

WHO IS THE MAKER OF THE DREAMS?

Billie Ortiz

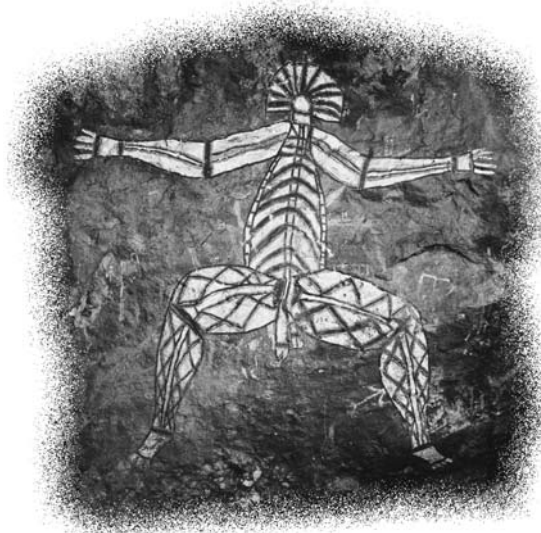
Who makes the dreams? Who writes these incredible dramas and adventures that have the ability to scare, thrill, amaze and amuse us every night?

Many cultures honor dreams very highly. For instance, in Hindu mythology the god Vishnu lies sleeping, dreaming the whole universe into being. While he lies sleeping on his back, a lotus flower grows from his navel and opens to reveal the god Brahmâ. Each time that Brahmâ blinks his eyes, a new world is created.

The Aborigines tell stories of the *Dreamtime* where the landscape is created by a great serpent lying beneath the surface of the earth, writhing and thrashing as it struggles toward wakefulness. Each lash of its tail, each arch of its back creates the rugged terrain of their world.

So who is the maker of our dreams? The easy answer would be "God makes the dreams." But as we've just seen, the word "God" can call up a number of meanings depending on the individual.

I tend to answer more specifically, "The dreams come from the God that lives within all of us." The part of us that gives us our tenacious will to survive. That mysterious and



Dreamtime: Aboriginal rock carving circa 6000BC

magical organic part of us that heals our cuts, beats our hearts and keeps us breathing. The part of us that has an in-built need to become better and stronger. The part of ourselves that perpetuates our continual evolution as a species.

However, the dreaming experience goes far beyond this explanation. So often we dream of things we have never heard or seen before. In any given dream we can find ourselves speaking a language fluently that we've never studied, walking through a museum packed with exquisite paintings and magnificent sculptures or paging through a book richly illustrated and painstakingly detailed, all of which far exceed our everyday waking imaginations. This is the level of our dreams that is often greater than we are as waking individuals. Through our dreams we cross the threshold that makes us feel humbled by the vastness of it all.

When we dream, we are tapping into what Jung coined the "collective unconscious," the storehouse of all previous human experience and the underlying consciousness that connects

us all. To more fully grasp this concept, we need to view ourselves as having come *out* of the world rather than having come *into* the world. Alan Watts explains it eloquently in one of his lectures by describing the Earth as "peopling" much like an apple tree is "applling." By taking this viewpoint, we then begin to realize that our dreaming experiences might be Nature's way of repairing and weaving the cosmic tapestry of which we are all an integral part. By Nature giving us nightly glimpses into the "Dream Matrix," we begin to comprehend that we are in fact inextricably connected to one another and that collectively our imagination is limitless. We enter a region that knows no boundaries.

The Aborigines believe that the *Dreamtime* is not only the primal spark that first quickened the earth into being but that it exists perpetually in the eternal "now." Through ritual and song, the *Dreamtime* can be accessed anytime so that all people can experience and participate in the ongoing creation of the world. The Hindu myths remind us that we are part of a universe that is continuously creating, destroying and reinventing itself, over and over and over. When we dream, we are given a grand view of how vast our collective potential is and we are invited to join in with the ongoing creation. So an even more interesting question to consider might be, "Who is the Maker of Waking Life?"



Billie Ortiz is an intuitive dreamworker who completed a five-year dreamwork apprenticeship in 2001. Since 1997, through her extensive work in private and group sessions, she has helped scores of dreamers on the path to self-discovery through a better understanding of their dreams. She can be reached at 303-929-6122 or wakeuptoyourdreams@earthlink.net. Billie is sponsoring two Dreamwork Retreats with Jeremy Taylor in 2004. For more details, please turn to the calendar listings.

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