Einstein: Time on his hands, time in his head

The Dream Lady

DENISE RODGERS

"All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream."
Edgar Allen Poe

"In the dim light of morning the young patent clerk sprawls in his chair, head down on his desk. For the past several months he has dreamed many dreams about time. His dreams have taken hold of his research. But the dreaming is finished.

"Out of the many possible natures of time, imagined in as many nights, one seems compelling. Not that the others are impossible. The others might exist in other worlds.

"The patent clerk is Albert Einstein. In his dreams he imagines new worlds in which time can be circular or flow backwards, or slow down at higher altitudes or take the form of a nightingale."

The quote is from a new novel, "Einstein's Dreams," by Alan Lightman. Before reading the book, I had no idea Einstein's theory of relativity was a product of his dreamstate.

But then many of the world's greatest scientists, artists, composers and scholars were quite well versed in plucking creative ideas straight from their subconscious dreamland.

Leonardo da Vinci was known as an artist, sculptor, architect and composer. What is not commonly known is that intricate, detailed renderings of a submarine were discovered among his belongings years after his death.

Personal notes revealed that the images were drawn from a series of dreams he remembered over a period of time.

Later, the submarine was actually created by another inventor to the same proportion and design as da Vinci had originally drawn nearly a century before.

Were these individuals special to begin with?

Not necessarily. They became special because of what they did with their dreams.

Whether you are intent upon fulfilling your daydreams or understanding your nighttime dreams, all dreams are important to your existence.

Now, for your bedside dream journal, part three of our dictionary on dream symbols:

Face: Identity; how you identify yourself.
Falling: Feeling out of control with life's situations.
Father: Aggressive quality of superconscious mind; authoritative.
Fear: Doubts and fears in life.
Fighting: Resisting change in your life.
Fire: Expansion occurring in your mind or your life.
Fishing: Searching for spiritual knowledge.
Flying: Feeling positive and opportunistic about life.
Food: Knowledge.
Funeral: A major change has occurred in your life.
Gasoline: Energy.
Gifts: Talents or understandings possessed that you are unaware of.
Gold: Richness of self-value.
Gun: Tool to make a change in your life.
Hair: Conscious thoughts.
Hands: Purpose.
Hill: Challenge to confront.
Horse: Willpower.
Hospital: You have a need for healing.
House: Your mind.
Ice or snow: Not utilizing experiences in your life; stagnation.

To have your dreams interpreted in The Tulsa Sentinel, write to Dream Lady Productions, P.O. Box 700534, Tulsa, OK 74170. Not all dreams will be interpreted. Personal replies cannot be made.

Proof of a friendship, in writing

Georgia On My Mind

GEORGIA SNOKE

I think of it as "the letter." It was written with affection and concern to a young woman I once knew well. She was the friend of a daughter, and for a long period of time was a treasured adjunct to our family.

Then she moved away to school and when she returned our lives and interests diverged. The affection, however, remained.

It was with shock and sadness that I recently learned she had lost a job she had coveted for years — and with it her optimism, confidence and self-esteem. And yet, in honesty, I knew there were valid reasons for losing that job.

There were parts of the working bargain she simply did not keep. And she was hiding behind a self-protective shield, blaming everyone else for her loss, when she was, herself, largely to blame.

Here is a young woman with acres of abilities lost in a morass of self-doubt and despair. She is at the threshold of life. There are many roads she can take. But at the moment she is angry, accusatory, anguished. Not to mention terribly frightened of an unknown future.

What could I, a distant acquaintance, do to help?

Well, I wrote "the letter" — three pages of it — filled with what I hoped she will see as solid compassion and solid questions only she can answer for herself. And as I wrote it I asked myself — who am I to write this young woman? A friend's mother! A friendly face from the past!

Yet, I also have a perspective. I know her well, even now, and I know the few minuses that overwhelmed her many pluses and caused her to lose her job.

If she persisted in blaming everyone else, would she not set a pattern for failure? If she accepted and learned from today's lessons, would she not be able to forge a successful and positive tomorrow?

Every human being has setbacks. Every human soul has moments of dreary hopelessness. In my own life, in my own dark moments, kind notes from seldom-seen friends were an oasis in my despondency.

And they proved to me that there were quiet supporters who were just waiting for me to emerge from the depths and who would rush to my side when I was ready. I'll never forget that — or them. I would like to be such a friend to her.

In this day and age we speak of giving people "space." Yet I wonder. Have we become so careful of "space" that we cease to give support? In respecting privacy do we deprive our friends of compassion? How can we show care over a gulf of silence?

And so I wrote the letter. And read it, weighing each word for content and intent. And read it again. And mailed it.

They say that "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." Perhaps the same should be said of friends.

Fun stuff for the younger set on The Mini Page, B4

JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these six Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

LEPOAR

VERREE

KLARET

RAHBOR

RATTUN

PLATEA

WHAT PAPA RABBIT DIDN'T WANT HIS SON TO BE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

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★★★ Your stars this week ★★★

STELLA WILDER

The week is likely to see many individuals peering through newly opened doors and assessing the likelihood of new options and opportunities.

Indeed, many physical ills are likely to subside at this time, when those suffering from certain symptoms realize they are [illegible] tive attitude.

CANCER

June 21-July 7: Your opinions are likely to differ from those held by the people who have helped you formulate your own.

July 8-22: You can avoid a major argument simply by refusing to maintain [illegible] there by week's end.

Feb 4-18: Follow your instincts and you'll end up precisely where you need — and truly want — to be.

PISCES

Feb. 19-March 5: You may not be noticing as much about the [illegible]