

RL. Over the years, I have had many auditory dreams, and this has continued into my old age. I welcome these dreams and take them quite seriously, as being portentous, as you describe your own experience with auditory dreams. But I also have many auditory experiences whenever I enter what I would describe as a *liminal* space, which happens frequently when I am writing, particularly when writing fiction. These experiences are quite distinct from the sort of interior monologues I also have when thinking through things, or when I am deliberately thinking through what I am working on in writing. The auditory experiences in liminal sauce have the qualities of being *presented* to me. I have no sense that I am engaged in “making them up.” I know how to do that, and I know how different that feels. These presentational experiences have an autonomy that is unlike anything I do with conscious intention.

They are quite *spontaneous*.

I spent a good bit of time in *Psyche Speaks* on this word. It comes from the Latin word *sponte*, meaning “of its own accord.” That is, when something is spontaneous it seems to come about without any other agency than itself, as if it were not caused by anything other than itself. What a peculiar idea. If one thinks about the sense of acausality in this idea, one comes close to spontaneous things being a type of synchronicity. Following the Indo-European root of this word (*spen-*) leads us to the word “spider.” And, of course, we cannot avoid the image of the spider’s web, and with the web, the image of the Fates arises, spinning their webs of *entanglement*.

Typically, the ego will avoid anything that leads to any sense of loss of control. Yet so much of the attraction of addiction leads precisely to a loss of control. I suspect that an unrecognized aspect of addictive behaviors is the result of not engaging the spontaneous in a willful and generative way. When one says “no” to spontaneity and the spontaneous, that spider will come calling and take over, and one’s fate then becomes the fate of all addictions.

Perhaps the most frequent experience with the spontaneous is in the form of dreams. This, at root, is why taking dreams seriously, even to the point of *loving* them, is so important. There lie the sources one will look for elsewhere, in vain.