

**NERVOUS AND MENTAL
DISEASE MONOGRAPH SERIES,
NO. 15; DREAMS AND MYTHS: A
STUDY IN RACE PSYCHOLOGY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649355648

Nervous and Mental Disease Monograph Series, No. 15; Dreams and Myths: A Study in Race Psychology by Karl Abraham

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

KARL ABRAHAM

**NERVOUS AND MENTAL
DISEASE MONOGRAPH SERIES,
NO. 15; DREAMS AND MYTHS: A
STUDY IN RACE PSYCHOLOGY**

NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASE MONOGRAPH
SERIES, NO. 15

DREAMS AND MYTHS

A Study in Race Psychology

BY
DR. KARL ABRAHAM
Berlin

LANE MEDICAL LIBRARY
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
300 WOODS
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

Translated by
WILLIAM A. WHITE, M.D.
Washington

NEW YORK
THE JOURNAL OF NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASE
PUBLISHING COMPANY

1913

LANE LIBRARY. STANFORD UNIVERSITY

L600
A1518
1713

AUTHOR'S FOREWORD TO THE AMERICAN EDITION

Three years have elapsed since the appearance of the German edition. In the meantime the interest in psychoanalytic researches has everywhere grown, more especially in the United States of North America. So the need for an English translation of this work has arisen.

The author can only say that the views that he has presented in this work have experienced complete confirmation through the more recent investigations.

DR. KARL ABRAHAM.

BERLIN, September, 1912.

104066

CONTENTS

I. Object and Viewpoint of Psychoanalytic Investigations According to Freud	1
II. Childhood Phantasies in Dreams and Myths. Application of the Wish Theory to Myths	4
III. Symbolism in Speech, in Dreams and Other Phantasies	12
IV. Analysis of the Prometheus Saga	27
V. Infantilism in Individual and Folk Psychology, Wish-fulfillment in Dream and Myth	32
VI. The Effect of the Censor in Dreams and Myths. The Work of Condensation	43
VII. Displacement and Secondary Elaboration in Dreams and Myths	46
VIII. The Effect of Displacement in the Sagas of Prometheus, Moses, and Samson	49
IX. The Means of Representation of the Myth	55
X. Wish-fulfillment in the Prometheus Saga	58
XI. Analysis of the Myth of the Origin of Nectar	63
XII. The Wish Theory of the Myth	69
XIII. The Determining Forces in the Psychic Life of the Individual and the Race	73

DREAMS AND MYTHS.*

I

OBJECT AND VIEWPOINT OF PSYCHOANALYTIC INVESTIGATIONS ACCORDING TO FREUD

The psychological theories that are associated with the name of S. Freud reach out into regions of the psychic life of man, which, from outer appearances, have no relation to one another. Freud in common with J. Breuer in their "Studien über Hysterie" (1895) started out from pathological psychic manifestations. The progressive elaboration of the psychoanalytic method required a searching study of dreams.¹ It appeared also that for a full understanding of these phenomena the comparative consideration of certain other phenomena must be taken up. Freud saw this and drew wider and wider areas of the normal and diseased psychic life into the field of his investigations. So there appeared in the *Sammlung kleiner Schriften zur Neurosenlehre* (1906) an assortment of studies of hysteria, compulsive ideas, and other psychic disturbances, later the monographs "Über den Witz" (1905), the "Abhandlungen zur Sexualtheorie"² (1905), and lately the psychological analysis of a poet's works,³ which constitutes the first volume of this series. Freud came to consider these apparently heterogeneous products of man's psyche from a common viewpoint. They all have in common the relation to the unconscious, to the psychic life of childhood, and to the sexuality; they have in common the tendency to represent a wish of the indi-

* Traum und Mythos. Eine Studie zur Völkerpsychologie. Schriften zur angewandten Seelenkunde. Leipzig und Wien. Franz Deuticke 1909.

¹ "Die Traumdeutung." Wien und Leipzig, 1900 (2. Aufl. 1909).

² An English translation of this work by Dr. A. A. Brill is No. 7 of this Series.

³ "Der Wahn und die Träume in W. Jensens' 'Gradiva'" Wien und Leipzig, 1907.

vidual as fulfilled; in common are the means of this representation, which serve this end.

He who is not acquainted with Freud's writings and those of his followers, will be astonished that one should earnestly seek to place all these expressions near one another under the same viewpoint. He will ask what sort of relations wit has to the unconscious. He will doubt that a disease can contain a wish-fulfillment for the patient who suffers from it and he will not quite comprehend how one can place poetry parallel in this respect. He will not understand what general relations are supposed to prevail between the dreams of adults and the psyche of the child. He will, and this perhaps most, be opposed to the idea that one can ascribe to all these psychological phenomena relations to sexuality. And so the teachings laid down by Freud appear to be full of contradictions and absurdities; they appear as isolated statements without critique to generalize. Consequently one will be inclined to reject, *a limine*, the methods of investigation, with the help of which, results like these are obtained.⁵

If I were to attempt here an answer to the different objections I could not avoid a detailed presentation of all of Freud's teachings and would be obliged to considerably overstep the limits of this work. Opportunity will offer, in the course of our inquiry, to touch upon the most important problems to which Freud has devoted his work. In the meantime suffice a reference: All of the psychic phenomena which we above place side by side are the products of phantasy. We will not assume, without further demonstration, that as such they present certain analogies among themselves.

There are, besides the products of individual phantasy, also those that cannot be ascribed to such phantasy. I am satisfied

⁵This is about the standpoint taken by the medical profession to Freud's teachings. It must be confessed that Freud's teachings must at first appear strange to the unprejudiced. It should be emphasized that a wide cleft separates them from traditional psychology. That should be no ground, however, for dismissing them with a shrug of the shoulders or a few witty catch words, as happens on the side of the critics.