

Dr. Mohd Ahammed Khan

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Paper - IIIrd

Topic - Freud's View of Dream

In the late 19th century, psycho-therapist Sigmund Freud developed a theory that the content of dreams is driven by unconscious wish fulfillment. Freud called dreams the "royal road" to the unconsciousness. He theorized that the content of dreams reflect the dreamer's unconscious mind and specifically that dream content is shaped by unconscious wish fulfillment. He argued that important unconscious desires often relate to early childhood memories and experiences. Freud's theory describes dreams as having both manifest and latent content. Latent content relates to deep unconscious wishes or fantasies while manifest content is superficial and meaningless. Manifest content often masks or obscures latent content.

In his early work, Freud argued that the vast majority of latent dream content is sexual in nature, but he later moved away from this categorical position. In *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* he considered how trauma or aggression could influence dream content. He also discussed supernatural origins in *Dreams and Occultism*, a lecture published in *New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*.

Later in life Freud acknowledged that "it is impossible to classify as wish fulfillments" the repetitive nightmares associated with posttraumatic stress disorder.