's presence is being disrespected. The story goes that a man who was once disgraced in society had a recurring dream where he felt like he didn't have a nose. This dream came true for him in three different ways, first as a merchant when it referred to his perfumes, then as a citizen when it reflected on his reputation, and finally during an illness when it related to his physical body. Artemidorus discusses how dreams connected to myths can be interpreted by considering multiple traditions and evidence. He advises looking into well-known stories like those of Prometheus and Niobe, but dismissing legends that are outdated or lack substance. In one example, a pregnant woman dreamt she gave birth to a serpent, and her child turned out to be an excellent public speaker due to the snake's association with eloquence and education. This dream was interpreted differently by various women, leading to their children becoming a priest, prophet, or someone undisciplined and promiscuous, depending on the context of the dreamer's life. The book describes how people in ancient Greece and Rome believed that dreams could predict future events. It talks about a woman who had a recurring dream where her child was harmed or died, which was seen as a sign that she herself was living an unvirtuous life. The dream was interpreted to mean that the woman's actions were causing harm to her own well-being. Another woman had the same dream and her child became a runaway slave, symbolizing the serpent's unpredictable path. A third woman had the dream and her child became paralyzed, mirroring the idea that paralytics must use their entire body to move around. The book also shares the story of a man who dreamed his staff was broken, signifying his loss of strength and health, which turned out to be true when he fell ill and became paralyzed. However, when he regained his strength, the dream changed, showing him that he no longer needed a support.