

AWAKE, ALIVE, CONNECTED.

MONTH 8



SYNCHRONICITY

MICHAEL KEARNEY















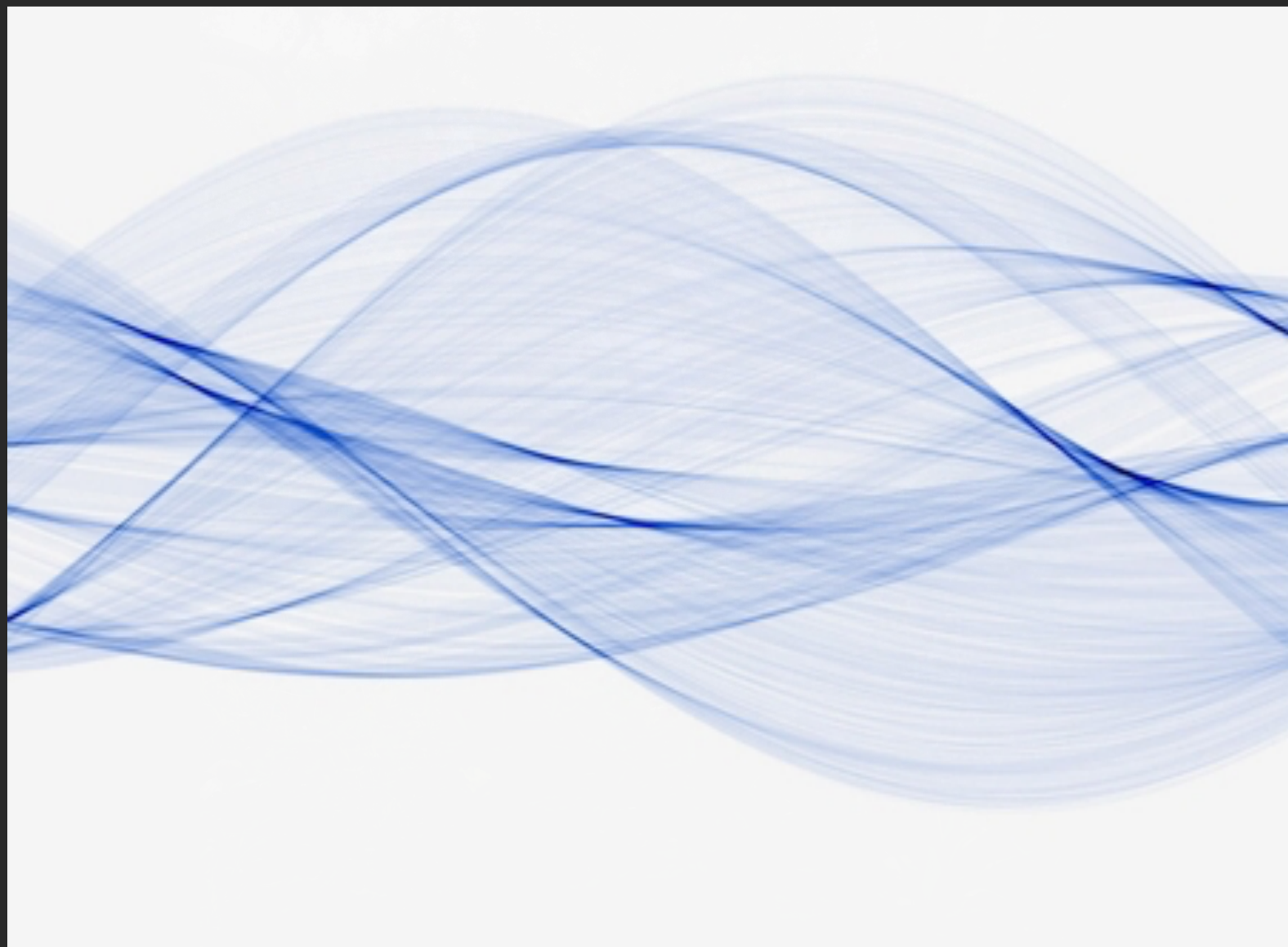






"YOU ARE ONE OF US NOW"













WHAT IS "SYNCHRONICITY"?

"MOST OF US IN THE COURSE OF LIFE HAVE OBSERVED COINCIDENCES IN WHICH TWO OR MORE INDEPENDENT EVENTS HAVING NO APPARENT CAUSAL CONNECTION NEVERTHELESS SEEM TO FORM A MEANINGFUL PATTERN ...

ACCOMPANYING THE MORE PROFOUND OCCURRENCES OF SYNCHRONICITY [IS] A DAWNING INTUITION, SOMETIMES DESCRIBED AS HAVING THE CHARACTER OF A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING, THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WAS HERSELF NOT ONLY EMBEDDED IN A LARGER GROUND OF MEANING AND PURPOSE BUT ALSO IN SOME SENSE A FOCUS OF IT."

RICHARD TARNAS, "COSMOS AND PSYCHE"

WHAT DOES SYNCHRONICITY DO?

"SYNCHRONICITY CORRECTS THE EGO-CENTRIC IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN A NARCISSISTIC MANNER AND OPENS THE PSYCHE TO A LARGER VISION. "

RICHARD TARNAS, "COSMOS AND PSYCHE"

by the author of
THE PASSION OF THE WESTERN MIND



COSMOS

AND

PSYCHE

INTIMATIONS OF A NEW
WORLD VIEW

"A marker for an entire generation." — Christopher Bache

RICHARD TARNAS

THE CASE OF THE “GOLDEN SCARAB”



THE CASE OF THE “GOLDEN SCARAB”

“THE ACUTE COINCIDENCE BETWEEN THE SYMBOLICALLY RESONANT IMAGE THAT THE WOMAN HAD EXPERIENCED IN HER DREAM THE NIGHT BEFORE AND WAS JUST THEN RECOUNTING AND THE SPONTANEOUS APPEARANCE AT THE WINDOW OF AN INSECT THAT WAS “THE NEAREST ANALOGY TO A GOLDEN SCARAB THAT ONE FINDS IN OUR LATITUDES,” EFFECTIVELY BROKE THROUGH THE INTELLECTUAL ARMORING THAT HAD BEEN BLOCKING HER PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT. NOW “HER NATURAL BEING COULD BREAK THROUGH...AND THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION COULD AT LAST BEGIN TO MOVE.”

RICHARD TARNAS

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?

"THE COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS SURROUNDS US ON ALL SIDES. ... IT IS MORE LIKE AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH WE LIVE THAN SOMETHING THAT IS FOUND *IN US*. ... ALSO, IT DOES NOT BY ANY MEANS BEHAVE MERELY PSYCHOLOGICALLY; IN THE CASES OF SO-CALLED SYNCHRONICITY IT PROVES TO BE A UNIVERSAL SUBSTRATE PRESENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT RATHER THAN A PSYCHOLOGICAL PREMISE."

C G. JUNG

“JUNG SAW NATURE AND ONE’S SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT AS A LIVING MATRIX OF POTENTIAL SYNCHRONISTIC MEANING THAT COULD ILLUMINATE THE HUMAN SPHERE. HE ATTENDED TO SUDDEN OR UNUSUAL MOVEMENTS OR APPEARANCES OF ANIMALS, FLOCKS OF BIRDS, THE WIND, STORMS, THE SUDDENLY LOUDER LAPPING OF THE LAKE OUTSIDE THE WINDOW OF THE CONSULTING ROOM, AND SIMILAR PHENOMENA AS POSSESSING POSSIBLE SYMBOLIC RELEVANCE FOR THE PARALLEL UNFOLDING OF INTERIOR PSYCHOLOGICAL REALITIES.”

RICHARD TARNAS

"IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE MODERN WORLD VIEW, JUNG CEASED TO REGARD THE OUTER WORLD AS MERELY A NEUTRAL BACKGROUND AGAINST WHICH THE HUMAN PSYCHE PURSUED ITS ISOLATED INTRA-SUBJECTIVE QUEST FOR MEANING AND PURPOSE. RATHER, ALL EVENTS, INNER AND OUTER, WHETHER EMANATING FROM THE HUMAN UNCONSCIOUS OR FROM THE LARGER MATRIX OF THE WORLD, WERE RECOGNIZED AS SOURCES OF POTENTIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE."

RICHARD TARNAS

"FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, NOT ONLY THE INDIVIDUAL PSYCHE AND NOT ONLY HUMANITY'S COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS BUT ALL OF NATURE SUPPORTED AND MOVED THE HUMAN PSYCHE TOWARDS A LARGER CONSCIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE AND MEANING. EACH MOMENT POSSESSED A CERTAIN TANGIBLE CHARACTER OR QUALITY WHICH PERVADED THE VARIOUS EVENTS TAKING PLACE AT THAT MOMENT."

RICHARD TARNAS

2 TYPES OF SYNCHRONICITY

1. OUTER – SUCH AS LADYBIRDS OR GOLDEN SCARABS...
2. INNER – SUCH AS DREAMS...

DREAMS AS THE WISE-ONE WITHIN

"TOGETHER THE PATIENT AND I ADDRESS OURSELVES TO THE TWO MILLION-YEAR-OLD MAN THAT IS IN ALL OF US. IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, MOST OF OUR DIFFICULTIES COME FROM LOSING CONTACT WITH OUR INSTINCTS, WITH THE AGE-OLD FORGOTTEN WISDOM STORED UP WITHIN US. AND WHERE DO WE MAKE CONTACT WITH THIS OLD MAN IN US? *IN OUR DREAMS.*"

CARL G. JUNG

DREAMS AS NATURE

"TO ME, DREAMS ARE A PART OF NATURE, WHICH HARBOURS NO INTENTION TO DECEIVE, BUT EXPRESSES SOMETHING AS BEST IT CAN, JUST AS A PLANT GROWS OR AN ANIMAL SEEKS ITS FOOD AS BEST IT CAN."

CARL G. JUNG

DREAMS AS NATURE

"DREAMS ARE IMPARTIAL, SPONTANEOUS PRODUCTS OF THE UNCONSCIOUS PSYCHE, OUTSIDE THE CONTROL OF THE WILL. THEY ARE PURE NATURE; THEY SHOW US THE UNVARNISHED, NATURAL TRUTH, AND ARE THEREFORE FITTED, AS NOTHING ELSE IS, TO GIVE US BACK AN ATTITUDE THAT ACCORDS WITH OUR BASIC HUMAN NATURE WHEN CONSCIOUSNESS HAS STRAYED TOO FAR FROM ITS FOUNDATIONS AND RUN INTO AN IMPASSE.

CARL G. JUNG

DREAMS HELP US TO REALIGN WITH OUR NATURAL SELVES

"IN THE DREAM, THE PSYCHE SPEAKS IN IMAGES, AND GIVE EXPRESSION TO INSTINCTS, WHICH DERIVE FROM THE MOST PRIMITIVE LEVELS OF NATURE. THEREFORE, THROUGH THE ASSIMILATION OF UNCONSCIOUS CONTENTS, THE MOMENTARY LIFE OF CONSCIOUSNESS CAN ONCE MORE BE BROUGHT INTO HARMONY WITH THE LAW OF NATURE FROM WHICH IT ALL TOO EASILY DEPARTS, AND THE PATIENT CAN BE LED BACK TO THE NATURAL LAW OF HIS OWN BEING."

CARL G. JUNG

DREAMS ARE BEYOND SPACE, TIME, AND CAUSALITY

"WE MUST FACE THE FACT THAT OUR WORLD, WITH ITS TIME, SPACE, AND CAUSALITY, RELATES TO ANOTHER ORDER OF THINGS LYING BEHIND AND BENEATH IT, IN WHICH NEITHER "HERE AND THERE" NOR "EARLIER AND LATER" ARE OF IMPORTANCE. I HAVE BEEN CONVINCED THAT AT LEAST A PART OF OUR PSYCHIC EXISTENCE IS CHARACTERIZED BY A RELATIVITY OF SPACE AND TIME. THIS RELATIVITY SEEMS TO INCREASE, IN PROPORTION TO THE DISTANCE FROM CONSCIOUSNESS, TO AN ABSOLUTE CONDITION OF TIMELESSNESS AND SPACELESSNESS."

CARL G. JUNG

DREAMS AS THE VOICE OF COSMIC MATTER WITHIN

"DREAMS ARE THE VOICE OF OUR INSTINCTIVE ANIMAL NATURE OR ULTIMATELY THE VOICE OF COSMIC MATTER IN US. THIS IS A VERY DARING HYPOTHESIS, BUT I WILL VENTURE TO SAY THAT THE COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS AND ORGANIC ATOMIC MATTER ARE PROBABLY TWO ASPECTS OF THE SAME THING. SO, THE DREAMS ARE ULTIMATELY THE VOICE OF COSMIC MATTER. THE DREAM TAKES US INTO THE MYSTERIES OF NATURE, STRANGE TO THE RATIONAL MIND."

MARIE LOUISE VON FRANZ

"DREAM ANALYSIS"

- NOT PRIMARILY ABOUT EXPLAINING OR COGNITIVELY UNDERSTANDING THE MEANING OF A DREAM/IMAGE
- ABOUT DISCERNING, INTUITING, HEART-SENSING - THE RESONANCE OF SYNCHRONOUS CONNECTEDNESS BETWEEN THE IMAGERY OF THE DREAM AND EVENTS IN ONES LIFE

SOME THOUGHTS ON DREAM INTERPRETATION...

I SHOULD BE CONTENT
TO LOOK AT A MOUNTAIN
FOR WHAT IT IS
AND
NOT AS A COMMENT
ON MY LIFE.

MICHAEL IGNATOW

*“AT DAWN MY TRUE LOVE
COMES TO ME,
AND TELLS ME OF HER
DREAM,
WITHOUT ANY ATTEMPT TO
BURY THE DREAM
IN THE DITCH OF WHAT
EACH ONE MEANS.”*

BOB DYLAN





“ÉIST LE TUILE NA HABHANN AGUS GHEOBHAIDH TÚ BREAC.”

OLD IRISH PROVERB

“INTERPENETRATION” RATHER THAN INTERPRETATION

- NOT RATIONAL ANALYSIS
- CLOSER TO A “GLOW FROM BELOW”; A SECONDARY CONSEQUENCE THAT ARISES FROM OFFERING THE DREAM OUR HOSPITALITY
- AS WE ATTEND TO THE IMAGES OF THE DREAM, AS WE GIVE THEM SPACE AND ALLOW THEM TO BE WHO THEY ARE, A RESONANCE MOVES UPWARDS AS WELL AS INWARDS AND DOWNWARDS
- IN THIS PROCESS, CONSCIOUSNESS IS AFFECTED BY THE DREAM - FROM BELOW UP
- THIS *INTERPENETRATION* BY THE IMAGES BRINGS WITH IT A SUBJECTIVE SENSE OF CONNECTEDNESS AND MEANING AND ILLUMINATES RELEVANT ASPECTS OF OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

SYNCHRONICITY AND INTERPRETATION

- RATHER THAN THE PRIMARY MOVE BEING TO SEE DREAMS AS CAUSALLY RELATED TO EVENTS IN OUR EVERYDAY LIFE, SEEING THEM AS EMERGING A-CAUSALLY YET MEANINGFULLY FROM THE INTERACTIVE-PATTERNING OF THAT PARTICULAR MOMENT
- RATHER THAN SEEING DREAM-WORK AS A COGNITIVE PROCESS OF ANALYZING THE DREAM CONTENT; SEEING IT AS AN INTUITIVE PROCESS OF DISCERNING SYNCHRONISTIC CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE DREAM IMAGES AND ASPECTS OF OUR LIFE AND EXPERIENCE

TYPICAL SEQUENCE IN NATURE OF SYNCHRONISTIC EVENTS & RESPONSES

INITIALLY THERE MAY BE...

AMBIGUOUSLY SUGGESTIVE COINCIDENCES AND PATTERNINGS USUALLY
REGARDED AS MERELY FORTUITOUS OR SUBJECTIVE

TYPICAL SEQUENCE IN NATURE OF SYNCHRONISTIC EVENTS & RESPONSES

THEN...

THERE MAY BE ONE OR MORE ESPECIALLY POWERFUL SYNCHRONICITIES, UNAMBIGUOUS IN THEIR CO-INCIDENTAL FORCE AND PRECISION OF PATTERNING THAT HAVE A REVELATORY EFFECT ON THE INDIVIDUAL AND MARK A DECISIVE THRESHOLD... NOT INFREQUENTLY SYNCHRONICITIES IN THIS CATEGORY OCCUR IN ASSOCIATION WITH BIRTHS, DEATHS, CRISES AND OTHER TURNING POINTS IN LIFE. ON OCCASION THERE MAY TAKE PLACE A SUDDEN CONVERGENCE OF MANY SUCH SYNCHRONICITIES, INTRICATELY INTERCONNECTED, OCCURRING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY OR RAPID SUCCESSION, HAVING THE EFFECT OF ANY OVERPOWERING EPIPHANY OF NEW MEANING AND PURPOSE IN THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL

TYPICAL SEQUENCE IN NATURE OF SYNCHRONISTIC EVENTS & RESPONSES

OVER TIME...

AFTER THIS THRESHOLD HAS BEEN CROSSED, A NEW ATTITUDE TO SYNCHRONICITIES EMERGES AS THEIR FREQUENCY AND CHARACTER COME TO SEEM PART OF LIFE'S PERVASIVE INTELLIGENCE AND ARTISTRY – LESS PARADIGM SHIFTING THAN REVELATORY OF A NEW ORDER OF REALITY AND MORE A CONTINUING SOURCE OF MEANING AND ORIENTATION. A DISCIPLINED ALERTNESS TO SIGNIFICANT PATTERNING IN THE OUTER WORLD AS WELL AS THE INNER BEGINS TO DEVELOP AS AN ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF LIVING A MORE CONSCIOUS LIFE

RICHARD TARNAS





HOW CAN WE BETTER RECOGNIZE SYNCHRONICITY?

- REQUIRES OF THE INDIVIDUAL A DISCERNING SURRENDER OF THE USUAL CONSCIOUS ATTITUDE OF KNOWING SUPERIORITY
- THAT WE DEVELOP A CAPACITY FOR THINKING AND PERCEIVING SYMBOLICALLY; A CULTIVATED SENSITIVITY TO METAPHORIC AND ANALOGICAL PATTERNS
- THAT WE ALLOW FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT MEANING CAN BE CARRIED BY THE OUTER WORLD AS WELL AS THE INNER, BY ALL OF NATURE AND ONE'S SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT, NOT JUST BY THE HUMAN PSYCHE
- AND AN ONGOING PAINSTAKING CULTIVATION OF SELF-KNOWLEDGE TO AVOID SUCCUMBING TO MERE PROJECTION...

RICHARD TARNAS

HOW CAN WE BETTER RECOGNIZE SYNCHRONICITY?

*"PRAYER IS NOT PRIMARILY SOMETHING WE SAY OR DO.
PRAYER IS A STATE OF BEING.
AND WHATEVER WE DO WHEN WE'RE IN THAT STATE OF BEING IS PRAYER."*

WOLF WAHPERAH

*"FOR THE MIRACULOUS TO HAPPEN IS AN ACCIDENT. PRACTICE MAKES US
ACCIDENT PRONE."*

SUZUKI ROSHI

HOW CAN WE BETTER RECOGNIZE SYNCHRONICITY?

BY DOING WHATEVER WE KNOW WILL BRING US INTO "THE STATE OF BEING THAT IS PRAYER", WHATEVER WILL MAKE US MORE "ACCIDENT PRONE"

BY COMING INTO DEEP CONNECTION WITH OTHER-THAN-HUMAN NATURE WITH MINDFULNESS, AND GRATITUDE, AND AN ATTITUDE OF OPENNESS AND RESPECT -
- AND A WILLINGNESS TO BE SURPRISED

IN FINISHING, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO...

- PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR DREAMS – DREAM JOURNAL
- ALLOW FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF DREAM SYNCHRONICITY
- PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR LIFE, AND ESPECIALLY TO YOUR TIMES IN NATURE
- ALLOW FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT “IT’S ALL ALIVE, INTELLIGENT, CONNECTED, RELATIVES”
- REMEMBER, OUR BODIES AND OUR HEARTS RECOGNIZE SYNCHRONICITY BEFORE THE MIND DOES
- WELCOME, HONOR, BE GRATEFUL
- DON'T OVERTHINK IT!