



The Dream Encyclopedia

By James R. Lewis



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This encyclopedia examines 250 dream-related topics from art to night terrors, including dream control, healing and dreams, nightmares, ESP and dreams, falling dreams, Shakespeare and dreams, sex and dreams, Thomas Aquinas and dreams, creative visualization, problem solving in dreams, the collective unconscious, Native American dream interpretations, day residues in dream content, memory and sleep, and nondreamers. More than 700 dream symbols are defined in a separate 100-page section.

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The Dream Encyclopedia By James R. Lewis Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #7353991 in Books
- Published on: 1995-12-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.17" h x 7.30" w x 9.28" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 454 pages

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Editorial Review

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With 250 entries, *The Dream Encyclopedia* covers the role of dreams from the Gilgamesh epic to the theories of Sigmund Freud. Lewis is the author of *The Astrology Encyclopedia* [RBB Ag 94] and *The Encyclopedia of Afterlife Beliefs and Phenomena* [RBB Ap 15 95]. His new work includes scientific information on sleep and information on the place of dreams in religion and anthropology. For example, entries on religions and ethnic groups from around the world discuss the importance of dreams to those cultures. Entries range from one to four pages and end with bibliographies of sources for additional information. Black-and-white photographs accompany many of the articles. Arranged alphabetically, the encyclopedia is easy to use, and cross-referencing is accomplished by using boldface type. A section on dream interpretation, with more than 700 symbols and what they are supposed to mean, follows the encyclopedia. An appendix lists addresses of organizations and laboratories that do dream research. A subject index provides additional access.

The work does have some flaws. For example, Patricia Garfield is mentioned in the entry *Healing and Dreams*, but her name is not boldfaced to refer to her own entry. The same is true of Cicero in the article on Rome. One can also quarrel with certain omissions. While there are entries for authors (e.g., Chaucer), Samuel Taylor Coleridge's dream that became "Kubla Khan" is omitted. Some entries suffer from lack of depth. For example, the article *Sleep Learning* states that memory shuts down so learning cannot take place in sleep but provides little explanation of this beyond references to other sources.

Dreams are a popular subject with at least two other recent works. *The Encyclopedia of Dreams: Symbols and Interpretation*, by Rosemary Ellen Guiley [RBB O 15 93], is another popular treatment that emphasizes dream interpretation. *The Encyclopedia of Sleep and Dreaming*, edited by Mary A. Carskadon [RBB O 15 93], is a more scholarly work with lengthy articles written by scientists. Lewis' encyclopedia contains elements of both works but duplicates neither. *The Dream Encyclopedia* is recommended for high-school and public libraries that need a popular treatment of this topic.

Review

"A very convenient one-volume reference on everything you might want to read regarding dreams and dream interpretation...an excellent source of basic information."— *About.com*

"*The Dream Encyclopedia* is an aid to both dream interpretation and beginning dream research."— *American Reference Books*

"easy to use.... Recommended."— *Booklist*

"Lewis (DePaul Univ.) and Oliver (independent scholar) explore dreams in a cultural, historical, and psychological context. Recommended."— *Choice*

"Stop spending your waking hours trying to decipher your dreams. Check out *The Dream Encyclopedia*."— *Complete Woman*

"Whether one is a serious student of dreams, or wishes merely to peruse the volume for pleasure, one cannot help but learn something about the fascinating world of dreams from Lewis's helpful contribution to the

literature on the subject."— *Foreword Magazine*

"Encompassing all facets of popular interest in dreams, this general interest resource provides a broad overview of contemporary studies of dreaming, and sheds light on notions of dreams from around the world."— *Reference and Research Book News*

About the Author

James R. Lewis is the recipient of Choice's Outstanding Academic Title award and Best Reference Book awards from the American Library Association and the New York Public Library Association. He is an internationally recognized authority on nontraditional religious groups and currently teaches religious studies at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sarah Davis:

This book untitled The Dream Encyclopedia to be one of several books that best seller in this year, that is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this book in the book store or you can order it by using online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this e-book from your list.

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