
SYMBRION: Symbol Context and Dream Ego Relations Across Lifelong Dream Series as a Tool for Psychoanalysis

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Custom Project with mentor **Tristan Thrush**¹ *3 late days each; not pooled; no collaborators*

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Abstract

Psychoanalysts manually catalog recurring motifs in patients' dreams to trace psychological development over time. Tracking multiple symbols is time-consuming and oversight prone, even for short series. Automating symbol inventories enables analysts to reliably detect long-term patterns and ensure complete coverage. This frees analysts to focus deeply on the analytic dialogue and the therapeutic relationship. Our LLM pipeline extracts structured symbolic facts from long series and classifies dream-ego dynamics. We built our system on 4,254 dreams (spanning 41 years), assessing scalability across ten other dreamers (1912–2005) to analyze 11,000 total dreams and 15 symbols (Figure 35). To ensure privacy for sensitive dreams, we fine-tuned Qwen2.5-7B-Instruct via DPO for local use, improving factual support by up to 8% and reducing missed claims by up to 11%.

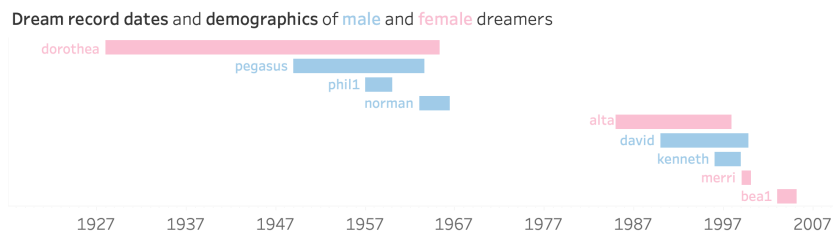


Figure 35: The interactive system generalizes across dreamers, symbols, and writing styles.

1 Introduction

Dreams. Although dreams often contain fantasy scenarios that are unlikely in waking life [22], creating summaries that remain faithful to dream reality has clinical value [24]. Similar to how a film synopsis should not be constrained by physical plausibility, dream summaries should preserve the symbolic events that occur in the dream itself. In this work, we extract structured symbolic facts from dream reports. These facts include inventories of dream symbols [7], descriptions of how the symbols appear, and how the dream ego interacts with them [26]. Such verified facts can later be used to summarize how symbolic patterns evolve across long dream series [10, 29–31]. This work focuses on automated extraction of symbolic facts rather than automated dream interpretation.

We developed an automated method for extracting symbolic facts from thousands of dreams. Development began with the symbol **water** and was later extended to additional symbols including **snake**, **fire**, **train**, **car**, **moon**, **egg**, **fissure**, **kiss**, **white**, **garden**, **mushroom**, **forest**, **house**, and **ocean**. The system was first tested on a single dreamer and later applied across ten dreamers.

Initial development focused on the symbol **water**, one of the most common and complex symbolic motifs in dreams because it appears in many physical forms. Psychoanalytic work often depends on distinguishing subtle variations in symbolic imagery, so the symbol definition was intentionally constrained. In our experiments the symbol was defined as “**liquid water, excluding frozen water and vapor.**”

Background. Carl Jung described three pre-conceptual forms that precede rational abstraction: number, image, and tone [23, 33]. Language was not one of these. Symbols are first apprehended as images and only later translated into words when dreams are recorded (Fig. 53). Psychoanalytic theory therefore treats dream images as expressions that point toward symbolic meaning rather than as literal events. Images and words may refer to the same symbolic core even when their surface forms differ. While symbol dictionaries document recurring motifs across cultures [7], the psychological meaning of a symbol remains flexible and emerges in relation to the individual dreamer.

Dreams are widely recognized as one of the most direct ways to access unconscious symbolic material [16, 24, 34]. Even seemingly ordinary dream events may be selected by the psyche for their symbolic relevance [24]. Interpretation therefore requires dialogue with the dreamer and attention to the dreamer’s life context [22, 24]. At the same time, analysts face practical limitations when working with large dream collections. Time for session preparation is limited, and reading thousands of dreams repeatedly is rarely feasible [29, 31]. Important symbolic patterns may therefore remain unnoticed until much later in the analytic process.

Clinical motivation. The following vignette illustrates the clinical importance of symbolic dream material [19]. A 40-year-old woman caring for a daughter recovering from a brain tumor feels unsupported by her husband and supervisor and fears the illness may return. She reports the following dream:

“I was swimming up a hill of water, and it was very icy. My daughter was swimming with me, but she slipped under the water and I couldn’t find her. I finally reached her and pulled her up. I was terrified.”

During analytic discussion, the terror is easily linked to the patient’s fear of losing her daughter. The *icy water*, however, becomes associated with emotional coldness and isolation, while the uphill movement reflects exhaustion. The dream image therefore connects bodily sensation, relational experience, and previously diffuse affect.

Bion described such disruptions as an *attack on linking*, in which emotional experience becomes disconnected from thought [9]. In this case fear dominated conscious reflection while loneliness remained insufficiently symbolized. The dream image restores the connection: “icy water” becomes associated with loneliness, allowing the patient to articulate the experience and reflect on it rather than being overwhelmed by it.

2 Related Work

Novelty of methods. The Motif Analysis and Phase Model (MAP), developed as an extension of Structural Dream Analysis, presents a manual method for extracting symbolic content and organizing it into four phases: prodromal, aggregation, confrontation, and integration [21]. Our work builds upon the MAP study where 217 dreams were analyzed with attention restricted to five symbols [21]. Our work extends this direction by analyzing a much larger dataset, allowing analysts to define and refine arbitrary symbols, and introducing automated verification for extracting symbol claims and dream-ego relations at scale. These extracted facts can later be grouped into broader developmental patterns that may correspond to major life and clinical events [21].

Earlier dream-analysis methods also motivate this work. Manual approaches such as Hall and Van de Castle content analysis, Domhoff’s quantitative dream analysis, longitudinal dream-series studies, time-series approaches, and structural frameworks such as MAP all demonstrate that recurring symbols and motifs can reveal meaningful psychological development across time [15, 16, 20, 21, 29–31]. Large dream datasets such as DreamBank have

enabled computational study of dream reports across individuals and over long time spans [18, 5]. However, the central analytic tasks of identifying symbol occurrences, tracing their transformations, and relating them to the dream ego remain largely manual and difficult to scale to thousands of dreams. Because analysts have limited time for session preparation, important symbolic patterns may remain unnoticed. Our contribution is not automated dream interpretation but a verifiable infrastructure for extracting symbolic inventories and dream–ego relations that analysts can later interpret in the clinical setting.

There is also potential confusion around the term *symbol*. Symbol dictionaries document recurring symbolic motifs across cultures and traditions, for example in the *ARAS Book of Symbols* [7]. In psychoanalytic practice, however, a symbol is not merely a recurring image but a psychologically charged expression whose meaning emerges in relation to the individual dreamer. In long dream series, recurring images may gradually become symbols through repeated appearances and through associations with events, relationships, and emotional experiences in waking life. Our system is designed to support this process by tracking recurring symbolic patterns while leaving interpretive meaning to the analyst.

Factuality. Evaluating whether generated text is grounded in a source document remains a central challenge for long-form language model outputs [41, 43, 55]. This is particularly important for dream analysis because symbolic claims must remain faithful to the dream report rather than to general world knowledge. Recent work shows that LLM-based factuality evaluation can be scaled using structured prompting and model-as-a-judge frameworks [50, 57]. We build most directly on the FACTS Grounding framework, which provides sentence-level grounding checks for long-form inputs and offers a practical method for verifying whether claims are supported by a source document [46]. This approach is well suited to verifying extracted symbol claims against dream texts.

Judge bias is another important consideration in LLM-based evaluation. Prior work shows that models may favor their own generations or inflate scores for outputs produced by related systems [49, 54]. This motivates using a stronger judge model than the generation model or combining multiple judges. In our setting this issue is especially relevant because unsupported symbolic claims are more problematic than conservative omissions. We therefore treat claim verification as a core evaluation component rather than a secondary analysis step [46, 50]. These observations motivate an automated system capable of extracting verifiable symbolic facts across large dream collections.

3 Approach

Pipeline overview. The system processes an entire dream series through a pipeline that extracts and verifies symbolic facts. The pipeline first identifies candidate symbols and ranks them by frequency across the corpus, providing entry points for symbolic analysis across the dream series (Fig. 4). The system was developed using 4,254 dreams spanning 41 years from a single dreamer (Fig. 1). The original pipeline (Fig. 3) was later revised (Fig. 24).

The pipeline extracts structured factual claims describing how a symbol appears in a dream and how the dream ego interacts with that symbol. To ensure reliability, we developed a bidirectional factual grounding framework. In the first direction, each generated claim is compared to the original dream text to determine whether it is supported by the source document. In the second direction, the dream text is examined to identify sentences referring to the symbol, and these sentences are compared with the extracted claims to determine whether the relevant symbolic information was captured. Together these measures evaluate both the support of generated claims and the coverage of relevant symbolic content.

Human labeling. To establish reliable ground truth for symbol detection, we performed expert human labeling of symbol presence in dreams. A trained psychoanalyst manually reviewed dreams and labeled whether a selected symbol occurred in each dream report (Fig. 5). This process was facilitated by a custom terminal-based labeling assistant (Fig. 27), which revealed several sources of ambiguity in symbol detection and helped refine symbol definitions and prompting strategies in the pipeline (Fig. 6). These observations later moti-

vated the interactive definition-refinement process introduced in version 0.2 of the system. See the definitions for **fire** (Fig. 20), **kiss** (Fig. 21), and **water** (Fig. 22).

Ego categorization. To capture how the dream ego interacts with symbolic elements, we introduced a structured ego categorization framework. Instead of relying solely on free-form descriptions of ego actions, the system classifies dream-ego interactions along two dimensions: engagement (passive, neutral, active) and outcome (negative, neutral, positive). This representation provides a structured way to analyze recurring symbolic interactions across a long dream series while preserving the narrative context of the original dream text.

The categorization framework is illustrated using the Holy Grail legend as a narrative example (Fig. 28). This example demonstrates how ego engagement and outcome categories can be interpreted within a symbolic narrative structure.

Interactive refinement. The initial pipeline was developed in Jupyter notebooks and later extended into an interactive command-line interface (CLI) pipeline (Fig. 24). The interactive version introduces a question-answer process that allows analysts to refine both symbol definitions and ego categorization definitions during analysis (Fig. 18, Fig. 19). For example, it will ask about edge cases like bathtubs where water is not mentioned, and the analyst can comment to refine the definition. After processing, analysts can inspect individual dreams together with their extracted symbolic facts and ego classifications through an interactive dashboard (Fig. 23).

Implementation. The authors defined all requirements and designed the pipeline. ChatGPT was used for low-level coding and to ensure correct interaction between Python components and the JSON result format. The pipeline uses Gemini 2.5 Flash [58], and Qwen 2.5 7B Instruct [61], accessed through LiteLLM [59].

4 Experiments

4.1 Data

DreamBank. We used dream reports from DreamBank, a large public archive of recorded dreams compiled by Domhoff and Schneider [18, 5]. Examples of dream reports are shown in Fig. 2 and Appendix F. For our initial system development, we used the **original Barb Sanders dream series** consisting of **3,116 dreams recorded over 38 years** [4]. This dataset provides one of the largest longitudinal collections of dreams from a single individual and has been widely used for studying symbolic patterns across long dream series. The dataset contains free-text dream reports recorded shortly after waking and therefore reflects natural language descriptions of dream experiences.

Because DreamBank does not provide labels for symbolic content, the dataset is unlabeled for our task. Claim verification was therefore performed using an LLM-judge methodology with additional human verification.

To evaluate generalization beyond a single dreamer, we additionally applied the pipeline to nine other dream series from DreamBank. These dreamers span different recording periods between 1912 and 2005. Across the two Barb Sanders series and the nine additional dreamers, the combined dataset contains approximately 11,000 dreams in total (Fig. 35).

4.2 Evaluation method

Evaluation framework. We evaluated all pipeline stages independently. Dream-level symbol presence was measured against expert human labels, which established reliable ground truth for detection performance (Fig. 1). Generated symbol claims and ego interaction claims were then evaluated using an LLM judge with manual verification. The overall evaluation structure across pipeline stages is summarized in Fig. 3.

Factual grounding evaluation. We evaluated factual grounding with a **bidirectional framework** in which factuality was defined exclusively with respect to the original dream report. For each dream, the system produced a list of extracted claims summarizing the symbol-relevant content. **In the *claim-to-report* direction**, each generated claim list was

compared against the source dream text using LLM judges to determine whether the claims were supported by the report. The claims were scored individually and then aggregated across dreams. This provides a more fine-grained measure of how many extracted claims were supported by the source text. **In the reverse report-to-claim direction**, we first identified sentences in the dream report that referred to the target symbol, and then compared those passages with the extracted claims to determine whether the relevant symbolic information had been captured (see example applications in Figs. 7 and 8). This reverse analysis revealed omissions, that is, symbol-relevant information present in the dream text but missing from the extracted claims. Taken together, the two directions assess both whether generated claims are supported by the source text and whether the extraction covers the relevant symbolic content. In addition, whole-dream summaries were compared directly to construct preference pairs for DPO training (Fig. 3 [I]).

Statistical analysis. To analyze trends in the ego categorization system, we performed significance testing across the nine possible ego outcome categories. These analyses are shown in Fig. 32, Fig. 33, and summarized across symbols in Fig. 34.

4.3 Experimental details

Experimental setup. We evaluated multiple system prompts and compared both commercial and open-source language models in order to understand how model choice and prompt design influence symbolic claim extraction (Figs. 5, 9, 10). To test whether performance generalizes beyond a single symbol or dreamer, we also analyzed results across multiple symbols and across different dreamers (Figs. 25, 37). All prompts used in the pipeline are provided in Appendices C and D.

For the primary dataset, symbol presence was manually labeled in all 3,116 dreams of the Barb Sanders series for the symbol **water**. These annotations were used as ground truth for evaluating symbol detection performance.

Fine-tuning Qwen2.5-7B-Instruct with DPO. We fine-tuned on dream summaries for reports containing the **water** symbol. To construct the preference dataset, we prompted Qwen 2.5-7B-Instruct at temperatures 0.7 and 1.5 to generate alternative summaries (Fig. 3 [F]). An LLM judge, Gemini 2.5 Flash, then selected the preferred summary from each candidate pair based on the factuality, yielding 1,132 labeled preference pairs (Fig. 3 [I]), which were used for DPO within the training architecture shown in Fig. 12. We did not enable the reasoning capability of the LLM Judge due to the budget constraint. Of these 1,132 pairwise evaluations, 3 dream reports triggered Gemini’s safety filters, likely because of violent or sexual content, and were therefore labeled manually. This highlights an important benefit of using open-source models in this domain: because dreams represent unconscious material and rarely materialize into real-world actions, they should remain analyzable even when they contain disturbing, socially sensitive, or norm-violating content. Suicidal imagery or thoughts, whether in dreams or while awake, are not by themselves sufficient for diagnosis or for inferring suicide risk according to ICD-10 [37] and DSM-5-TR [6].

We used 905 preference pairs for training and 227 pairs for validation. We did not construct a separate test set due to the small dataset size, and our goal was to demonstrate that DPO fine-tuning can improve the factual accuracy of the dream narrative summarization task. We ensured that validation samples were not used to train the model. Using QLoRA, we fine-tuned the model for 10 epochs on a single A6000 GPU [40, 51]. Learning is reflected in decreasing loss and increasing accuracy on both the training and validation sets (Fig. 13), while the reward margin also increases, indicating that the model increasingly assigns higher scores to preferred than to rejected responses.

4.4 Results

Baselines. We consider 4o-mini as the baseline model for the pipeline (Fig. 3). The baseline achieves symbol-detection accuracy above 99% (Fig. 5). At the claim level, 92% of generated claims are supported by the dream text (Fig. 9), while 24% of relevant claims are missed (Fig. 10). Manual inspection of example dreams (Fig. 2) and the labeling process

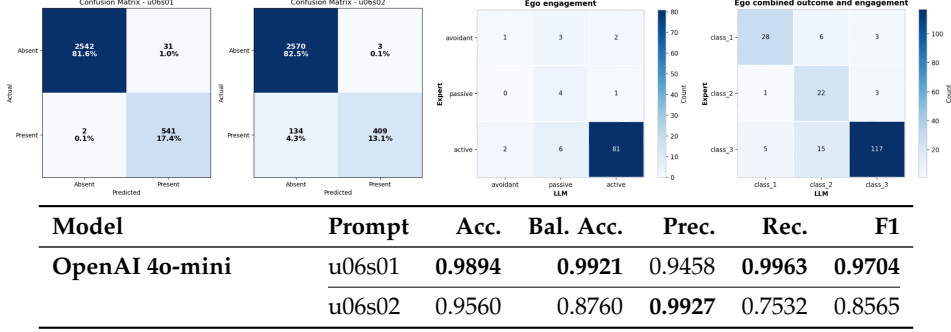


Figure 5: **Human-labeled ground truth**: symbols (left); ego (right; see Figs. 29 and 30).

(Fig. 6) helped identify several practical challenges in symbol detection and claim formulation.

The pipeline performs strongly across stages. Symbol detection is reliable under the constrained symbol definitions used in our experiments (Fig. 5). Claim verification achieves high support rates while still revealing meaningful omissions to diagnose potential improvements (Figs. 9, 10). The judge-based preference selection stage also performs consistently within this evaluation framework (Fig. 11). These stage-level results are summarized within the overall pipeline diagram (Fig. 3).

DPO fine-tuning. Fig. 16 shows the results of fine-tuning the Qwen2.5-7B-Instruct model for summarizing dream reports with the water symbol. The factuality of the dream summary improved 5.3% measured by the Gemini Flash 2.5 judge and 7.5% by the GPT-5 mini judge. The Gemini judge was stricter when evaluating the factuality. Nevertheless, we observed an improvement in factual accuracy during fine-tuning.

We conducted six DPO experiments with different learning rates and β for hyperparameter tuning (Fig. 15). At higher learning rates, we observed overfitting: training accuracy quickly approached 0 while validation loss increased. We therefore used the bold configuration in Fig. 15 ($\text{lr} = 5\text{e-}6$, $\beta = 0.2$) for evaluation before and after fine-tuning.

DPO improves support rate (Pre-DPO → Post-DPO) on 227 dreams from validation set

Judge	Claims	Supported	Unsupported	Support rate
GPT-5 mini	716 → 846	576 → 744	140 → 102	80.4% → 87.9% (+7.5% ▲)
Gemini 2.5 Flash	710 → 859	391 → 519	319 → 340	55.1% → 60.4% (+5.3% ▲)
GPT-4o-mini	716 → 846	636 → 793	80 → 53	88.8% → 93.7% (+4.9% ▲)

DPO improves missed-claim rate (Pre-DPO → Post-DPO) on 227 dreams from validation set

Judge	Eligible	Supported	Missed claims	Missed-claim rate
GPT-4o-mini	919 → 924	467 → 567	452 → 357	49.2% → 38.6% (-10.6% ▼)
GPT-5 mini	1146 → 1140	626 → 679	520 → 461	45.4% → 40.4% (-5.0% ▼)
Gemini 2.5 Flash	831 → 914	371 → 433	460 → 481	55.4% → 52.6% (-2.8% ▼)

Figures 16 and 17: **Optimized models approach performance** of commercial variants.

Symbol-level evaluation. We evaluated the system across multiple symbols within the Barb Sanders dream series. Fig. 25 summarizes the overall performance ratios across these symbols. To better understand system behavior, we separated the results into symbol-related claims and ego-related claims (Fig. 26). This analysis shows that ego-related claims are generally more difficult to extract reliably than symbol-related claims. Take the example, “I survived, but I’m still afraid.” Here the ego outcome could be coded as positive for survival or negative for afraid. The interactive definition refinement asks questions about edge cases like this and the system then generalizes this to other similar situations.

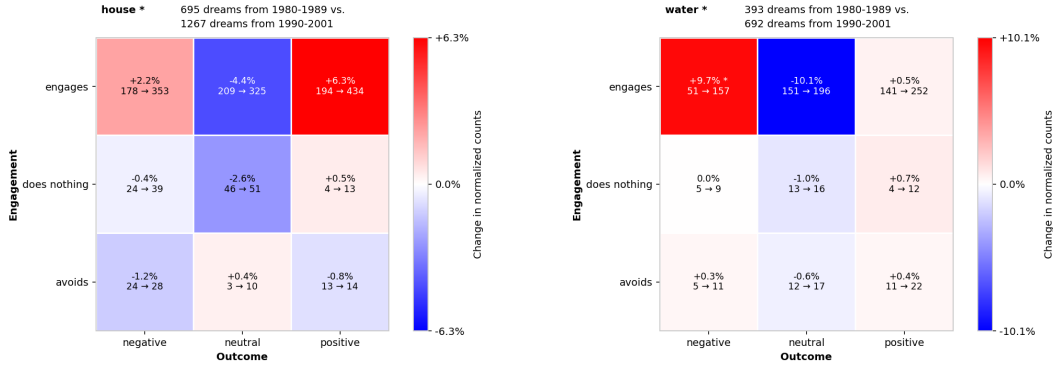


Figure 33: **House** is globally and locally significant; **water** is significant locally.

Overall claim ratios for Barb Sanders series of 4,254 dreams

Size represents the number of dreams for each symbol

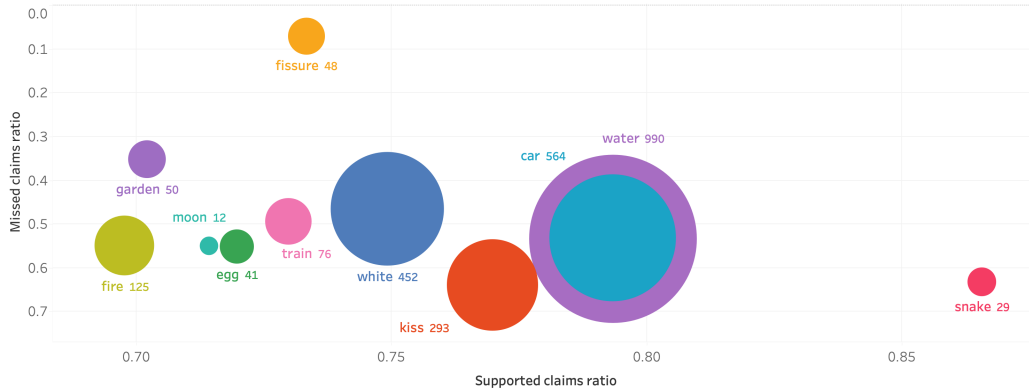


Figure 25: **LLM Judge** shows symbol-dependent variation in ratio metrics.

Ego classification. We evaluated the accuracy of the ego categorization system by comparing model predictions with expert human labels. Fig. 29 shows the performance of the ego engagement categories, while Fig. 30 shows the accuracy for ego outcome classification. Fig. 31 summarizes the overall accuracy across both dimensions.

Together, these results demonstrate that the pipeline can reliably extract symbol occurrences and structured dream–ego relations across large dream series while maintaining factual grounding in the original dream reports.

5 Analysis

Quantitative performance trends and **qualitative feedback** from practicing analysts (Appendices 7 and B) show the behavior and practical relevance of the system.

We first analyze how the system behaves when evaluating factual grounding of extracted claims. Across the Barb Sanders dream series, performance metrics reveal a wider range for missed claims than for supported claims (Fig. 25). This pattern suggests that the judging process is more sensitive to omissions than to overly general claims. In particular, the LLM judge may flag a missed claim when an extracted statement summarizes the dream content in a more generalized way than the original text. Because the system intentionally produces generalized symbolic descriptions rather than literal narrative summaries, future iterations will refine the judging prompts to clarify that reproducing specific proper names or locations is not required for a claim to be considered supported.

The system is **robust to many stylistic properties** of dream reports. Readability measures and several lexical-complexity indicators show little correlation with claim-support or missed-claim ratios (Figs. 44, 45). Some text **properties correlate with performance**. Sentiment, overall dream length, and expressive punctuation correlate with claim-support and missed-claim ratios, indicating that emotional tone and the amount of narrative detail influence extraction results (Figs. 44, 45). Performance differs across symbols (Fig. 46), while the year shows weak correlations with performance metrics (Fig. 47).

DPO fine-tuning shows promising results and gave us insight into the complexity of working with LLMs. We show that an open-source model such as Qwen2.5-7B-Instruct can be fine-tuned to improve long-form dream summarization. While larger commercial models currently hold a performance edge, this is a promising step toward a viable and privacy-preserving open-source deployment.

During error analysis, we observed that (1) some chosen and rejected summaries were very similar, making the preference ambiguous; (2) rejected summaries often mixed true and hallucinated content, where DPO penalizes them equally regardless of their correctness [42]; (3) DPO learns only pairwise preferences and does not model the absolute rewards [53]; (4) false negative rate is not part of the learning objective, which could potentially incentivize the model to generate short but factually correct summaries.

6 Conclusion

System performance and limitations. We presented a system for extracting structured symbolic information from large dream series. Given a symbol defined by a psychoanalyst, the pipeline (1) detects symbol occurrences at the dream level, (2) interactively refines symbol and ego categorization definitions with analyst collaboration, (3) generates structured factual claims describing symbol manifestations, (4) classifies dream-ego interactions according to personalized ego categories, (5) verifies extracted claims using an LLM judge, and (6) generates searchable short dream titles.

The system scales across multiple dreamers while maintaining reliable performance. At the same time, our analysis reveals several limitations. In particular, variations in writing style and textual complexity across dream reports appear to influence claim extraction and verification. These findings suggest opportunities for improving prompts, evaluation procedures, and symbol definitions to better accommodate different narrative styles.

Five four-part interviews with practicing analysts. (1) Before seeing the tool, analysts described current practices and attitudes toward symbolic dream analysis, saying they track recurring symbols across dream series informally and with limited tools, while remaining open but cautious about technological help. (2) Bobby role-played the patient, giving plausible responses based on demographic information. (3) Analysts interactively created symbol definitions and discovered surprising dreams in the dashboard, generally agreeing with the summaries and categorizations; informative failures, such as searches for absent symbols, led us to add handling for such cases and suggestions for related symbols. (4) Overall, analysts saw the system as a useful aid for organizing and inventorying symbolic material across large dream collections, as long as interpretation remains centered on the analyst-patient relationship.

This work demonstrates how modern language models can support **systematic symbolic analysis** of large dream archives while **preserving the interpretive role** of the analyst.

Team contributions

Bobby handled psychoanalytic questions and built the end-to-end system. **Chia-Wei** handled open-source LLMs, DPO, and training on Modal and a local A6000 workstation.

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Late days

We are using three late days, and no pooling is needed.

Acknowledgments

We thank the following people for their profound contributions.

Tristan Thrush, our CS224N mentor, encouraged us to pursue the idea when it seemed an impossible task. While we believed that language models could analyze dream series effectively, we anticipated challenges related to factuality and hallucinations. Tristan helped us frame the problem in a more measurable way and emphasized the importance of extensive testing. To validate observed trends and highlight meaningful patterns for end users, he encouraged the use of statistical significance tests, which became an important component of our methodology.

Shicheng Liu, CS224N TA, provided valuable feedback and suggestions on the technical aspect of the project during office hours. We received guidance on conducting the DPO fine-tuning experiments and the directions for error analysis. We learned a lot from the insightful discussions during the office hours.

Our external mentors, Art Funkhouser and Claudio Mele, provided guidance from the perspective of Jungian dream research and psychoanalytic practice. Their insights helped clarify how symbolic material from long dream series can be approached systematically while preserving the interpretive role of the analyst. Art Funkhouser also provided detailed feedback on the manuscript and shared insights drawn from decades of experience in psychoanalysis and dream research.

William Domhoff and Adam Schneider of DreamBank at the University of California, Santa Cruz, provided the full dataset in a single XML file and offered detailed feedback on our concept as well as extensive comments on related work. Dr. William Domhoff provided a complete extract of all dreams from DreamBank. For work beyond the course, we have additional datasets available for future study [1, 2].

Analysts at the C.G. Jung Institute in Küsnacht, Switzerland reviewed the system and discussed its potential clinical relevance while engaging with the material as if it were an active client case. Carmen Mettler contributed insights on the Holy Grail concept as it relates to the ego classification framework used in our analysis. Justin Shin provided detailed input on ethical considerations related to the project.

We also thank the practicing analysts who participated in interviews and discussions about how dreams are used in analytic practice and how symbolic patterns are tracked across long dream series. Their reflections helped clarify the practical constraints analysts face when working with large dream archives and informed the design of the system. Additional details about these interviews are provided in Appendix B.

To evaluate the system from a clinical perspective, Bobby Rohrkemper interviewed practicing Jungian analysts Carmen Mettler (CM), Alessandra di Montezemolo (AM), Jackie

Chen (JC), Niveen Abboushi (NA), and Claudio Mele (CM2). See the full transcripts in Appendix B.

Participants emphasized that dreams connect conscious and unconscious processes and bring unconscious material into awareness (CM, AM). Claudio further stressed that dreams should not be forced into a rigid method, noting that Jung did not define a fixed dream method because dreams are expressions of the soul and require conditions in which unconscious material can emerge rather than be contained prematurely (CM2). Meaning emerges through dialogue with the dreamer rather than through fixed interpretation (AM, JC, NA, CM2), and dream images should first be experienced before interpretive analysis begins (AM, CM2). Claudio described the written dream text not as the dream itself, but as a residue of the original experience that must be “warmed” back into living experience through careful analytic engagement (CM2). Recurring images may reveal psychological patterns across time (CM, JC, CM2), and many dream elements initially appear as themes before becoming fully developed symbols (AM).

Analysts described current practices for tracking dream material. Recurring images are often remembered mentally across sessions (AM, NA), sometimes supplemented with informal notes or written logs of symbolic motifs (JC). Earlier dreams may be revisited when new associations emerge (CM), although analytic work typically focuses on the most recent dreams (AM). Claudio noted that analysts often work primarily with the most immediate dream material in session, but that repeated archetypal images across time may become clinically meaningful when viewed dynamically rather than in isolation (CM2).

Participants generally saw a constructive role for technology. Digital tools could help organize dream archives, search across large dream collections, and identify recurring symbolic patterns (CM, JC, CM2). Claudio regarded the interactive symbol-definition process as particularly valuable because it mirrors analytic inquiry: rather than having the system impose a symbolic meaning, the analyst incrementally defines what counts as the relevant image and refines the search in dialogue with the material itself (CM2). Technology may also assist analysts in recognizing culturally specific symbolic references that might otherwise be missed (NA). However, analysts emphasized that such tools should support pattern discovery rather than replace interpretation (AM, JC, NA, CM2). Claudio repeatedly stressed that the analyst must not impose meaning on the dreamer, but instead guide the patient into contact with the material so that meaning can emerge experientially (CM2). The analytic relationship between analyst and dreamer must remain central (NA), and confidentiality was highlighted as a critical requirement (JC, NA).

The system itself was viewed as promising (AM, JC, NA, CM2). Analysts noted that automated symbol inventories could reveal subtle recurring motifs across long dream series that would be difficult to detect manually (CM, JC, CM2). Claudio was especially interested in the possibility of linking symbolic recurrence with dream-ego dynamics, suggesting that tension may be better understood not only through symbol presence but through whether the dream ego engages, avoids, or remains passive in relation to an archetypal image (CM2). He also endorsed coding ego outcome in relation to emotional reaction rather than only literal task success, which aligns closely with clinical concerns about affective experience in the dream (CM2). Participants also suggested that systems capable of identifying symbolic patterns across many individuals could provide useful insights for research contexts (NA, CM2).

Several limitations were also noted. Analysts suggested that systems should allow multiple interpretations rather than implying a single symbolic meaning (AM, NA, CM2). Symbolic meaning develops gradually across time (AM, CM, CM2), and excessive abstraction risks losing the experiential quality of dream images (AM, NA, CM2). Claudio cautioned that a dream report is not identical with the dream experience itself, so any computational abstraction must remain closely tied to the original text and should not substitute for lived analytic encounter (CM2). An image becomes a true symbol only when it becomes psychologically alive for the dreamer (AM). Participants also observed that extremely large dream archives are relatively rare in clinical practice, which may limit the direct application of large-scale computational analysis in everyday analytic work (AM). Privacy and

data security were also raised as essential constraints because dream material can reveal deeply personal psychological information (NA).

Claudio also contributed several concrete ideas for future development. He suggested that one of the system’s most clinically meaningful uses would be to track dream–ego behavior dynamically across time, for example by examining whether a patient’s relation to a recurring archetypal image shifts from passive or avoidant to active and engaged (CM2). He further proposed a more ambitious research direction: comparing dream series produced within an ongoing analytic process to dream series recorded outside analysis, in order to test whether analysis is associated with measurable changes in dream–ego structure over time (CM2). This suggestion extends the current system beyond symbol inventorying toward comparative longitudinal research on ego development in dreams.

Observing user behavior during the interviews led to several improvements and additional ideas for future development. One analyst did not immediately realize that a new symbol could be created within the system; we expect this issue to improve with the introduction of a graphical interface for the full pipeline. In another case, an analyst searched for a very specific symbol that did not occur in any dream. A more graceful response in such situations would be for the system to suggest related symbols. In this example, the analyst searched for a *pack of coyotes*. Situations like this may arise when an analyst expects a particular symbol based on discussions with the client. If the symbol does not appear in the dream series, the system could suggest similar symbols, either at a more general level (e.g., a broader noun category) or at the same level of a symbolic hierarchy with related properties. In this case, suggestions such as other packs of predatory animals might have provided useful alternative entry points for exploration.

See full transcripts in Appendix B.

Team contributions

Bobby Rohrkemper and **Chia-Wei Cheng** contributed equally to this project by jointly carrying out development work, conducting experiments, documenting results, and providing feedback. We come from different cultural backgrounds and currently live in countries far from where we each grew up. This diversity of perspectives and experiences was an asset to the project, though it also created logistical challenges for coordination. We addressed this by segmenting the workload so that each team member could work largely independently while maintaining regular communication.

As stated earlier, **Bobby** handled psychoanalytic questions and built the end-to-end system. **Chia-Wei** handled open-source LLMs, DPO, and training on Modal and a local A6000 workstation.

Data

DreamBank also contains a later set of 1,138 additional dreams from the same dreamer. These dreams were recorded after the dreamer became aware that the dataset would be studied publicly. Following the recommendation of Domhoff and Schneider [4, 18], this second set was not used during the initial development stage. It was later incorporated when we extended the analysis to multiple symbols within the Barb Sanders dataset.

Ethical considerations

Dream reports contain highly personal material, and symbolic content may be misunderstood if treated as direct evidence about external reality or diagnosis [24, 34]. Our system is therefore designed as a support tool for trained analysts rather than an autonomous interpreter. It does not infer diagnoses or claim access to hidden truths about the dreamer; instead, it extracts grounded descriptions of recurring symbols and dream-ego relations from the text, leaving interpretation to the clinical setting.

Privacy is a central concern because dream narratives may contain intimate fantasies, taboo themes, and biographical details. This concern is reinforced by the historical observation that individuals may censor their inner life when they feel monitored [8]. For this reason, a long-term goal of the project is to enable on-device open-source inference to minimize data transfer and dependence on external systems. We also treat dream text as untrusted input, avoid training on private clinical material, and frame the tool as a professional aid rather than a consumer product.

A second ethical challenge concerns censorship and content loss. Dreams often express psychologically important material in symbolic form, including themes that would be inappropriate to literalize or suppress [24, 32]. If model filtering removes or distorts such content, summaries may become clinically misleading. Our approach therefore prioritizes preserving symbolic details, keeping outputs closely grounded in the original dream text, and developing transparent open-source models whose behavior can be inspected and adapted.

We applied these **strategies** to minimize the risks below.

- ① Our tool does not interpret dreams. We create inventories of symbolic content to be used by a certified psychoanalyst.
- ② We will use open-source models in the final product so all content stays on the device.
- ③ Open-source models and prompts are selected to eliminate censorship.
- ④ Process each dream separately by LM prompts.
- ⑤ In a final product, explicitly state that the summaries are not for diagnostic purposes.
- ⑥ Investigate methods to prevent memorization and ways to mitigate attacks.
- ⑦ Use only public dream data for training.
- ⑧ Treat dream text as untrusted input and as data instead of instructions.
- ⑨ Release tool only to certified psychoanalysts.
- ⑩ Get advice from Stanford’s ethics experts and professional psychoanalysts.

Each of the **risks** above were mitigated with one or more of these **strategies**.

Dreams hint at or are confused for clinical information or diagnoses. ① ② ⑤ ⑨

Inner fantasies confused for metaphysical facts. ① ⑤ ⑨

Clients/patients receive invalid summaries due to LLM quality. ① ⑨

Clients/patients receive invalid summaries due to LLM censorship. ① ③

Dreamers could feel observed and self-censor. ① ② ⑤

Content is lost from the summary due to exceeding the context window. ④

Identification of dreamer or related biographical information. ② ⑨

The model may regurgitate sensitive dream content from other dreamers. ⑥ ⑦

Prompt injection, inserting LLM instructions into dream text for malicious intent. ⑧

The psychological significance of a symbol may not be stable over years. ① ⑨

Justin Shin of Stanford emphasized the importance of considering cultural context, noting that animal symbols in particular vary significantly across cultures. Avoiding rigid, predefined symbol lists has been a foundational principle of our project from the outset. Even before considering the risks above or contacting Justin, this principle drove our decision to develop a fully interactive tool, empowering analysts to define symbols dynamically based on the specific cultural and personal context of their work with each patient.

Future work

The full pipeline performs very well with commercial models and currently shows few limitations in either performance or result quality. We are considering a major extension to make the results more measurable by extracting attributes of symbols and representing them in quantifiable form, so that changes in a symbol's physical properties can be tracked over time and visualized. We are exploring several techniques for this, including knowledge graphs. We will also investigate ways to reduce the total number of API calls per run in order to lower cost and improve speed.

Future work: improving open-source performance

We will focus on improving open-source performance within the pipeline. Our primary technical objective is to increase accuracy in symbol detection and claim extraction through improved prompting, refined symbol definitions, and more effective use of Direct Preference Optimization (DPO) [51].

While the decision process shown in Fig. 11 performs well for positive ground-truth labels, the open-source model currently generates too many summaries for dreams that do not contain the symbol. Commercial models perform substantially better on this aspect of the task. For the open-source setting, this issue may be mitigated through improved prompts, better alignment between symbol definitions and dream content, and potentially smaller context windows.

We will also expand the DPO training to multiple dream symbols and ego interactions [51]. Additionally, as mentioned earlier, DPO only models pairwise comparison and neglects absolute rewards. In our case, this may not be ideal because some chosen-rejected pairs are factually similar. Penalizing them equally results in a disproportionate penalty that fails to target the underlying hallucination. Thus, we can explore GRPO to model relative rewards more appropriately. We can also strengthen the training signal to support more fine-grained reward modeling, since the current setup penalizes factual statements that appear in rejected summaries.

Future work: polishing user interface

Beyond the scope of this course project, we aim to polish the system into a more usable product that can be launched for broader testing and feedback. To make this practical, we need both a more refined user interface and a faster end-to-end pipeline. This would make the system more useful for exploratory analysis of long dream series and for preparing quickly for upcoming client sessions.

Future work: clinical and psychological research

The user feedback also yielded several suggestions for academic research on longitudinal dream series. One promising direction is to use our tool to track ego development in dream records from people who are undergoing psychological treatment or psychoanalysis and compare them with dream records from people who are not. This is based on the idea that a strong ego is central to personal growth and psychological development.

One interviewee also suggested using the tool to identify similarities between dreams of different people. This could help people feel less isolated, especially during difficult periods, and could support forms of mutual recognition and support through dreams. She gave the example of *The Third Reich of Dreams* [8] as a case in which shared dream material can reveal common psychological realities.

In addition, one analyst searched for a symbol that was not present in the dataset. We would like to extend the system so that it handles such cases gracefully by explaining that the symbol is absent while also suggesting similar symbols and clarifying in which ways they are similar. We are also considering whether to allow multiple tags for ego outcome and ego engagement. This requires careful design, since we do not want to over-tag individual dreams and thereby reduce the interpretability of the results.

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Overview

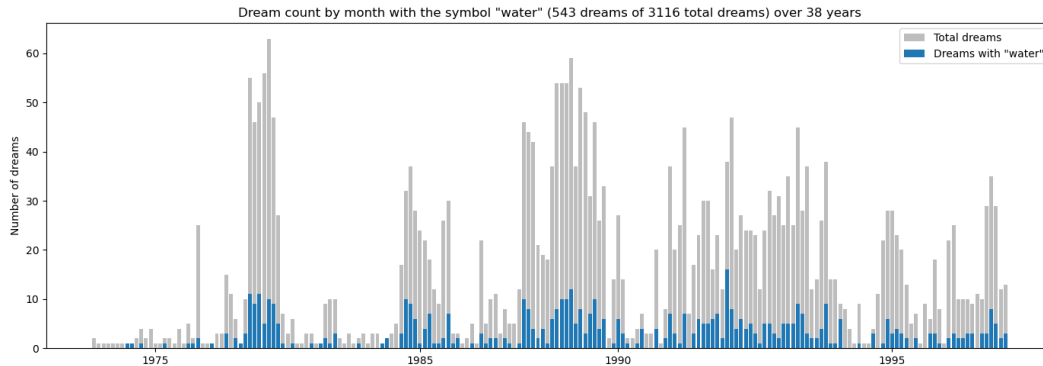


Figure 1: Bobby Rohrkemper, a psychoanalyst, labeled all 3,116 dreams in the Barb Sanders dataset according to the presence or absence of the symbol water according to the definition “liquid water, not including frozen water, not including vapor or gas”.

These dreams are the input to the pipeline shown in Fig. 3 [A] (“**Lifelong dream series from individual**”).

This is later used as a gold standard label for the process in Fig. 3 [E]. Interestingly, DreamBank ([5]) also released an additional 1,138 dreams from Barb Sanders, but these were recorded after the dreamer knew that her dreams were being studied. We excluded this additional set out of methodological caution, although the pipeline is fully applicable to it.

Dream Text	Analyst symbol comments	Analyst analysis
Dream from 1966. I dreamt that Dovre was drowning in a raging body of water. I'm standing on the road/bridge next to her. I am looking down at her. There's rain and storm all around us, raging. I know I must dive in and save her but I'm afraid to because to do so will be my certain death. I walk on, leaving her to drown, feeling sick about it.	<i>Facts:</i> There's a raging body of water and a person is in the process of drowning. There's also a raging storm with rain. The dream ego feels they should save the drowning person, but are unable and continue walking.	I would ask the dreamer about their feelings related to this scene and would expect them to indicate shame. It may indicate an aspect of themselves that they do not want to admit to. This aspect may still be very present in the unconscious.
Dream from 1968. A series of dreams about raging water, but I seem to be unafraid. One dream was me in a small boat going down a huge raging river, the water boiling up all around me and I am having a good time, enjoying the beauty of it all. Another dream involved a huge roiling waterfall. I think it is beautiful.	<i>Facts:</i> Water is still raging, but now the dream ego is participating by being on the water and even enjoying the ride and the natural beauty.	There's a positive progression from the previous dream. The dream ego here is independent and full of enjoyment. I would discuss new feelings that may have surfaced recently and how they carry the dreamer along. I would also be curious about any desires to share this experience with others.
Dream from 1976. I had the freakiest dream. I dreamed I'm on a raft with a beautiful Indian guy and a small child. We fight rapids, waterfalls, etc. Finally we pull up on beach (grassy, nice). I'm suddenly making advances (kissing, French) on Ginny. I had the male role. [...] This was accompanied by feelings of repulsion, guilt, no sexual feelings at all.	<i>Facts:</i> A river is not mentioned, but is alluded to and there are challenges along the way that are handled together with two others.	There's a continued positive development here because the watery environment supports developing relationships. But then there are also feelings of repulsion that are not evidenced as being related to water. I would ask about situations in life that have potentially become easier than before and if there could be mixed feelings.

Figure 2: **Selected dream examples** from Fig. 1 with commentary by Bobby Rohrkemper for the symbol “**liquid water, not including frozen water, not including vapor or gas.**”

These are used in the pipeline as described in Fig. 3 [A], [B], [D], [E], [F], [G], [H], and [I].

Our goal is to generate summaries similar to the **Analyst symbol comments**. It's not in the scope of our project to generate the **Analyst analysis** because this goes into a clinical and diagnostic realm which should only be carried out by professionals and only together with the patient's direct input.

SYMBRION version 0.0

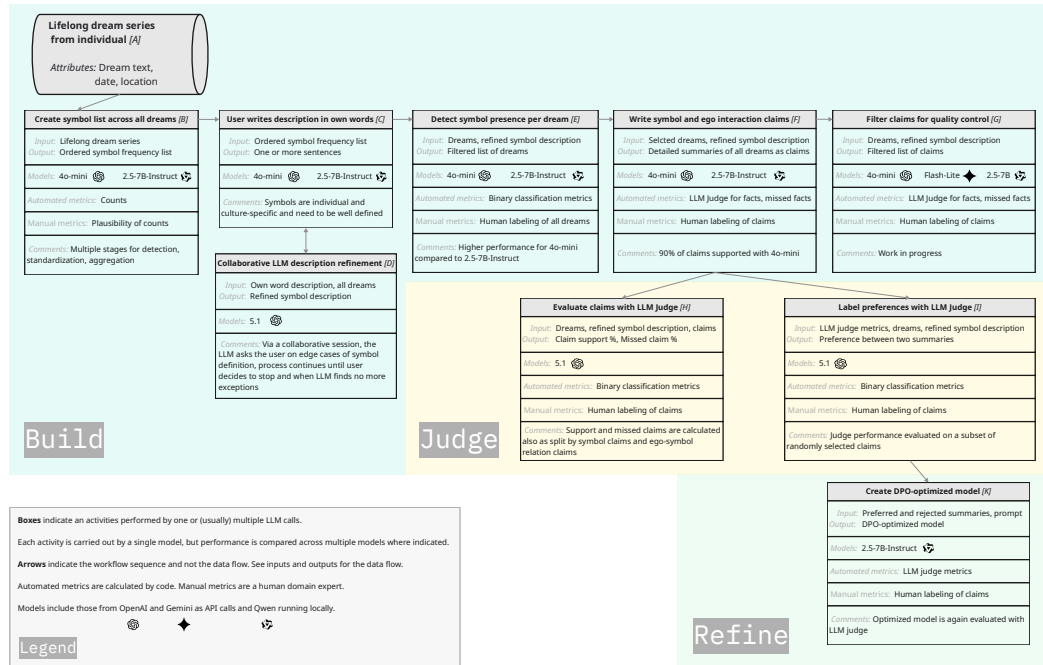


Figure 3: We built this **pipeline** iteratively and incorporated extensive psychoanalytic knowledge from Bobby Rohrkemper, who labeled all 3,116 dreams in the Barb Sanders dataset.

The markings [A] through [K] in the title of each module are referenced throughout this paper and in the other figures:

Fig. 1 and Fig. 2: lifelong dream series from an individual [A].

Fig. 4: create symbol list across all dreams [B].

Fig. 5: detect symbol presence per dream [E].

Fig. 9 and Fig. 10: evaluate claims with LLM judge [H].

Fig. 11: label preferences with LLM judge [I].

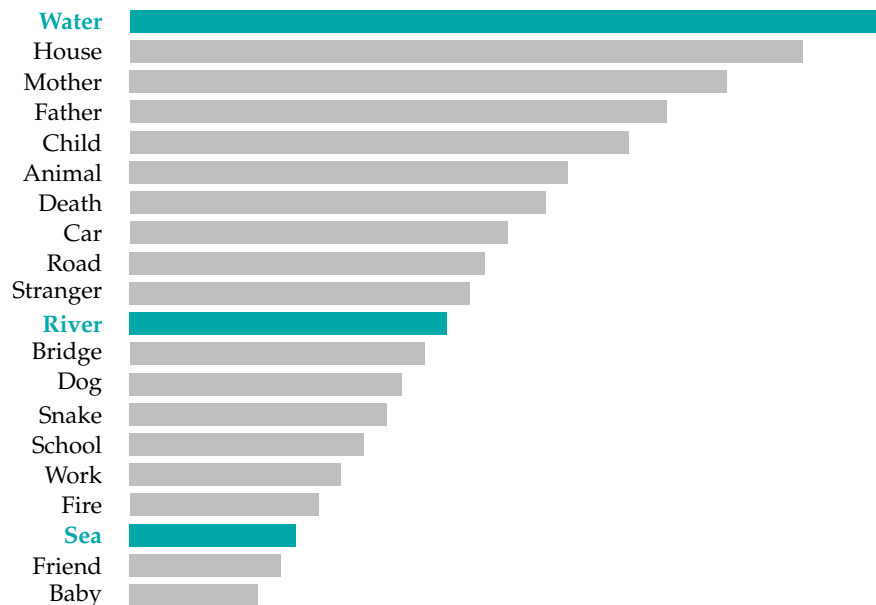


Figure 4: **Top 20 symbols by relative frequency.** In the pipeline, this is shown in Fig. 3 [B] and this figure illustrates the output. Our analysis targets the most frequent symbol and refines it with the definition “**liquid water, not including frozen water, not including vapor or gas.**” The symbols “River” and “Sea” are also related.

Module [B] (“Create symbol list across all dreams”) receives the entire dream series as an input and treats it as a single block of text. It then chunks the input into the longest segment that will fit in the context window.

There’s a first stage of prompting that uses domain knowledge from Analytical Psychology to extract symbols and dream dates. We verified this manually for plausibility.

Then there’s a prompt stage that takes each extracted symbol and replaces it with its most general form according to a symbol dictionary and world knowledge.

Then Python code is used to aggregate and sort the frequency list.

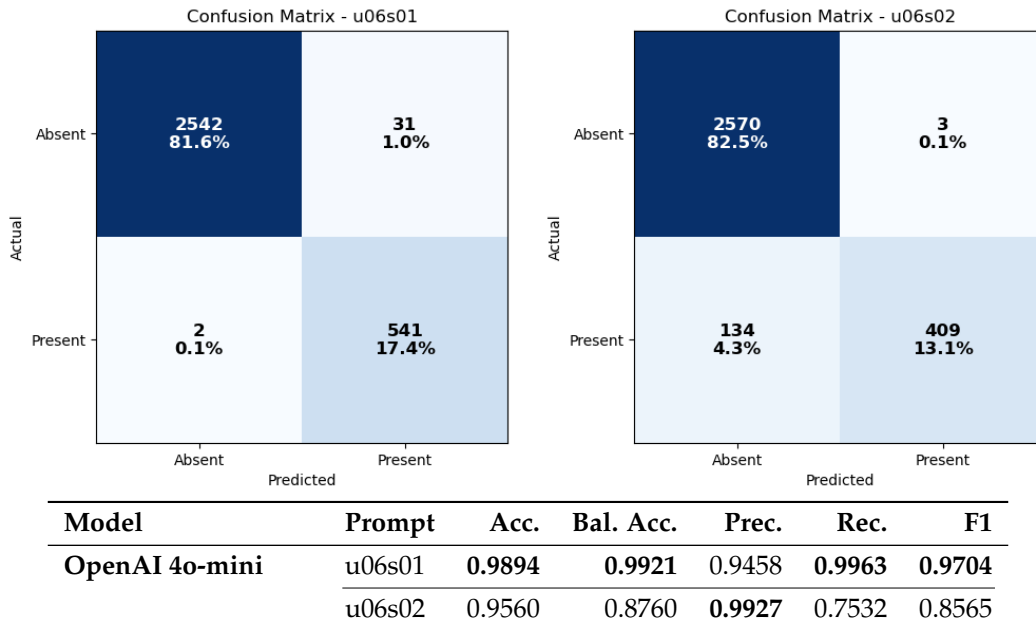


Figure 5: **Ground truth of symbol presence.** Based on the ground truth labels from Fig. 1 of the symbol "liquid water, not including frozen water, not including vapor or gas", we evaluated two system prompts as illustrated in Fig. 3 [E].

Using the data shown in Fig. 1, binary classification metrics were calculated for two system prompts.

Dream text	Model voting	Ground truth	Analyst comments
Dream from 1979. [...] My heart started pounding and then beating irregularly. My spirit came out of my body. [...] Then I was in a cloudy sky, going up. [...] There were several shower rooms. [...] If you got in a shower, you were transported back to Earth to live out another's life. [...] I was transported to the body of a young, pretty blonde woman in the process of drowning in a raging white water river. [...] Then "we" made it to shore. [...]	✗✓	✓	Only the second model correctly identifies the water and shore. Both models correctly reject the shower which does not have running water.
Dream from 1980. [...] Then he said, "And what did you learn?" I pulled my robe tighter around me and noticed with annoyance I kept doing that. I went to go change the long playing 50's record for another. When I came back, Ethan was sweating and his shirt was wet with perspiration. He had it half off. [...]	✗✗	✗	Bodily fluids are not included in the symbol definition. Here correct, but elsewhere there were mistakes.
Dream from 1983. [...] Then two men escort me to a sort of "throne" chair. They simultaneously pour liquids into my champagne glass, the mixture needed to be swirled to make champagne. Outside there is a battle of airplanes and ships. Then the news is that my "father" must be captured or killed to prevent more war.	✓✓	✓	The liquids are not water. The ships indirectly evoke water imagery. We can assume ships are on water until discussing with the dreamer.
Dream from 1993. [...] I step over books, and land in another small house that is completely surrounded by water, the great flood. The entire world is flooded except my little spot on it. [...]	✓✓	✓	A significant symbolic dream with a Biblical reference. This inspires us to consider a mechanism to mark "big dreams".

Figure 6: **Lessons learned from labeling the presence or absence of the symbol in 3,116 dreams.** To evaluate the filtered list of dreams including the selected symbol ("liquid water, not including frozen water, not including vapor or gas") as shown in Fig. 3 [E] ("Detect symbol presence per dream"), it was necessary to read all dreams to evaluate manually. While doing this, we learned a great deal that will generalize to improving the performance of symbol detection and also the final summaries.

This exercise directly inspired the process shown in Fig. 3 [D] ("Collaborative LLM description refinement") because many of the issues seemed to be due to the symbol definition and not the model performance or other aspects of the prompt.

Dream sentence	Eligible	Covered by u06s01	Covered by u06s02	u06s01 claims (✓ means verified)	u06s02 claims (✓ means verified)
Dovre was drowning in a raging body of water.	<i>symbol related</i>	✓	✓	✓ Water is described as a raging body. ✓ The water is associated with drowning. ✓ The water is located near Dovre.	✓ Dovre was drowning in a raging body of water. ✓ There was a raging body of water.
I'm standing on the road/bridge next to her.	<i>not symbol related</i>				
I am looking down at her.	<i>not symbol related</i>				
There's rain and storm all around us, raging.	<i>symbol related</i>	✓	✗	✓ The water is part of the stormy environment.	
I know I must dive in and save her but I'm afraid to because to do so will be my certain death.	<i>symbol related</i>	✓	✓	✓ The water creates a sense of danger. ✓ The ego expresses fear about diving into the water.	✓ The ego knows it must dive in and save her. ✓ The ego is afraid to dive in.
I walk on, leaving her to drown, feeling sick about it.	<i>symbol related</i>	✓	✓	✓ The ego decides to walk on and leave Dovre in the water. ✓ The ego feels sick about leaving her to drown.	✓ The ego walks on, leaving her to drown.

Summary	Supp.	Unsupp.	Total	Supp. ratio	FN	FN rate
u06s01	8	0	8	1.00	0/4	0.00
u06s02	5	0	5	1.00	1/4	0.25

Figure 7: **1966 dream LLM Judge application example.** Each dream sentence is judged by an LLM prompt as either symbol-related or not symbol-related. For each symbol-related sentence, a separate prompt checks whether at least one claim covers the sentence; otherwise it is marked as a missed claim (false negative).

To compute supported claims, each claim sentence in the summary is checked against the full dream text to verify that all parts of the claim are supported. There is one sentence not covered by u06s02, resulting in one missed claim. The total number of claims generated by u06s01 and u06s02 differs, but every generated claim is grounded in the original dream text. Additionally, u06s02 fails to capture the rain and storm and that the dream ego feels sick about leaving her to drown. This method is applied in Figs. 9 and 10.

Dream sentence	Eligible	Covered by u06s01	Covered by u06s02	u06s01 claims (✓ = verified)	u06s02 claims (✓ = verified)
[...]					
My heart started pounding and then beating irregularly.	<i>not symbol related</i>				
My spirit came out of my body.	<i>not symbol related</i>				
[...]					
Then I was in a cloudy sky, going up.	<i>not symbol related</i>				
[...]					
There were several shower rooms.	<i>not symbol related</i>				
[...]					
If you got in a shower, you were transported back to Earth to live out another’s life.	<i>not symbol related</i>				
[...]					
I was transported to the body of a young, pretty blonde woman in the process of drowning in a raging white-water river.	<i>symbol related</i>	✗	✓	✗	✓ A young blonde woman is drowning. ✓ The drowning occurs in a raging white-water river.
[...]					
Then “we” made it to shore.	<i>symbol related</i>	✗	✓	✗	✓ “We” make it to shore after the river-drowning episode.
[...]					

Summary	Supp.	Unsupp.	Total	Supp. ratio	FN	FN rate
u06s01	0	0	0	0.00	2/2	1.00
u06s02	3	0	3	1.00	0/2	0.00

Figure 8: **1979 dream LLM Judge application example.** Only two sentences are symbol related; both are captured by u06s02 and missed by u06s01. Both models correctly reject the dream sentence about the shower without the mention of running water.

This method is applied in Figs. 9 and 10.

Model	Prompt	Claim type	Supp.	Unsupp.	Total	Supp. rate
OpenAI 4o-mini	u06s01	Overall	2689	679	3380	0.796
		Symbol	1679	441	2122	0.791
		Ego	1010	238	1258	0.803
	u06s02	Overall	2005	163	2184	0.918
		Symbol	1121	104	1225	0.915
		Ego	884	59	959	0.922
Qwen 2.5-7B-Instruct	u06s01	Overall	4714	1260	6186	0.762
		Symbol	3985	1125	5112	0.780
		Ego	729	135	1074	0.679
	u06s02	Overall	5414	1092	6660	0.813
		Symbol	1209	534	1744	0.693
		Ego	4205	558	4916	0.855

Figure 9: **Claim support details** for two system prompts with the same user prompt (u06s01, u06s02), comparing the baseline model (4o-mini) with Qwen 2.5-7B-Instruct. The overall support rate is calculated across all claims and then split by claims relating to the symbol and claims relating to the dream ego. u06s02 was the best performing overall.

In the pipeline, this is shown in Fig. 3 [H]. See examples of claim evaluation for a single dream in Figs. 7 and 8.

Model	Prompt	Dreams	Elg. claims	FN	Overall FN	Mean FN
OpenAI 4o-mini	u06s01	572	1782	436	0.245	0.201
	u06s02	412	1429	347	0.243	0.171
Qwen 2.5-7B-Instruct	u06s01	3115	1764	662	0.375	0.337
	u06s02	3116	1689	608	0.360	0.365

Figure 10: **Missed claims** (false negatives) evaluated by a separate LLM Judge process which starts with each sentence of the dream text and verifies that it is supported by at least one sentence in the summary. Note that the significantly worse performance for the Qwen model is due to an issue with accurately selecting the dreams containing the selected symbol. We expect that this can be resolved by a separate LLM process with prompt optimization for Qwen. In the pipeline, this is shown in Fig. 3 [H].

See examples of claim evaluation for a single dream in Figs. 7 and 8.

Direct Preference Optimization

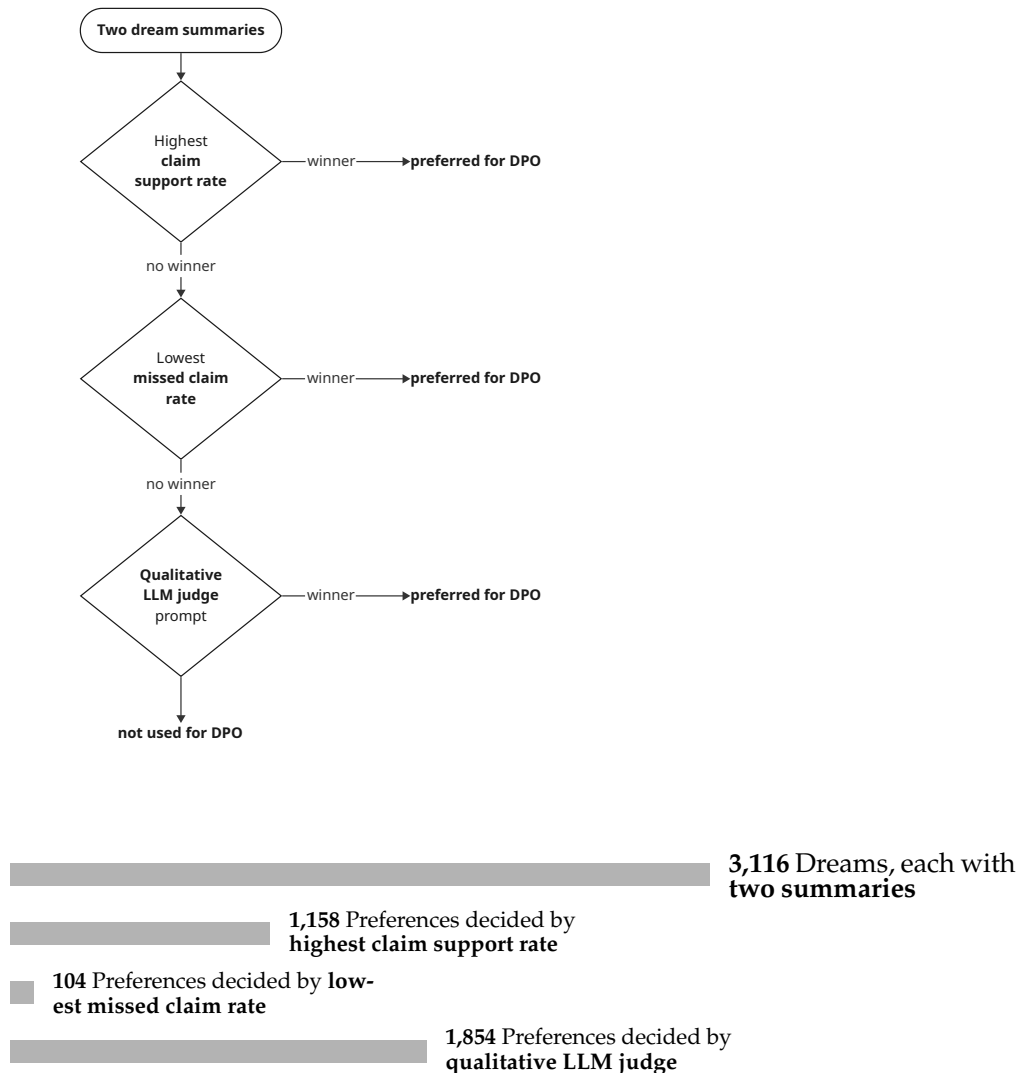


Figure 11: **Selecting preferred dreams with an LLM judge.** In the pipeline, this is shown in Fig. 3 [I]. Here, the open-source Qwen model was used to generate the summaries and ChatGPT 5.1 was used as the judge. When checking with the ground truth labels, we noticed that many dreams which were not identified as containing water by 4o-mini were now falsely identified as containing water by Qwen. This is an issue we hope to resolve with improved prompting or via other technical means. We still believe that this hybrid decision model (based on rules and LLM prompting) for selecting preferences as input to DPO is valid.

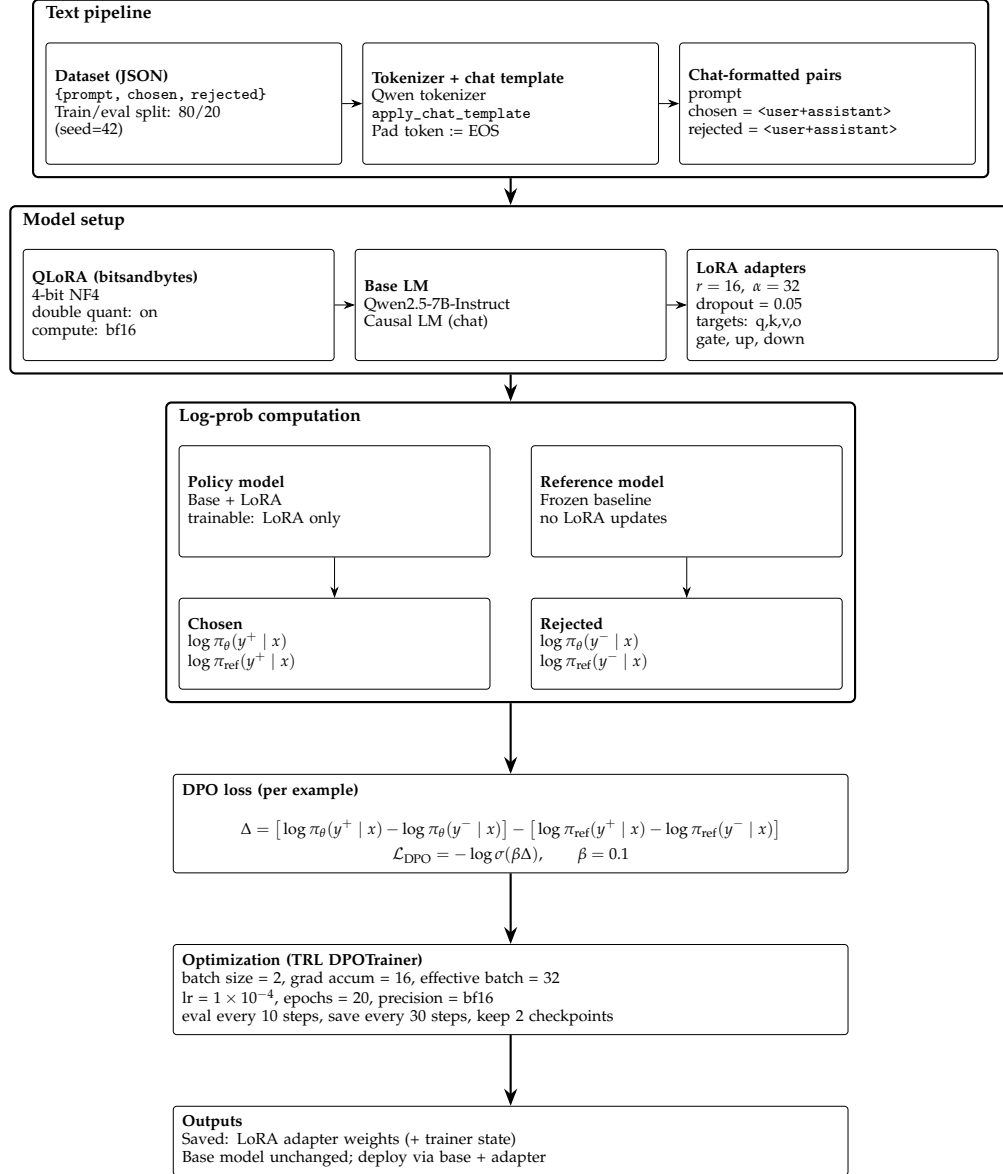


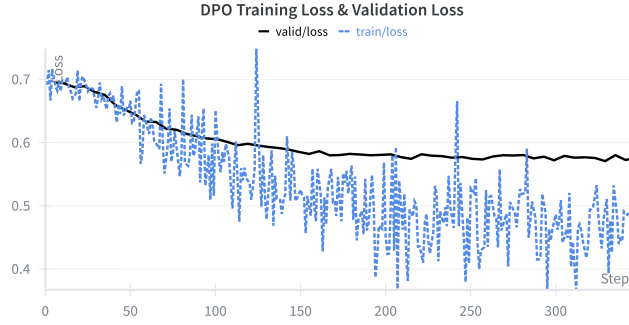
Figure 12: **DPO training pipeline (our implementation)**. Preference pairs (x, y^+, y^-) are optimized using (DPO) [51], which maximizes the log-ratio difference between a trainable policy and a fixed reference.

The surrounding components (TRL trainer, PEFT/LoRA adapters, QLoRA quantization, chat templating, and optimization hyperparameters) reflect our engineering setup.

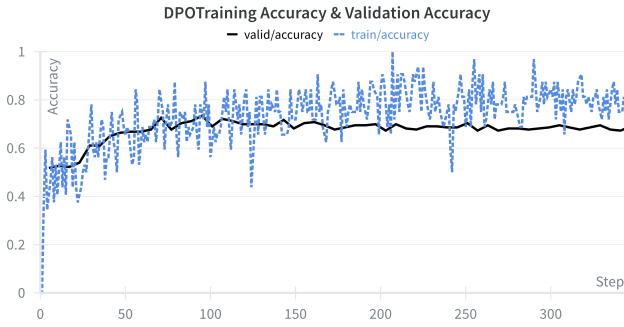
Category	Parameter	Value / Setting
Base Model		
	Model name	Qwen/Qwen2.5-7B-Instruct (7B params)
	Model type	Causal LM (chat-formatted)
	Random seed	42
Dataset		
	Data format	JSON {prompt, chosen, rejected}
	Train/eval split	80% / 20% (random, seed=42)
	Input formatting	Tokenizer chat template applied
QLoRA Setup		
	Quantization	4-bit (NF4)
	Double quantization	Enabled
	Compute dtype	bfloat16
LoRA Configuration		
	Rank (r)	16
	LoRA α	32
	LoRA dropout	0.05
	Target modules	Attention + MLP projections (q,k,v,o, gate, up, down)
DPO Hyperparameters		
	Per-device batch size	2
	Gradient accumulation	16 (effective batch = 32)
	Learning rate	5×10^{-6}
	Number of epochs	10
	DPO β	0.2
	Precision	bf16
Hardware		
	GPU	NVIDIA A100-80GB & RTX-A6000

Figure 13: **DPO training configuration.** Summary of model architecture, dataset structure, QLoRA adaptation, and core training hyperparameters used to produce the results in Fig. 14. This corresponds to module “Create DPO-optimized model” [K] in Fig. 3.

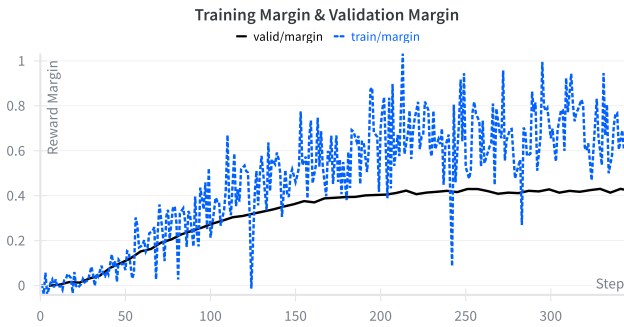
The small per-device batch size with gradient accumulation reflects an initial attempt on a smaller GPU with limited VRAM.



(a) **Loss.** Both the training and the validation loss decrease after training for 10 epochs.



(b) **Accuracy.** Fraction of samples where the model correctly assigns a higher probability to the chosen response.



(c) **Reward margin.** Difference between learned rewards for preferred vs. rejected responses. The objective that DPO aims to maximize. Both the training margin and validation margin increase.

Figure 14: **DPO training dynamics** $\beta = 0.2$, $\text{LR} = 5\text{e-}6$. Loss (top), reward accuracy (middle), and reward margin (bottom), each with train/eval curves. This corresponds to module "Create DPO-optimized model" [K] in Fig. 3.

LR	β	Train			Validation		
		Loss	Margin	Accuracy	Loss	Margin	Accuracy
5e-5	0.050	0.005	7.174	1.000	0.770	1.986	0.699
	0.100	0.005	7.463	1.000	0.759	2.297	0.712
	0.200	0.004	7.800	1.000	0.798	2.377	0.704
5e-6	0.050	0.506	0.447	0.938	0.619	0.203	0.712
	0.100	0.432	0.700	0.938	0.595	0.303	0.708
	0.200	0.367	0.984	0.969	0.570	0.420	0.716

Figure 15: **DPO hyperparameter results.** Final train and validation metrics across learning-rate and β settings after 10 epochs. A learning rate of 5e-6 consistently outperformed 5e-5, and $\beta = 0.2$ gave the best overall validation trade-off, with the lowest validation loss, the highest validation margin, and the highest validation accuracy. This figure summarizes the configuration search for module “Create DPO-optimized model” [K] in Fig. 3.

Judge	Claims	Supported	Unsupported	Support rate
GPT-5 mini	716 $\rightarrow$ 846	576 $\rightarrow$ 744	140 $\rightarrow$ 102	80.4% $\rightarrow$ 87.9% (+7.5% $\blacktriangle$)
Gemini 2.5 Flash	710 $\rightarrow$ 859	391 $\rightarrow$ 519	319 $\rightarrow$ 340	55.1% $\rightarrow$ 60.4% (+5.3% $\blacktriangle$)
GPT-4o-mini	716 $\rightarrow$ 846	636 $\rightarrow$ 793	80 $\rightarrow$ 53	88.8% $\rightarrow$ 93.7% (+4.9% $\blacktriangle$)

Figure 16: **DPO-improved support rate** (Pre-DPO $\rightarrow$ Post-DPO) on 227 dreams from the validation set.

Judge	Eligible	Supported	Missed claims	Missed-claim rate
GPT-4o-mini	919 $\rightarrow$ 924	467 $\rightarrow$ 567	452 $\rightarrow$ 357	49.2% $\rightarrow$ 38.6% (-10.6% $\blacktriangledown$)
GPT-5 mini	1146 $\rightarrow$ 1140	626 $\rightarrow$ 679	520 $\rightarrow$ 461	45.4% $\rightarrow$ 40.4% (-5.0% $\blacktriangledown$)
Gemini 2.5 Flash	831 $\rightarrow$ 914	371 $\rightarrow$ 433	460 $\rightarrow$ 481	55.4% $\rightarrow$ 52.6% (-2.8% $\blacktriangledown$)

Figure 17: **DPO-improved missed-claim rate** (Pre-DPO $\rightarrow$ Post-DPO) on 227 dreams from the validation set.

SYMBRION version 0.1 and 0.2

SYMBRION versions	Developed			Roadmap	
	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4
Datasets used for development and testing					
3,116 dreams from Barb Sanders (1960–1997)	✓				
4,254 dreams from Barb Sanders (1960–2001)		✓	✓	✓	✓
Dreams from additional dreamers			✓	✓	✓
Inventory dreams					
Jupyter Notebook interface	✓				
Terminal interface		✓	✓	✓	
Interactive web app					✓
Process symbols					
Lists symbol frequency	✓				✓
Symbol detected with user definition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Interactive symbol definition LLM Q&A process		✓	✓	✓	✓
Writes symbol claims	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Discovers all possible physical aspects of each symbol				✓	✓
Quantifies symbol attributes				✓	✓
Visualizes quantified symbol attributes					✓
Process ego relationships					
Writes ego claims based on symbol interaction	✓	✓			
Interactive ego relation LLM process for definition		✓			
Ego engagement split into 3 categories			✓	✓	✓
Ego outcome split into 3 categories			✓	✓	✓
Ego engagement and outcome interactive LLM Q&A			✓	✓	✓
Ego attributes multi-tagging per dream					
Analyze results					
LLM judge scoring and preference labeling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Human expert labeling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Statistical significance testing			✓	✓	✓
Interactive dream dashboard in Tableau		✓	✓	✓	
Web app for all results					✓
Visualizes physical attributes of symbols					✓

Figure 18: **The development of SYMBRION** has been reactive according to our scientific goals and experience gained while labeling.

The roadmap has been formed based on our own experience using the tool and from user feedback collected during the interviews.

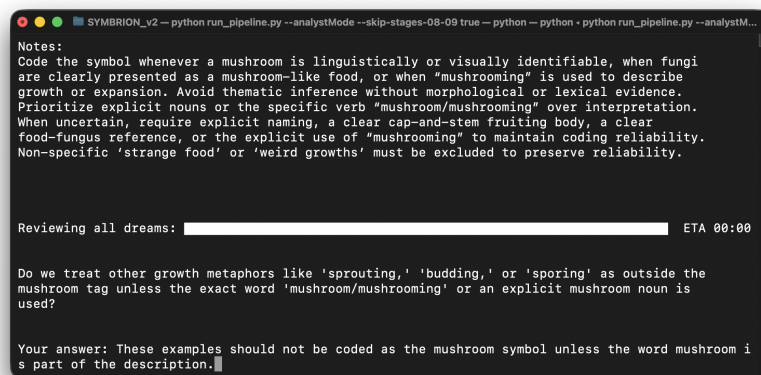


Figure 19: **Interactive Q&A for refining definitions.** The user is first asked to describe the symbol and the inclusion and exclusion criteria used to detect symbol presence. Then, the system scans, integrates, and resolves ambiguities to distinguish the key cases of symbol presence. Here, using symbol recognition, a new user answer is received. The symbol definition is refined, and redundancies are removed. Then, the user is given the option to scan a new symbol and discover the key cases.

The next highest-priority question will be asked. The user may repeat this process as many times as desired.

The process is illustrated in Fig. 20 for **fire**, in Fig. 21 for **kiss**, and in Fig. 22 for **water**.

Analyst's initial definition	Fire with an open observable flame. Include: any kind of open fire that can be seen. Exclude: heat without observing the flame.
Q: Do we treat any described flame color (including white or other unusual colors) as <i>fire</i>, or should we restrict tagging to ordinary-looking flames only? A: Yes, any flame color.	
First refinement from Q&A	Fire with an open observable flame. Include: any kind of visible open flame, of any color (including unusual colors such as white, blue, green, etc.). ~~Include: any kind of open fire that can be seen.~~ Exclude: heat, burning, or hot objects without an explicitly observable flame.
Q: Should any heat-related devices (ovens, stoves, heaters) be tagged as <i>fire</i> only when the dream text explicitly notes that a flame is visible? A: Only when the flame is visible.	
Second refinement from Q&A	Fire with an open, visible flame. Include: any explicitly mentioned visible flame of any color (including unusual colors such as white, blue, green, etc.), including flames from devices like ovens, stoves, or heaters, but only when the dream text clearly states that a flame is visible. ~~Include: any kind of visible open flame of any color (including unusual colors like white, blue, green, etc.).~~ Exclude: heat, burning, or hot objects (including ovens, stoves, heaters) when no visible flame is explicitly described.
Q: Should metaphorical phrases like <i>burning with anger</i> or <i>burned out</i> ever count as <i>fire</i>, or are we strictly limiting the tag to literal, visually described flames? A: No, only literal flames.	
Third refinement from Q&A	Fire with an open, visible flame. Include: any explicitly mentioned visible flame of any color (including unusual colors like white, blue, green, etc.), including flames from devices like ovens, stoves, or heaters, but only when the dream text clearly states that a flame is visible. Exclude: heat, burning, or hot objects (including ovens, stoves, heaters) when no visible flame is explicitly described, and all metaphorical or emotional uses (e.g., “burning with anger”, “burned out”) that do not describe an actual visible flame.
Q: For symbolic coding purposes, should we treat ovens and stoves as non-fire devices by default unless the text explicitly says a flame is visible? A: Yes, those are non-fire devices unless a flame is visible.	
Fourth refinement from Q&A	Fire with an open, visible flame. Include: any explicitly mentioned visible flame of any color (including unusual colors like white, blue, green, etc.), including flames from devices like ovens, stoves, or heaters, but only when the dream text clearly states that a flame is visible. By default, ovens, stoves, and similar devices count as non-fire devices unless the text explicitly mentions a visible flame. Exclude: heat, burning, or hot objects (including ovens, stoves, heaters) when no visible flame is explicitly described, and all metaphorical or emotional uses (e.g., “burning with anger”, “burned out”) that do not describe an actual visible flame.

Figure 20: **Evolution of a symbol definition: fire.** Iterative refinement of the operational definition for the symbol *fire*. The refinement process can be initiated either when defining a new symbol not yet in the database or when selecting an existing symbol. The procedure always begins with the most recent complete definition and scans all dreams to identify candidate occurrences under the current definition. The system then generates clarification questions and selects the highest-priority question that distinguishes the largest number of edge cases, which is presented to the analyst. After the analyst provides an answer, a follow-up prompt integrates the new question–answer pair to refine the current definition. The updated definition is stored in the database and used for subsequent symbol detection. In the figure, each version is compared with the previous one; additions are shown in green and removals in red with strikeout. This refinement process prevents redundant growth of the definition and helps eliminate internal inconsistencies.

Analyst's initial definition	Kiss as touching lips to lips or lips to another person or object. Include: kissing. Exclude: similar contact that is not kissing.
Q: If a dream uses shorthand like <i>we made out</i> or <i>we fooled around</i> without specifying lips, should that still count as <i>kiss</i> for tagging purposes? A: <i>Made out</i> is kissing. <i>Fooled around</i> should not be counted.	
First refinement from Q&A	Kiss as touching lips to lips or lips to another person or object. Include: explicit mentions of kissing, and phrases like “made out” that clearly mean kissing. ~~Include: kissing.~~ Exclude: “fooled around” and other vague sexual or romantic activity that does not clearly specify kissing, and any similar contact that is not kissing. ~~Exclude: similar contact that is not kissing.~~
Q: Should scenes described as <i>semi-embrace</i> or similar non-specific affectionate contact ever be tagged as <i>kiss</i> if no kissing is explicitly mentioned? A: No.	
Second refinement from Q&A	Kiss as touching lips to lips or lips to another person or object. Include: explicit mentions of kissing and phrases like “made out” that clearly mean kissing. Exclude: “fooled around,” “semi-embrace,” and any other vague or non-specific affectionate or sexual contact where kissing is not clearly stated, and any similar contact that is not kissing. ~~Exclude: “fooled around” and other vague sexual or romantic activity that does not clearly specify kissing, and any similar contact that is not kissing.~~
Q: Do we explicitly exclude metaphorical or mystical <i>lover-like</i> unions with divine or non-human figures from the <i>kiss</i> tag unless a kiss is literally described? A: Yes, exclude unless a kiss is literally described or illustrated in an image.	
Third refinement from Q&A	Kiss as touching lips to lips or lips to another person or object. Include: explicit mentions of kissing and phrases like “made out” that clearly mean kissing. Exclude: “fooled around,” “semi-embrace,” and any other vague or non-specific affectionate or sexual contact where kissing is not clearly stated; any similar contact that is not kissing; and metaphorical, mystical, or symbolic lover-like unions with divine or non-human figures unless a kiss is literally described in the text or explicitly shown in an image. ~~Exclude: “fooled around,” “semi-embrace,” and any other vague or non-specific affectionate or sexual contact where kissing is not clearly stated, and any similar contact that is not kissing.~~

Figure 21: **Evolution of a symbol definition: kiss.** Iterative refinement of the operational definition for the symbol *kiss*. The refinement process can be initiated either when defining a new symbol not yet in the database or when selecting an existing symbol. The procedure always begins with the most recent complete definition and scans all dreams to identify candidate occurrences under the current definition. The system then generates clarification questions and selects the highest-priority question that distinguishes the largest number of edge cases, which is presented to the analyst. After the analyst provides an answer, a follow-up prompt integrates the new question–answer pair to refine the current definition. The updated definition is stored in the database and used for subsequent symbol detection. In the figure, each version is compared with the previous one; additions are shown in green and removals in red with strikeout. This refinement process prevents redundant growth of the definition and helps eliminate internal inconsistencies.

Analyst's initial definition	Water as liquid water, not including frozen water, vapor, or gas. Include: bodies of water and liquid water in the atmosphere. Exclude: bodily fluids, empty containers, and showers with no running water mentioned.
Q: If a location strongly implies water, such as the coast, shore, waterfront, or beach, should it count as <i>water</i> even when the sea, ocean, or river is not explicitly named? A: Yes, this still counts as water.	
First refinement from Q&A	Water as liquid water, not including ice, snow, vapor, or gas. Include: any explicitly mentioned bodies of water such as the sea, ocean, river, lake, or pool; liquid water in the atmosphere such as rain, puddles, and wet ground; and locations that strongly imply physical water is present, such as the coast, shore, waterfront, or beach. Water must be literally or vividly imagined as physically present in the dream scene, not merely metaphorical or idiomatic. ~~Include: bodies of water and liquid water in the atmosphere.~~ Exclude: showers or baths where running water is not mentioned or clearly implied.
Q: Should any vehicle or activity that logically requires water, such as being on a raft, surfing, or going over rapids, count as <i>water</i> even if the word <i>water</i> is not used? A: Yes, activities or vehicles that imply water should count.	
Second refinement from Q&A	Water as liquid water, not including ice, snow, vapor, or gas. Include: any explicitly mentioned bodies of water such as the sea, ocean, river, lake, or pool; liquid water in the atmosphere such as rain, puddles, and wet ground; and locations that strongly imply physical water is present, such as the coast, shore, waterfront, or beach. Include: named places that imply physical water is present, such as a waterfront bar or lakeside cabin, even if water is not directly described. Include: any vehicle or activity that logically requires external water, such as being on a raft, surfing, going over rapids, or water-skiing, even if the word <i>water</i> is not used. Water must be literally or vividly imagined as physically present in the dream scene, not merely metaphorical or idiomatic. Exclude: bodily fluids, empty containers, and showers or baths where running water is not mentioned or clearly implied.
Q: Should we explicitly exclude all bodily and medical fluids from the <i>water</i> tag, even when they are mostly water in physical reality, and only tag water when it appears as an external, non-bodily element? A: Yes, exclude all bodily fluids.	
Third refinement from Q&A	Water as liquid water, not including ice, snow, vapor, or gas. Include: any explicitly mentioned bodies of water such as the sea, ocean, river, lake, or pool; liquid water in the atmosphere such as rain, puddles, and wet ground; locations and named places that strongly imply physical water is present; and vehicles or activities that logically require external water. Water must be literally or vividly imagined as physically present in the dream scene, not merely metaphorical or idiomatic. Exclude: all bodily and medical fluids, including blood, amniotic fluid, IV drips, and fluids that originate inside bodies even if they are mostly water in physical reality. ~~Exclude: bodily fluids.~~
Q: If water is not named directly, should we still tag <i>water</i> when it is implied by weather, by context such as diving in from a bridge or swimming off a pier, or by descriptions like <i>wet</i>, <i>soaked</i>, or <i>dripping</i>? A: Yes, these should still indicate water presence.	
Fourth refinement from Q&A	Water as liquid water, not including ice, snow, vapor, or gas. Include: any explicitly mentioned bodies of water such as the sea, ocean, river, lake, or pool; locations and named places that strongly imply physical water is present; and vehicles or activities that logically require external water. Include: weather terms that clearly imply falling or present liquid water, such as rain, drizzle, shower, downpour, storm with rain, puddles, and wet ground. Include: situations where liquid water is overwhelmingly implied by context, such as diving in from a bridge or swimming off a pier, even if no body of water is named in the fragment. Include: descriptions of people, animals, or objects as wet, soaked, or dripping when they imply coverage in liquid water, even if the water source is not explicitly mentioned. Water must be literally or vividly imagined as physically present in the dream scene, not merely metaphorical or idiomatic. Exclude: all bodily and medical fluids, empty containers, and showers or baths where running water is not mentioned or clearly implied.

Figure 22: Evolution of a symbol definition: water.

		Date	#	Topic		Ego Engagement	Ego Outcome		
							negative	neutral	positive
house	2'004	1991, Tue Jan 29	1759	I rescue a baby from fire	Ego engages, result positive	engages	43	60	62
water	1'105	1991, Sat Feb 9	1772	I save my scripts from fire	Ego engages, result positive	does nothing	1	3	1
car	662	1991, Mon Mar 11	1789	Moving to a disappointing new town	Ego engages, result positive	avoids	3		4
white	498	1991, Sun Mar 24	1802	I refuse to eat the animal	Ego engages, result negative	I rescue a baby from fire All night long, Jared is drunk and talking in his incoherent, mumbly monotone. Finally, I have enough and I tell him off. I call him a boring bastard. Then I notice a baby girl standing inside a flaming fireplace. I go to her and say sympathetically, "You must be very hot and uncomfortable." She agrees. I pick her up and hold her, taking her away from the fire. Engagement: The ego confronts Jared verbally and then actively goes to the baby, speaks to her, and removes her from the fire. Outcome: By the end, the ego has succeeded in removing the baby from the fire, improving the immediate situation without any stated harm to himself. Symbol summary: There is a flaming fireplace. The baby girl is standing inside the flaming fireplace. The fire is located in a fireplace. Ego summary: The ego notices the baby girl standing inside the flaming fireplace. The ego goes to the baby girl standing inside the flaming fireplace. The ego picks up the baby girl and takes her away from the fire.			
kiss	302	1991, Fri Apr 19	1839	Forced to choose between monsters	Ego engages, result negative				
fire	177	1991, Mon Apr 22	1844	He dies in police gunfire	Ego engages, result negative				
train	124	1991, Sat Jun 1	1862	Burning the pursuer with toilet paper	Ego engages, result positive				
forest	87	1991, Wed Sept 4	1932	Man hijacks car and attacks me	Ego engages, result negative				
garden	67	1991, Sun Sept 8	1939	Ghost pianist flies me in wheelchair	Ego does nothing, result positive				
egg	47	1991, Mon Sept 9	1940	Facing criticism of my play	Ego engages, result positive				
snake	33	1991, Thu Sept 12	1947	I survive an explosion and stay wary	Ego engages, result neutral				
fissure	27	1991, Thu Oct 10	1968	I win the race and survive					
moon	15								

Figure 23: **Interactive dream exploration dashboard.** The dashboard includes several features for exploring the results generated by the interactive process described earlier. As soon as the full interactive process is finished, the user has the option to include the current run in the overall dataset. All relevant dashboard data are written to a local CSV file, which Tableau immediately reads to display the new results.

On the left, one of the symbols can be selected. In the middle, we see a list of dreams with titles generated by a separate LLM process. At the top right, a separate filter allows the user to select dreams in a particular ego engagement or ego outcome category. Below this, we see the original dream text, followed by an explanation of the ego engagement classification and a justification for the ego outcome classification. At the bottom, we see the extracted facts relating to the symbol and to the ego.

Stage 00 — Parse DreamBank XML	
Inputs pipeline_settings.json	Outputs 00_parsed_dreams.json
Stage 01 — Normalize dream dates	
Inputs 00_parsed_dreams.json	Outputs 01_dates_normalized.json
Stage 02 — Prepare dream series	
Inputs 01_dates_normalized.json	Outputs 02_series_bookkeeping.json
Stage 03 — Select symbol definition	
Inputs 00_symbol_definitions.json	Outputs 03_symbol_definition.json
Stage 04 — Refine symbol definition	
Inputs 02_series_bookkeeping.json 03_symbol_definition.json	Outputs 04_refined_symbol_def.json
Prompts stage04_refine_symbol_audit_v01.jinja stage04_refine_symbol_followup_v01.jinja	
Stage 05 — Tag symbol and ego presence	
Inputs 02_series_bookkeeping.json 04_refined_symbol_def.json	Outputs 05_symbol_presence.json
Prompts stage05_tag_symbol_ego_presence_v02.jinja	
Stage 06 — Refine ego engagement/outcome guidance	
Inputs 00_parsed_dreams.json 05_symbol_presence.json	Outputs 06_refined_ego_def.json
Prompts stage06_symbol_ego_audit_v02.jinja stage06_symbol_ego_update_v02.jinja	
Stage 07 — Generate symbol-ego claims	
Inputs 02_series_bookkeeping.json 05_symbol_presence.json 06_refined_ego_def.json	Outputs 07_symbol_ego_claims.json
Prompts stage07_symbol_ego_claims_cat_v05.jinja	
Stage 08 — Judge claims	
Inputs 07_symbol_ego_claims.json	Outputs 08_judged_claims.json
Prompts stage08_judge_claims_v01.jinja	
Stage 09 — False-negative scan	
Inputs 02_series_bookkeeping.json 05_symbol_presence.json 08_judged_claims.json	Outputs 09_false_neg_check.json
Prompts stage09_false_negative_check_v01.jinja	
Stage 10 — Aggregate run summary	
Inputs 02_series_bookkeeping.json 05_symbol_presence.json 07_symbol_ego_claims.json 08_judged_claims.json 09_false_neg_check.json	Outputs 10_run_summary.json

Figure 24: **SYMBRION v0.2 pipeline overview**. Each stage consumes structured JSON artifacts and produces outputs used by downstream stages.

Overall claim ratios for Barb Sanders series of 4,254 dreams

Size represents the number of dreams for each symbol

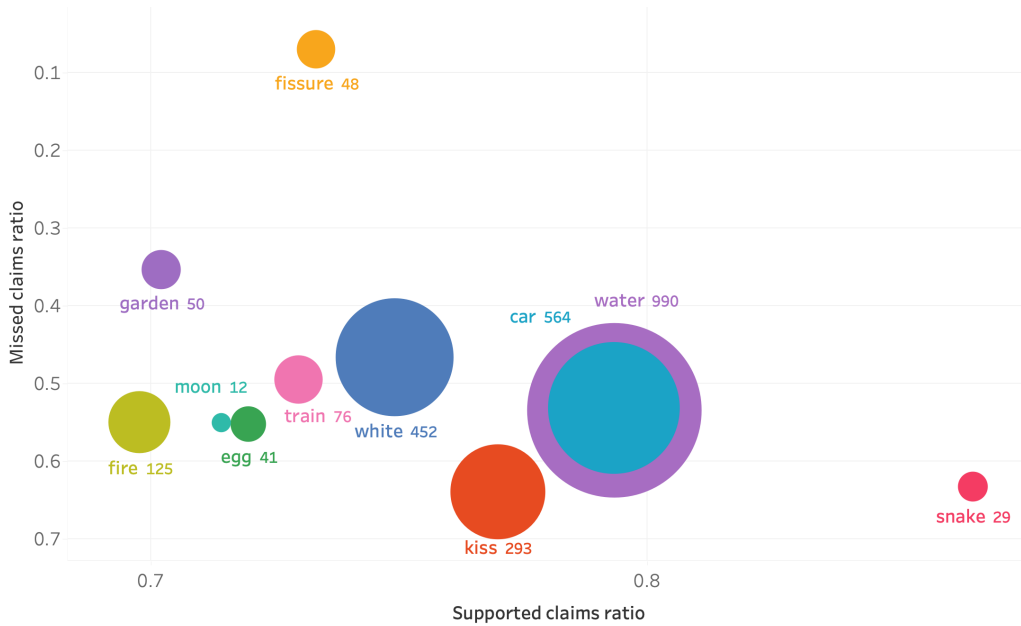


Figure 25: **Metrics on many symbols.** On the larger dataset with 4,254 dreams, we ran the entire evaluation pipeline described in Fig. 24, each time using an interactive symbol and ego relationship definition process. The supported claim ratios and missed claim ratios are shown for all tested symbols. The size of each circle represents the number of dreams detected for that symbol. Spending more time refining the definition tended to improve accuracy.

We are also interested in demonstrating how knowledge about symbols gained from one dreamer can be transferred to other dreamers by using the same enhanced definitions, without the need to refine them again for each new dreamer. However, if additional time is spent refining the definitions based on data from additional dreamers, we expect the accuracy to increase even further for those dreamers. Here, ego and symbol claims are considered together.

Split claim ratios for Barb Sanders series of 4,254 dreams

Size codes number of dreams for each symbol, split by claim type

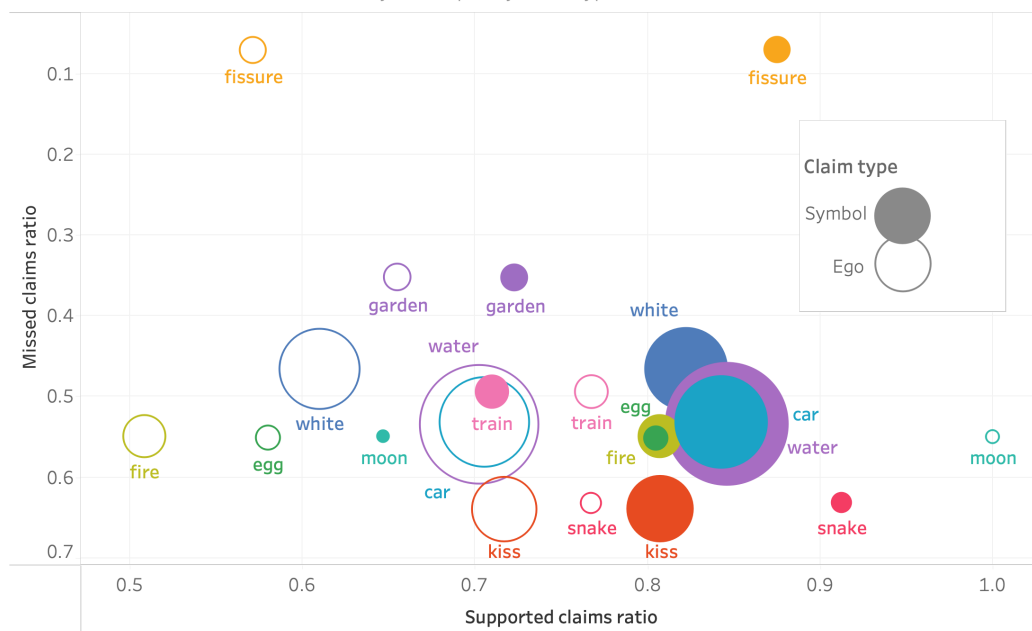


Figure 26: **Metrics for many symbols split by claim type.** We took the results shown in Fig. 25 and split them by symbol and ego claim accuracy. The result shows that simple symbol claims consistently have a higher supported claim ratio than ego claims.

This led us to revise our process into a classification system with nine categories for the ego, instead of relying only on open-ended ego claims. The new classification system is described in a general way via the Legend of the Holy Grail in Fig. 28.

```
SYMBRION_v2 -- python run_expert_validation.py -- python -- python run_expert_validation.py -- 97x37
=====
Dream Key: b:1346
=====
Section 1 - Dream title
-----
Our home destroyed as I refuse revenge
Section 2 - Dream text
-----
I am remembering a tragic time I call the Sorrow of Tears (Summer of Tears). I see in my
mind's eye my people's things being destroyed by the murdering whites. I am seething in anger
and revenge and sorrow as I see them dump over a huge trailer with our house, who are killed.
The feathered headresses and staff are broken and defiled. I am heartsick. But in great
sorrow, I realize I cannot kill in return. I pray for my hurt people.
Section 3 - Model labels
-----
ego engagement: passive
ego outcome:    negative
Section 4 - Justifications
-----
engagement justification:
The ego only observes the house being destroyed and reacts emotionally without taking any
action to influence what happens to it.
outcome justification:
By the end, the house has been destroyed and the ego is heartsick and in great sorrow over
this loss.
=====
Step 2 -- expert ego outcome: Left=negative, Up=neutral, Right=positive
Keys: Left/Up/Right arrows. Press q to quit.
=====
```

Figure 27: **Labeling assistant for ego characteristics.** We created a terminal assistant application. It displays a dream, and with keyboard shortcuts the user assigns labels for ego outcome and ego engagement. These labels are recorded in a JSON file for later analysis. After the labeling, the model's answers are also shown. This labeled data forms the basis for Figs. 29, 30, and 31.

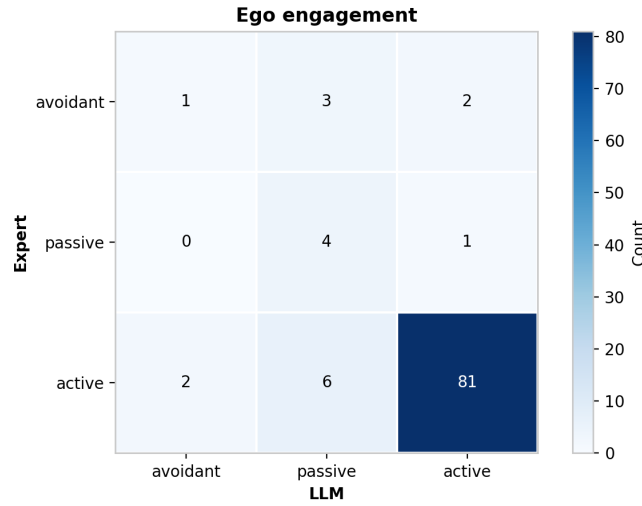
The Holy Grail A knight (representing the dream ego) comes to the Grail Castle, a place of encounter with something psychologically significant. He beholds the wounded king, a symbol of a deeper imbalance in the psyche, and must decide how to respond.

		Psychological ego outcome		
		Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Ego engagement	Engages	The knight enters the castle and approaches the wounded king but fails to help him ⑦ ⑧	The knight speaks to the wounded king but nothing changes ⑥ ⑧	The knight speaks to the wounded king and the king is healed ⑨ ⑩ ⑪ ⑫
	Passive	The knight sees the wounded king in the castle but says nothing ③ ⑧	The knight stands in the castle observing the wounded king ⑤ ⑦	The knight realizes the king needs help but does not yet act ⑥ ⑦
	Avoids	The knight turns away from the castle and leaves the wounded king behind ③ ⑥	The knight leaves the castle uncertain what to do ③	The knight leaves but later returns wiser ⑪

Vogler's 12 stages of myth

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ① Ordinary World | ⑦ Approach to the Inmost Cave |
| ② Call to Adventure | ⑧ Ordeal |
| ③ Refusal of the Call | ⑨ Reward |
| ④ Meeting the Mentor | ⑩ The Road Back |
| ⑤ Crossing the First Threshold | ⑪ Resurrection |
| ⑥ Tests, Allies, Enemies | ⑫ Return with the Elixir |

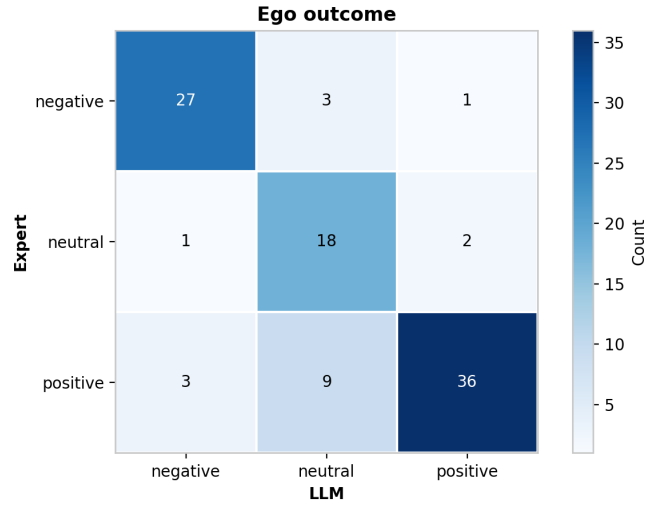
Figure 28: **The Holy Grail as a model of ego outcomes.** This format can be used to classify events in any story. Here we illustrate the structure using the well-known legend of the Holy Grail [14]. The grid shows possible responses of the knight at the Grail Castle and their outcomes. These responses can be related to the widely used 12-stage formulation of the hero's journey described by Vogler [35], which adapts Campbell's monomyth framework [13]. Such encounters often appear symbolically in dreams as places such as a castle, cave, desert, or forest. Dreams are also narratives with mythic elements and can therefore be analyzed using a similar structure.



Metric	Value
Accuracy	0.860
Balanced accuracy	0.626
Cohen's kappa	0.426
Multiclass MCC	0.441
Macro avg (P / R / F1)	0.535 / 0.626 / 0.534
Weighted avg (P / R / F1)	0.894 / 0.860 / 0.869
Micro avg (P / R / F1)	0.860 / 0.860 / 0.860

Class	Precision	Recall	F1	Support
avoidant	0.333	0.167	0.222	6
passive	0.308	0.800	0.444	5
active	0.964	0.910	0.936	89

Figure 29: **Accuracy of ego engagement classification.** Bobby Rohrkemper labeled 100 dreams according to ego engagement using the labeling assistant shown in Fig. 27. In this sample, there were relatively few dreams with a ground truth label of avoidant or passive, and some of these were misclassified. The majority of dreams labeled with active ego engagement were correctly classified.



Metric	Value
Accuracy	0.810
Balanced accuracy	0.826
Cohen's kappa	0.709
Multiclass MCC	0.718
Macro avg (P / R / F1)	0.798 / 0.826 / 0.801
Weighted avg (P / R / F1)	0.839 / 0.810 / 0.815
Micro avg (P / R / F1)	0.810 / 0.810 / 0.810

Class	Precision	Recall	F1	Support
negative	0.871	0.871	0.871	31
neutral	0.600	0.857	0.706	21
positive	0.923	0.750	0.828	48

Figure 30: **Accuracy of ego outcome classification.** Bobby Rohrkemper labeled 100 dreams according to ego outcome using the labeling assistant shown in Fig. 27. The majority of negative and positive outcomes were classified correctly. Neutral outcome classification showed lower performance.

Measure	Value
Correct predictions	167 (83.5%)
Incorrect predictions	33 (16.5%)
Total evaluated labels	200

Metric	Value
Accuracy	0.835
Balanced accuracy	0.819
Cohen's kappa	0.682
Multiclass MCC	0.692
Macro avg (P / R / F1)	0.762 / 0.819 / 0.775
Weighted avg (P / R / F1)	0.870 / 0.835 / 0.845
Micro avg (P / R / F1)	0.835 / 0.835 / 0.835

Figure 31: **Overall ego classification accuracy.** A large majority of the ego classification predictions were correct, and in the process we identified a number of edge cases and areas for improvement.

We are also considering a tagging system in which multiple labels can apply to a single dream. This could improve labeling accuracy in more complex dreams. However, we also have a concern that too many tags may be applied to each dream, which would reduce the overall ability to distinguish one dream from another.

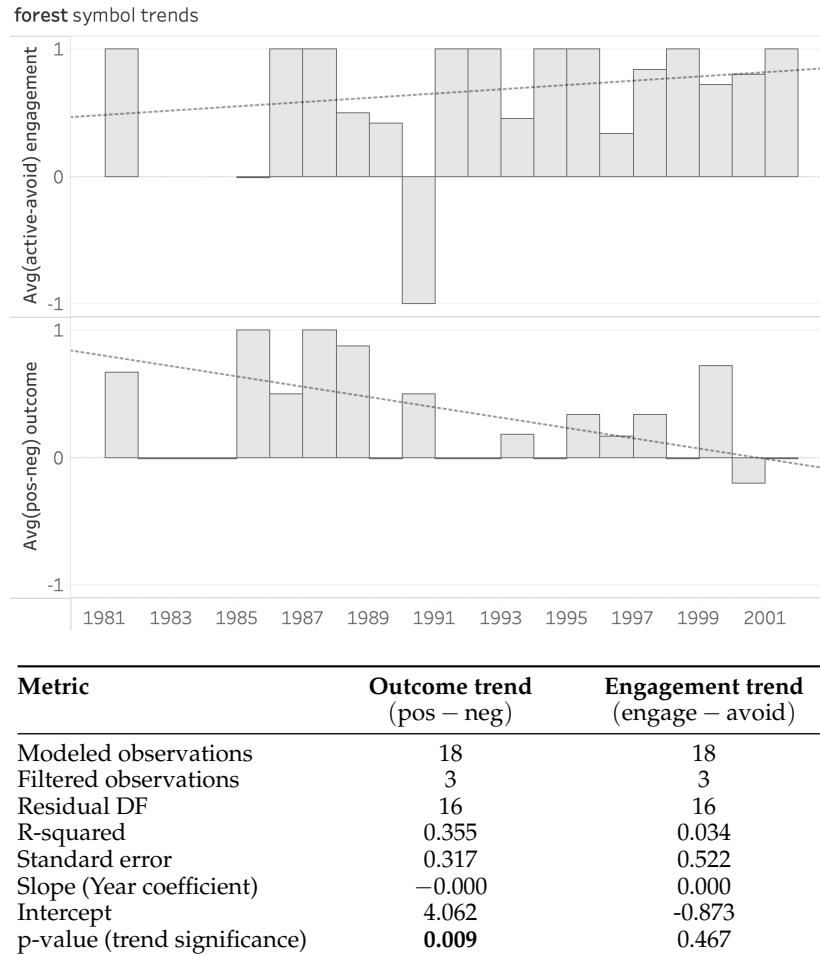


Figure 32: **Ego development over entire series for one symbol.** To quantify overall trends, we invented a plausible formula that subtracts the number of negative dreams from the number of positive ones for both ego engagement and outcome. The values are averaged for each bar. When reviewing many symbols, we initially observed patterns that appeared meaningful, but only one produced a statistically significant trend ($p < 0.05$). Here, there is a significant trend toward more negative outcomes for the *forest* symbol. However, this was the exception, and no other symbols showed a significant trend. This leads us to the conclusion that trends across the entire dream series are often not statistically significant. This is why we developed the concept of comparing two periods before and after a significant life event, as shown in Fig. 33.

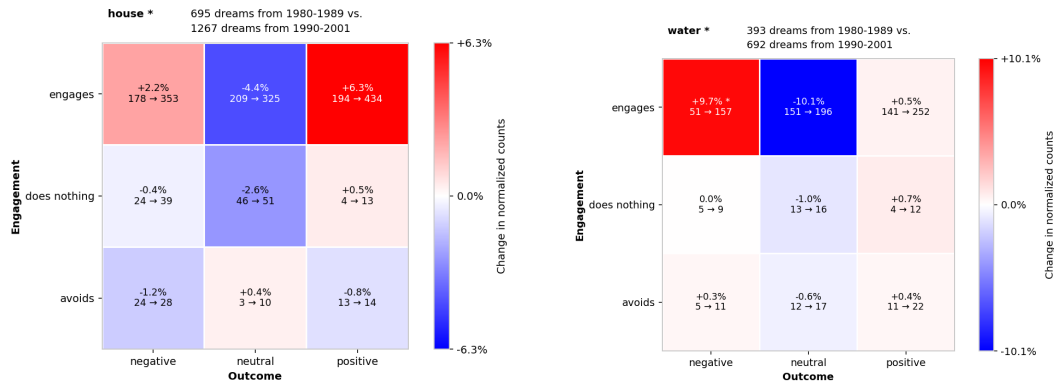


Figure 33: **Significance testing for two symbols.** Raw symbol counts are displayed within each cell in the format Period A → Period B. Significance testing is done on these raw counts. Additionally, the percentage displayed represents the change in percentage representation of the indicated cell.

The house symbol has a globally significant result when considering the entire configuration. The water symbol also has a globally significant and in addition a locally significant result for engagement with a negative outcome.

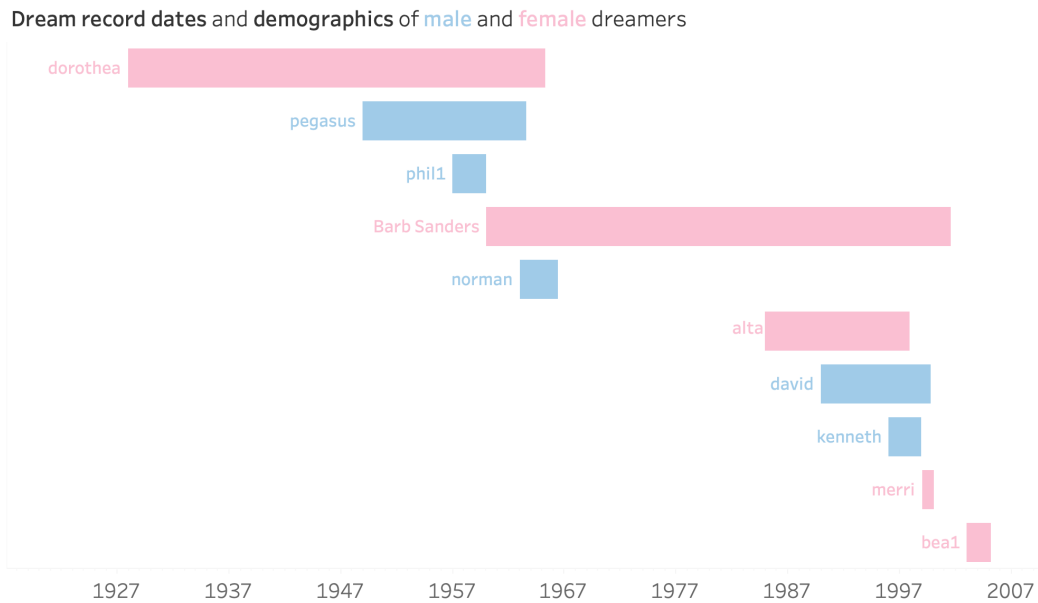
Technically, this was achieved using Period A (1980–1989; $N=1546$ dreams) and Period B (1990–2001; $N=2618$ dreams). p values are from chi-square tests on raw counts; q values use Benjamini–Hochberg FDR across symbols. **global sig** marks $q \leq 0.05$. V is Cramér’s V effect size for the global chi-square test. **local sig** reports any cell(s) with locally significant standardized residuals (r), where $|r| \geq 2.0$ indicates a cell contributing significantly to the overall chi-square deviation. These results are shown in Fig. 34 for all symbols.

symbol	N_A	N_B	p	q	global sig	V	local sig
water	393	692	0.004	0.027	*	0.145	engages×negative ($r=2.113$)
house	695	1267	0.004	0.027	*	0.107	
car	247	407	0.016	0.070		0.169	
egg	14	32	0.092	0.238		0.454	
train	46	76	0.087	0.238		0.336	
fire	65	107	0.176	0.381		0.244	
moon	4	11	0.256	0.475		0.426	
forest	29	56	0.297	0.482		0.292	
white	161	328	0.341	0.493		0.136	
fissure	10	17	0.472	0.585		0.362	
garden	20	47	0.495	0.585		0.284	
snake	8	23	0.587	0.636		0.347	
kiss	94	201	0.651	0.651		0.119	

Figure 34: **Significance testing for 13 symbols across two periods:** The symbol water is both globally significant and has a locally significant result. The symbol house corresponds to a globally significant configuration.

Period A (1980–1989; $N=1546$ dreams) and Period B (1990–2001; $N=2618$ dreams). p values are from chi-square tests on raw counts; q values use Benjamini–Hochberg FDR across symbols. **global sig** marks $q \leq 0.05$. V is Cramér’s V effect size for the global chi-square test. **local sig** reports any cell(s) with locally significant standardized residuals (r), where $|r| \geq 2.0$ indicates a cell contributing significantly to the overall chi-square deviation.

Scaling to multiple dreamers



Dreamer	# Dreams	Notes
Dorothea (F, 25–78)	900	An adult who kept a private dream journal for more than five decades and contacted researchers only shortly before her death
Pegasus (M, adult)	1093	An adult factory worker from Pennsylvania/Ohio who believed his dreams provided clues for betting on horse races
Phil 1 (M, 15–17)	106	A teenage student
Barb Sanders (F)	4254	An divorced adult as detailed in Figs. 48, 49, and 50
Norman (M, adult)	1235	An adult prisoner who recorded dreams while a patient in prison hospitals
Alta (F, adult)	422	An adult with detailed dreams
David (M, 13–early 20s)	166	A teenage student
Kenneth (M, under 21)	2022	A college student who recorded extremely detailed dreams, often noting several dreams per night
Merri (F, late 30s)	315	An artist who began recording dreams after the death of her sister and sometimes used them as inspiration for paintings
Bea 1 (F, 14–16)	223	A teenage student who kept a dream diary during high school

Figure 35: **Dream record dates and demographics of selected DreamBank dreamers.** These 5 female and 5 male dreamers were selected to achieve diverse demographics and dream recording habits. The image shows the temporal span of the ten dream series used to validate SYMBRION 0.2. The dreams are published at DreamBank [5].

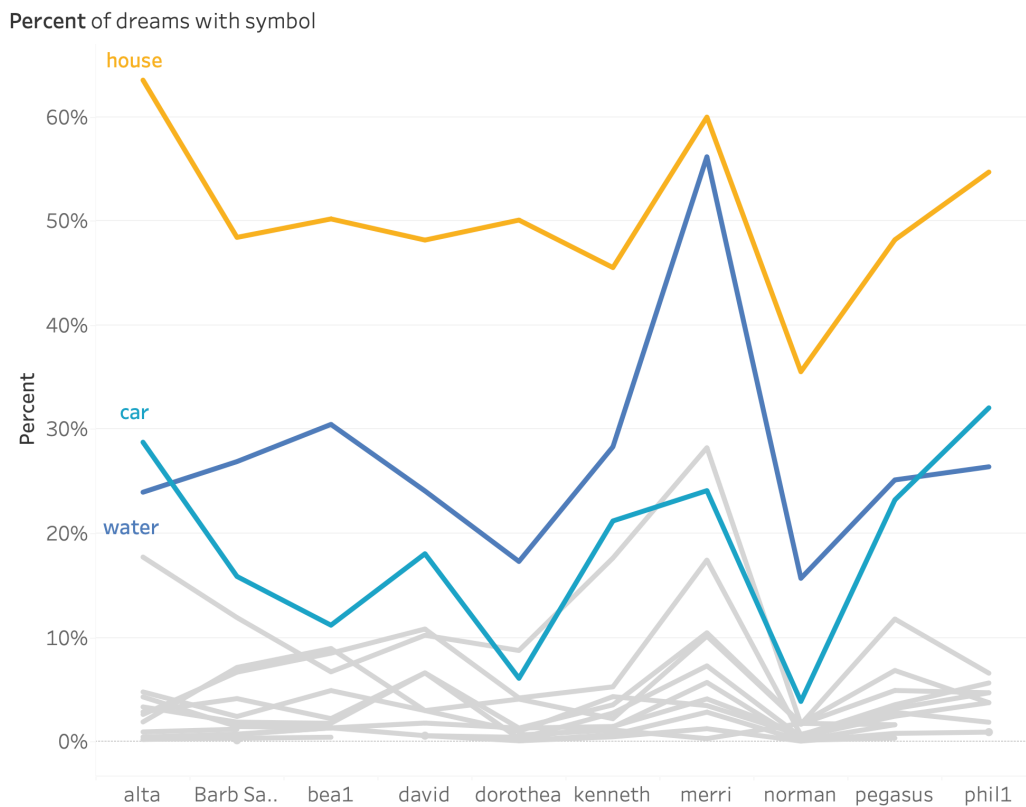


Figure 36: **Symbol presence across dreamers.** House, car, and water were among the symbols with the highest percentage representation across dreams. House was by far the most common symbol for all dreamers. This is likely because it relates to one of our basic needs, and when we dream we are often in our house.

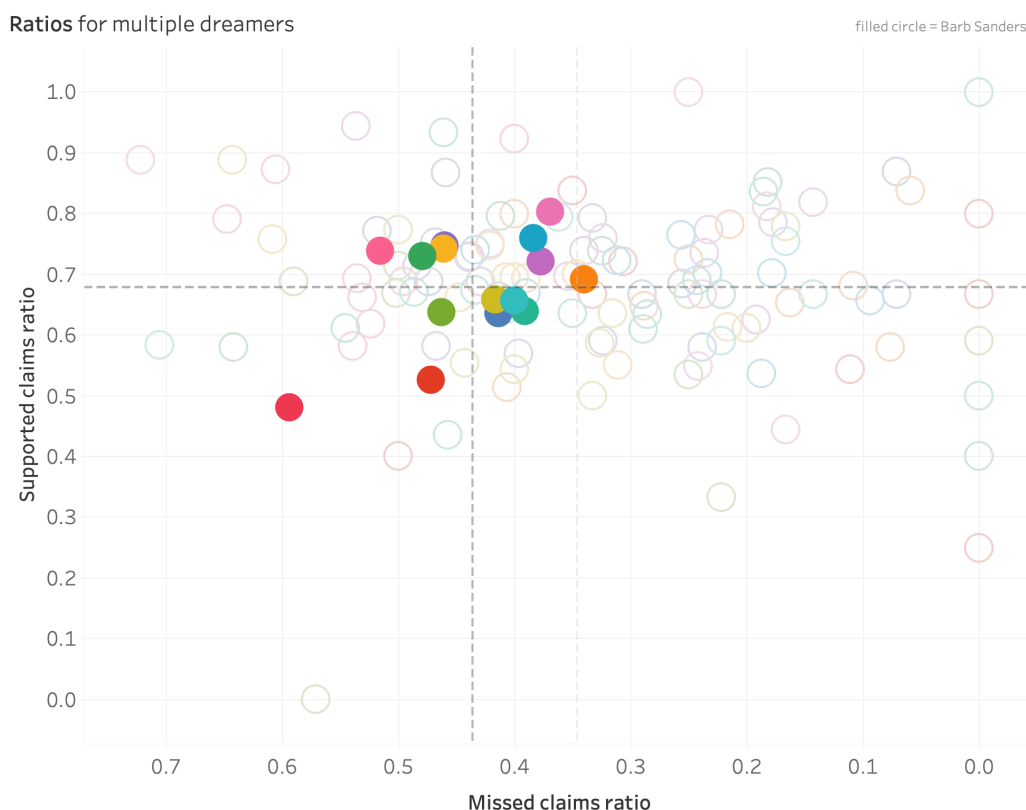


Figure 37: **Supported claims and missed claims ratios for multiple dreamers.** Average metric values across all symbols are shown as dashed lines for Barb Sanders. For all dreamers together, the average metric values are shown as transparent dashed lines. For supported claims, the average of Barb Sanders is equal to the population and is not visible. For missed claims, the average of barb sanders is about 0.15 lower than the population average. The filled circles, which represent LLM judge metrics for Barb Sanders, are near the center of all other symbols, but on average have a slightly higher missed claims ratio. There is a wide range of missed claims ratios, which may relate to the different writing styles of the dreamers or to how the symbol definitions generalize across dreamers. There is less variance in the supported claims ratio, but it is still relatively high.

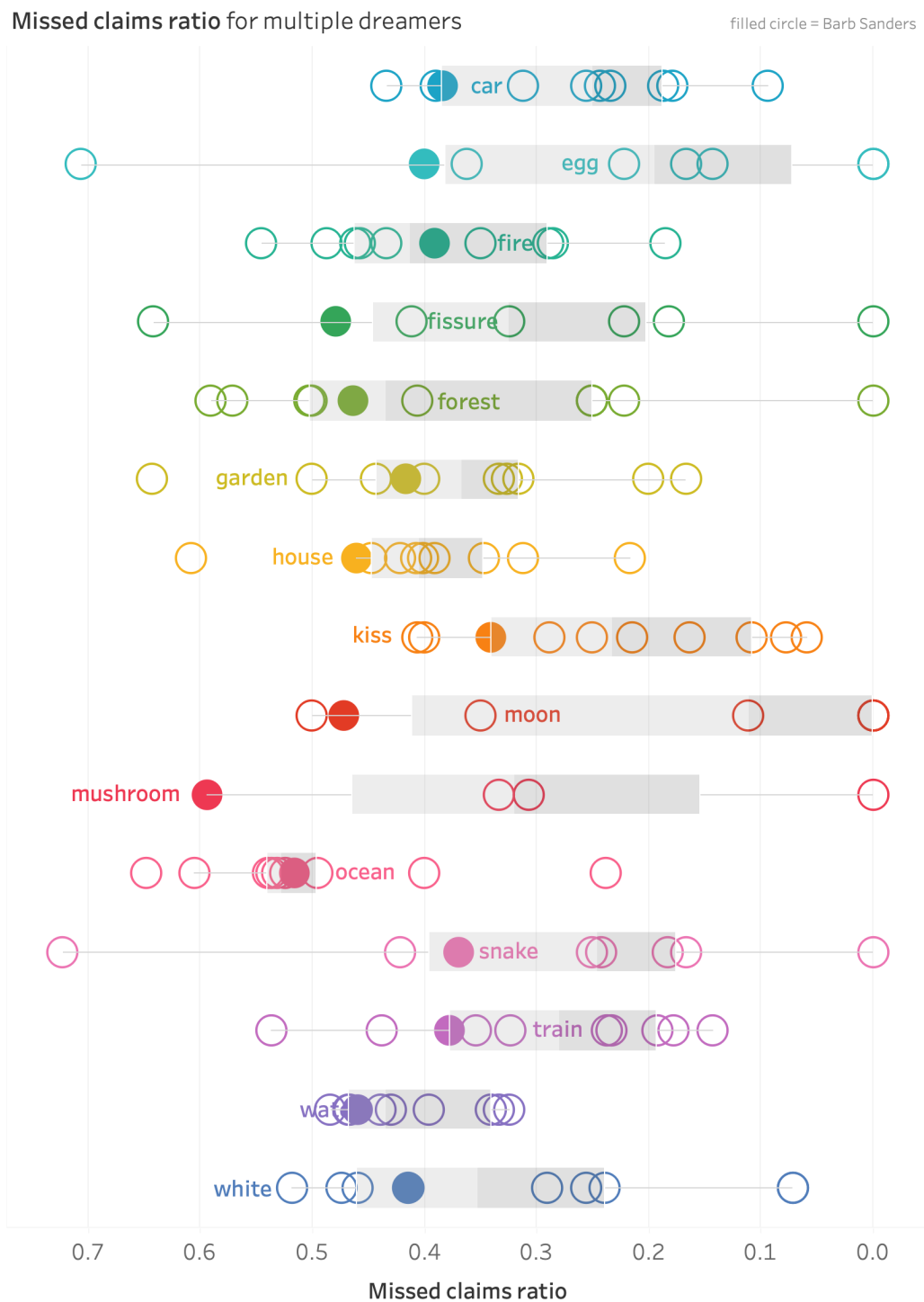


Figure 38: **[Supported Claims Ratio across dreamers] claims ratio across dreamers.** Filled circles are for Barb Sanders and open circles are for other dreamers. The supported claims ratio shows considerable variance by dreamer and across various symbols. Thanks to the robust pipeline and parallel processing, we were able to apply this LLM judge to numerous symbols and dreamers across a lifetime series of dreams for each dreamer.

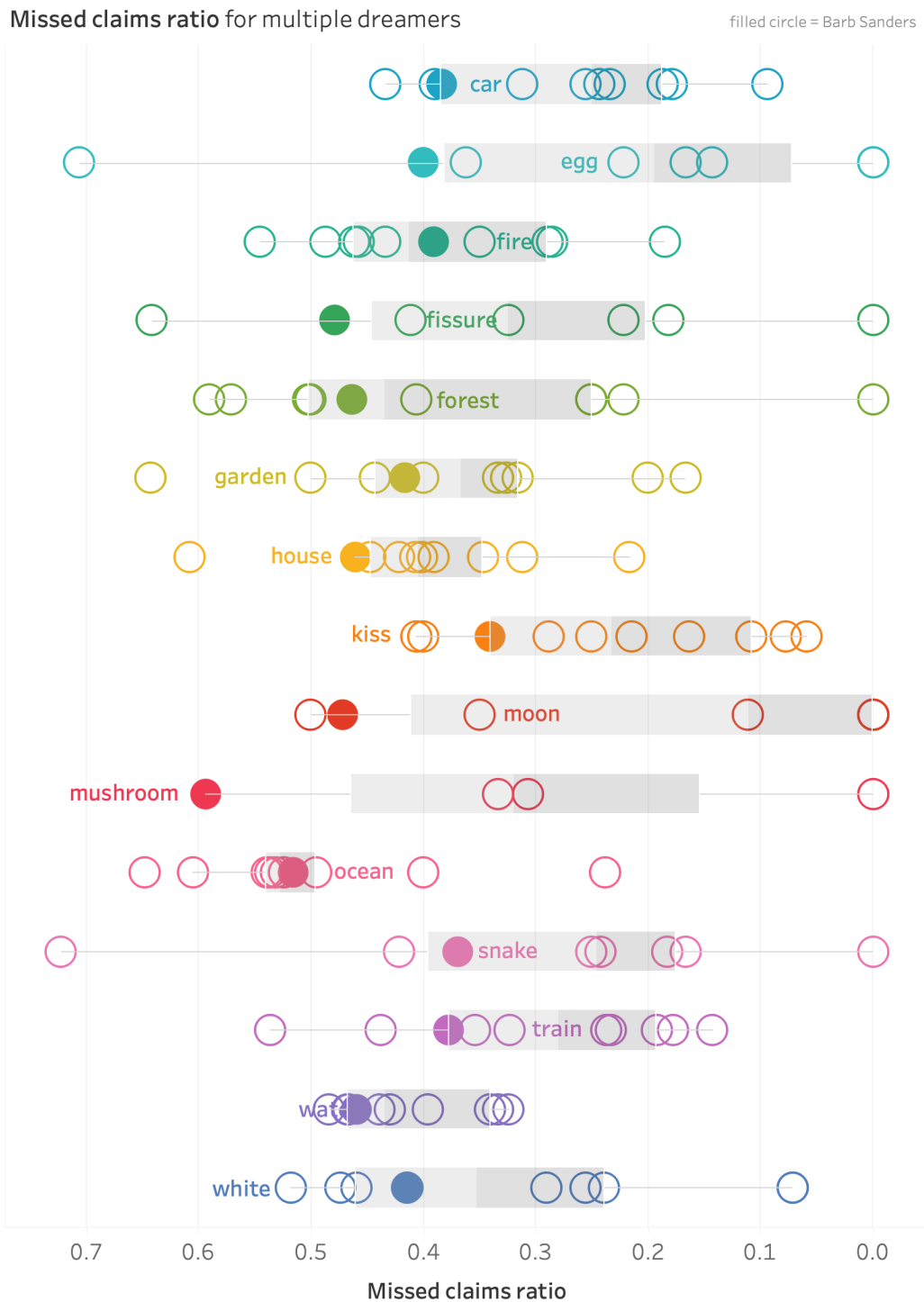


Figure 39: **[Missed Claims Ratio across dreamers] claims ratio across dreamers.** Filled circles are for Barb Sanders and open circles are for other dreamers. The missed claims ratio shows considerable variance by dreamer and across various symbols. Thanks to the robust pipeline and parallel processing, we were able to apply this LLM judge to numerous symbols and dreamers across a lifetime series of dreams for each dreamer.

Transfer learning statistics

Performance Ratios vs. Lexical Diversity by Dreamer

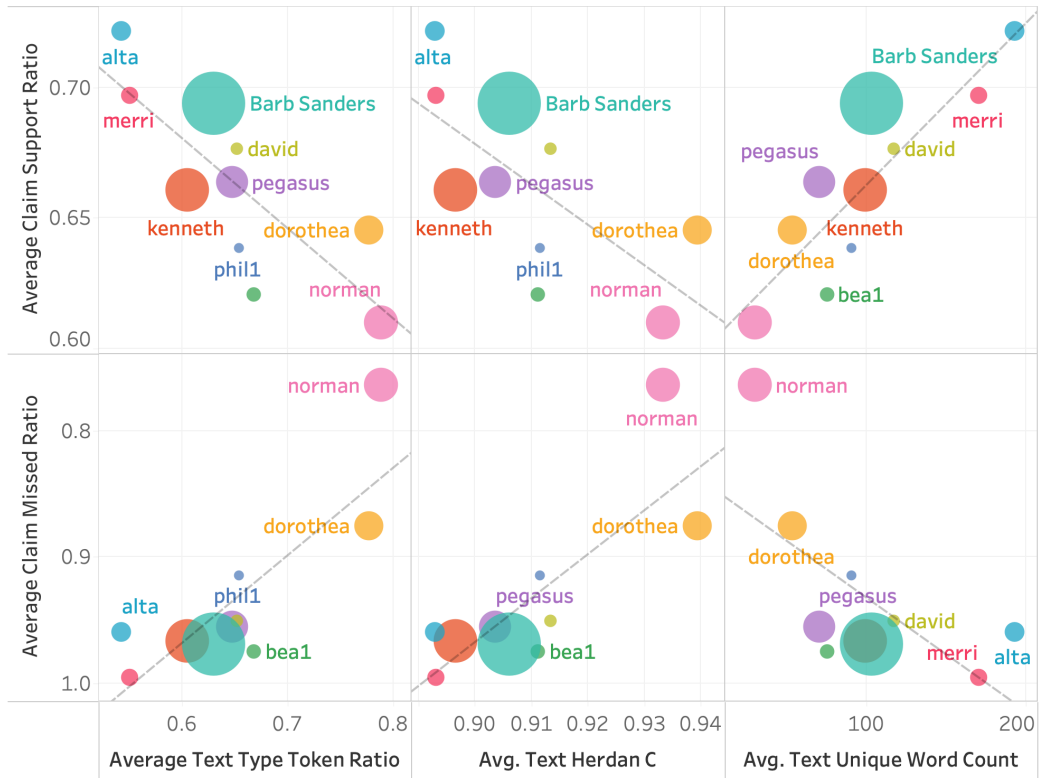


Figure 40: **Performance ratios vs. lexical diversity.** See detailed statistics in Fig. 44.

Performance Ratios vs. Sentiment Metrics by Dreamer

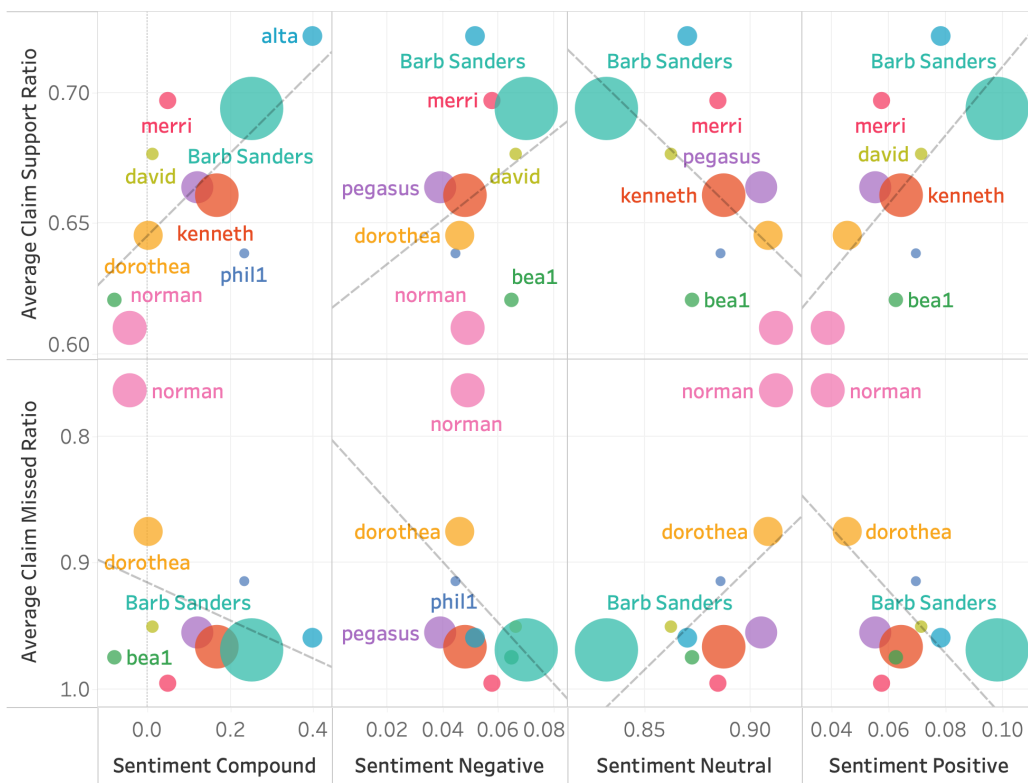


Figure 42: **Performance ratios vs. sentiment metrics.** See detailed statistics in Fig. 44.

Performance Ratios vs. Punctuation Metrics by Dreamer

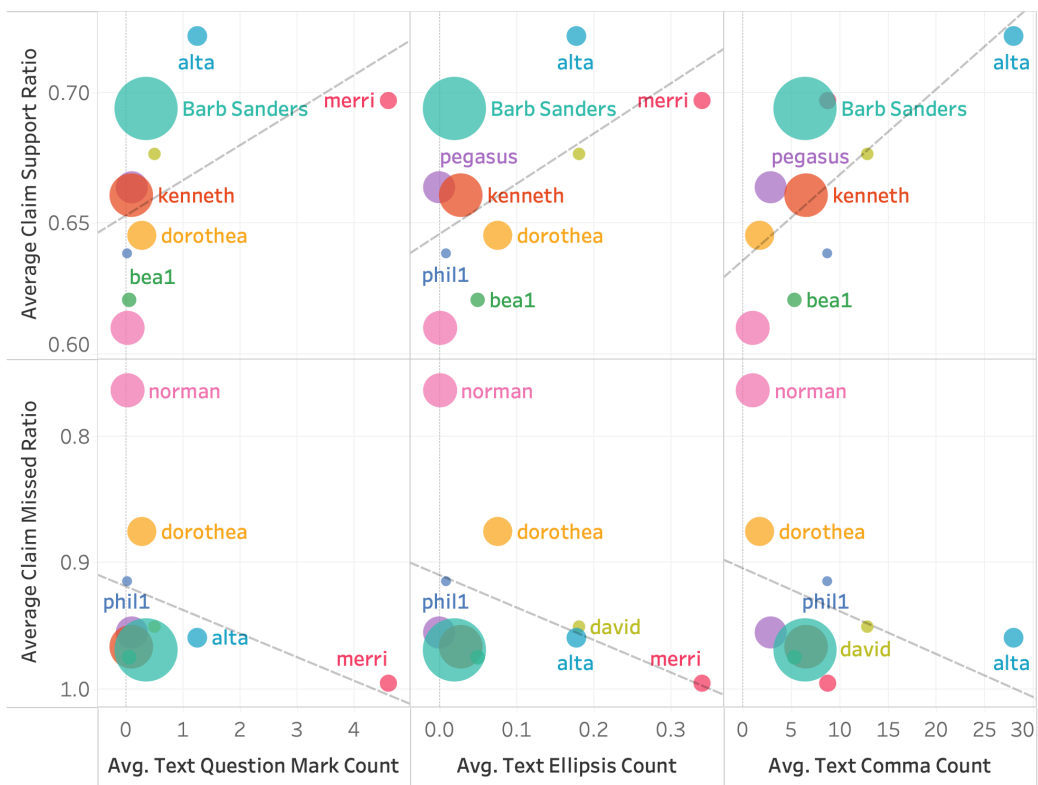


Figure 43: **Performance ratios vs. punctuation metrics.** See detailed statistics in Fig. 44.

Metric	Claim Support Ratio		Missed Claim Ratio	
	ρ	p	ρ	p
dream year	0.429	0.289	0.667	0.071
sentiment compound	0.382	0.276	0.285	0.425
sentiment negative	0.358	0.310	0.685	0.029*
sentiment neutral	-0.588	0.074	-0.661	0.038*
sentiment positive	0.430	0.214	0.527	0.117
word count	0.818	0.004**	0.648	0.043*
character count	0.806	0.005**	0.648	0.043*
character count no spaces	0.806	0.005**	0.648	0.043*
sentence count	0.903	< 0.001***	0.770	0.009**
average sentence length words	0.382	0.276	0.188	0.603
average word length	0.261	0.467	0.067	0.855
comma count	0.636	0.048*	0.309	0.385
ellipsis count	0.583	0.077	0.423	0.223
exclamation mark count	0.578	0.080	0.517	0.126
question mark count	0.927	< 0.001***	0.467	0.174
type token ratio	-0.879	< 0.001***	-0.721	0.019*
unique word count	0.855	0.002**	0.588	0.074
herdan c	-0.818	0.004**	-0.709	0.022*
flesch kincaid grade	0.321	0.365	0.152	0.676
flesch reading ease	-0.236	0.511	-0.152	0.676
gunning fog index	0.358	0.310	0.248	0.489

Figure 44: **Does performance transfer across dreamers?** Spearman correlations between dreamer-level ($n=10$) average text metrics and the two performance ratios. Each point represents one dreamer with metrics averaged across their dreams. Significant variables are shown in bold. Significance levels: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Metric	Claim Support Ratio		Missed Claim Ratio	
	ρ	p	ρ	p
sentiment compound	0.016	0.139	0.080	<0.001***
sentiment negative	0.044	<0.001***	0.083	<0.001***
sentiment neutral	-0.032	0.004**	-0.100	<0.001***
sentiment positive	0.016	0.151	0.114	<0.001***
word count	0.149	<0.001***	0.384	<0.001***
character count	0.148	<0.001***	0.383	<0.001***
character count no spaces	0.148	<0.001***	0.383	<0.001***
sentence count	0.142	<0.001***	0.401	<0.001***
average sentence length words	0.019	0.090	-0.008	0.529
average word length	0.003	0.797	0.018	0.141
comma count	0.117	<0.001***	0.290	<0.001***
question mark count	0.049	<0.001***	0.127	<0.001***
exclamation mark count	0.027	0.012*	0.104	<0.001***
ellipsis count	0.002	0.872	0.056	<0.001***
type token ratio	-0.148	<0.001***	-0.334	<0.001***
unique word count	0.145	<0.001***	0.386	<0.001***
herdan c	-0.130	<0.001***	-0.249	<0.001***
flesch kincaid grade	0.009	0.424	-0.009	0.459
flesch reading ease	-0.004	0.741	0.002	0.871
gunning fog index	0.012	0.278	0.010	0.402

Figure 45: **Does performance transfer across dreams?** Spearman correlations between dream text characteristics and analysis performance across all dreams ($n = 8390$ observations pooled across 10 dreamers). Positive ρ values indicate that higher metric values are associated with higher support ratios or higher missed claim ratios. Significant variables are shown in bold. Significance levels: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. A separate Mann–Whitney test comparing short and long dreams shows that very short dreams have significantly lower support ratios ($p < 0.001$), indicating reduced performance when dream reports contain very little text.

Outcome	H	p
claim support ratio	40.556	<0.001***
symbol support ratio	45.683	<0.001***
ego support ratio	28.503	0.012*
missed claim ratio	41.875	<0.001***

Figure 46: **Do some symbols perform better?** Kruskal–Wallis tests evaluating whether performance differs across dream symbols ($k = 15$ symbols). Significant results indicate that some symbols are systematically easier or harder for the analysis pipeline.

Outcome	ρ	p
claim support ratio	0.036	0.001**
symbol support ratio	0.011	0.369
ego support ratio	-0.016	0.300
missed claim ratio	0.111	<0.001***

Figure 47: **Does the year affect performance?** Spearman correlations between dream year and analysis performance. Positive correlations indicate that performance metrics increase slightly over time across the combined dream corpus.

Demographics of Barb Sanders

Category	Detail
Birth cohort	Born in the mid 1940s in the United States; exact birth year removed in research materials
Family position	Oldest of four children
Education	B.A. in Education; M.A. completed 1975–1977
Employment	Worked in counseling/disability services at a community college for about 10 years starting in the late 1970s
Creative life	Active in theater as writer, playwright, director, and performer
Marital status	Divorced ; married at age 20 and divorced at age 30
Children	Three daughters
Health	Chronic inflammatory joint disease with sudden onset on 1963-09-06; long-term disability with braces, canes, and partial wheelchair use
Smoking	Smoked for 17 years ; quit in the early 1980s
Dream record start	Earliest dream included in the dataset dated 1960 and recorded retroactively
Dream journal begins	Continuous dream journal begins in 1977
First dream series	3,116 dreams recorded from the late 1970s through 1996 ; recorded without knowledge that the dreams would later be studied
Second dream series	1,138 dreams recorded from 1997–2001 ; recorded with knowledge that the dreams would be used for research
Last dream recorded	2001-12-13
Data availability	Dream reports and interviews published with identifying details removed

Figure 48: **Demographic profile** for Barb Sanders. All demographic information is based on publicly available interviews and is approximate in nature [3, 4].

Immediate family

Mother (mother)	BA; career social worker; farm upbringing; described as emotionally distant and critical
Father (father)	WWII veteran; musician and music teacher; later rental real estate investor; later heart attack with bypass surgery
Dwight (brother)	Vietnam veteran (tank driver); PTSD/depression; carpenter; married to Cyndi; two children
Jake (brother)	Divorced from Vicky; unstable employment; skilled electronics repair
Lydia (sister)	Married to Doug; major financial strain/bankruptcy; many children

Marriage and children

Howard (ex-husband)	BA math, MA geophysics; geophysicist and energy-company VP; later insurance and water-filter sales; deceased (heart attack)
Dovre (daughter, oldest)	Lives in another state
Ellie (daughter, middle)	Bipolar disorder; ran away at 14 to live with Barb; dropped out of school; teen mother
Paulina (daughter, youngest)	Married; lives in another state; has children
Charla (granddaughter)	Ellie's daughter; raised by Barb; father John left shortly after birth

Romantic relationships

Darryl (boyfriend / first love)	High-school sweetheart; joined the Navy
Derek (romantic partner)	12 years younger; bipolar disorder; paralyzed after psychotic episode; counselor; former mountain climber
Nate (former partner)	College-era relationship; alcoholism and drug addiction
Hector (former lover)	Past relationship noted in interviews; limited details
Arthur (former lover)	Personal assistant for six months during severe illness

Close friends

Ginny (female friend); Ernie (male friend)	Closest friend; married couple; two sons (Ricardo, Arthur); helped raise Charla
Bonnie (female friend)	Community-college coworker; multicultural affairs focus; three daughters
Lucy (female friend)	Disability rights advocate; theater performer; visually impaired (glaucoma); uses a cane; raised three stepchildren
Mary Sue (female friend)	Commission for the Blind; visually impaired; rehabilitation teacher; masseuse
Katrina (female friend)	Commission for the Blind; sighted; works with elderly clients; five children
Rochelle (female colleague)	Post-polio wheelchair user; mid-60s; frequent interpersonal conflict with Barb

Figure 49: **Key relationships** for Barb Sanders. All demographic information is based on publicly available interviews and is approximate in nature [3, 4].

Date	Age	Event
1940s	0	Born in the United States during the World War II era; exact birth year removed in research materials
1945-09-02		End of World War II with Japanese surrender
Late 1940s	0–6	Early childhood marked by frequent family moves while her father sought work and pursued education after WWII
Early 1950s	6	Family settles in a small town
1950s	8–14	Musical upbringing; learns string instruments including violin
1957-10-04		Sputnik launch begins the space race
1960	15	First dream , later retroactively included in the dream journal
Early 1960s	16–18	High school years; relationship with Darryl (boyfriend / first love)
1963	18	Begins college at a nearby small college
1963-09-06	18	Onset of chronic illness: sudden inflammatory joint disease leading to braces, canes, and partial wheelchair use
1963	18	Married Howard (husband) shortly after illness onset
1963-11-22		Assassination of John F. Kennedy
1968	23	Birth of Dovre (oldest daughter)
1969-07-20		Apollo 11 moon landing
1970	25	Birth of Ellie (middle daughter)
1972	27	Birth of Paulina (youngest daughter)
Early 1970s	25–27	Completed Bachelor’s degree in Education
1973-01-27		Paris Peace Accords end U.S. involvement in Vietnam War
1975	30	Divorced Howard; daughters are about 7, 4.5, and 2.5 years old
1975–1977	30–32	Completed Master’s degree
Late 1970s	32	Employment: community college in counseling/disability services
1977	32	Begins dream journal after disturbing dreams related to divorce
1980-11-04		Ronald Reagan elected President of the United States
Early 1980s	35	Quit smoking after approximately 17 years
1980s	35–45	Increasing involvement in theater as writer, playwright, and director
1989-11-09		Fall of the Berlin Wall
1991-12-26		Dissolution of the Soviet Union
Early–mid 1990s	47–50	Romantic relationship develops with Derek (12 years younger)
1996	51	Relationship ends with Derek
1997	52	Death of Howard (ex-husband) due to heart attack
Late 1990s	52–55	Guardian role: raises granddaughter Charla
2001-09-11		September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States
2001-12-13	56	Last dream recorded in the available dream series

Figure 50: **Notable life events** for Barb Sanders with approximate dates and ages. We know that she was born in a small town in the USA. Therefore, we’ve added significant national and global events that happened during her lifetime. All demographic information is based on publicly available interviews and is approximate in nature [3, 4].

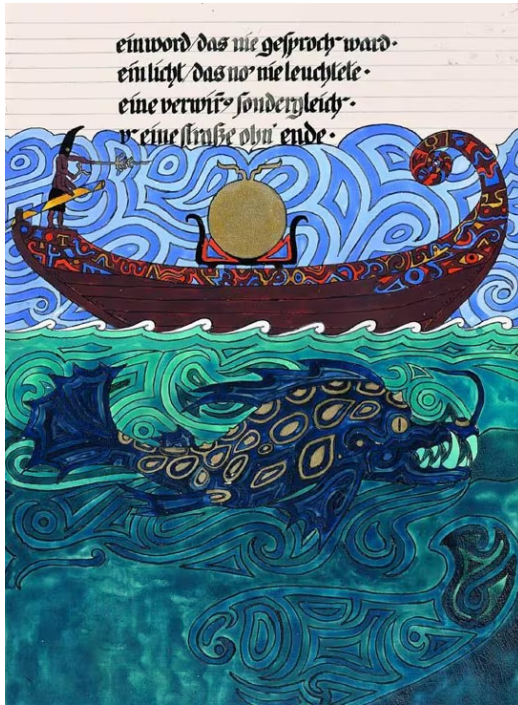
<i>Immediate family</i>	
♀	my mother ; Dovre (daughter, oldest); Ellie (daughter, middle); Paulina (daughter, youngest); Lydia (sister)
♂	my father ; Dwight (brother); Jake (brother)
<i>Grandparents, great-grandparents, and grandchildren</i>	
♀	Agnes (grandmother, paternal); Mildred (grandmother, maternal); Madeleine (great-grandmother); Amelia (granddaughter, Ellie's daughter); Carla (granddaughter, Paulina's daughter); Charla (granddaughter, Ellie's daughter)
♂	Clyde (grandfather, paternal); Lloyd (grandfather, maternal); Damian (grandson, Ellie's son)
<i>Aunts and uncles</i>	
♀	Abigail (aunt, father's sister); Bridget (aunt, Uncle Dale's wife); Charlotte (aunt, mother's sister); Elaine (aunt, father's sister); Esther (aunt, mother's sister); Jillian (aunt, Uncle Joel's wife); Millie (aunt, mother's sister); Muriel (aunt, Uncle Willis' wife); Naomi (aunt, mother's sister); Rosalie (aunt, mother's sister)
♂	Benjamin (uncle, Aunt Abigail's husband); Dale (uncle, mother's brother); Dmitri (uncle, Aunt Millie's husband); Dudley (uncle, Aunt Charlotte's husband); Franklin (uncle, Aunt Millie's husband); Gus (uncle, Aunt Rosalie's husband); Joel (uncle, father's brother); Lionel (uncle, Aunt Elaine's husband); Philip (uncle, Aunt Nadine's husband); Wilbur (uncle, Aunt Esther's husband); Willis (uncle, father's brother)
<i>Cousins and cousins once removed</i>	
♀	Daphne (cousin 1x removed, Willie's daughter); Darcy (cousin, Aunt Rosalie's daughter); Deirdre (cousin, Aunt Rosalie's daughter); Delilah (cousin, Aunt Abigail's daughter); Doreen (cousin, Uncle Dale's daughter); Patricia (cousin, Aunt Elaine's daughter); Sonja (cousin, Aunt Naomi's daughter)
♂	Abner (cousin, Aunt Esther's son); Duncan (cousin 1x removed, Patricia's son); Lenny (cousin, Aunt Abigail's son); Sebastian (cousin, Aunt Esther's son); Terence (cousin, Aunt Elaine's son); Willie (cousin, Aunt Esther's son)
<i>Nieces, nephews, in-laws, and descendants by marriage</i>	
♀	Caroline (niece, Lydia's daughter); Corinne (sister-in-law, brother Dwight's wife); Delia (niece, Lydia's daughter); Heidi (niece, Dwight's daughter); Jeanie (niece, Jake's daughter); Maren (niece, Lydia's daughter); Samantha (niece, Lydia's daughter); Thea (mother-in-law); Valerie (sister-in-law, Jake's wife)
♂	Doug (brother-in-law, Lydia's husband); Jared (father-in-law); Julius (nephew, Lydia's son); Kyle (son-in-law, Ellie's husband); Lance (son-in-law, Paulina's husband); Melvin (nephew, Jake's son); Rodney (nephew, Dwight's son)

Figure 51: **Family relationships** in the Barb Sanders dream series [3, 4].

<i>Romantic partners</i>	
♀	
♂	Arthur (boyfriend); Blake (boyfriend); Darryl (boyfriend); Elliot (boyfriend); Hector (boyfriend); Howard (ex-husband); Jon (boyfriend); Nate (boyfriend); Preston (boyfriend); Raul (boyfriend)
<i>Friends and social circle</i>	
♀	Amber (childhood friend); Arvonne (friend); Bonnie (close friend); Dora (high school friend); Ginny (friend, married to Ernie); Katrina (friend); Lucy (friend); Melinda (friend); Mirabelle (friend); Rochelle (friend); Rosemary (friend); Shannon (friend, married to Timothy)
♂	Alexander (friend); Archie (friend); Carlos (friend, married to Lucy); Duane (high school friend); Ernie (friend, married to Ginny); Jeb (friend); Kenneth (acquaintance, Ellie's friend); Mateo (son of friend, Bonnie); Merle (friend); Orville (high school friend); Ricardo (son of friends, Ginny & Ernie); Rigo (son of friends, Ginny & Ernie); Timothy (friend, married to Shannon); Zach (friend)
<i>Work and professional life</i>	
♀	Andrea (co-worker); Judith (co-worker); Juliet (co-worker); Mabel (co-worker); Veronica (co-worker)
♂	Chuck (co-worker); Dickie (co-worker); Dylan (co-worker); Ethan (co-worker); Gordon (co-worker); Hank (co-worker); Jerome (co-worker); Josh (co-worker); Pedro (co-worker)
<i>Acquaintances and spouses of others</i>	
♀	Della (acquaintance); Lorne (acquaintance, Lucy's ex-husband); Morton (husband of cousin Patricia)
♂	Dominic (acquaintance, Mabel's husband); Jock (husband of friend, Myrna)
<i>Imaginary / comic figure</i>	
♀	Evangeline (imaginary comedy character)
♂	

Figure 52: **Non-family relationships** in the Barb Sanders dream series.

Analytical psychology



A word that has never been spoken.

A light that has never been lit.

An unparalleled confusion.

And a road without end.

Figure 53: **The extent of the symbolic capacity of the unconscious.** A painting by Carl Jung from his "Red Book" [25, 33]. He describes the inner objective reality of the unconscious as a mysterious endless world with complexity beyond our ego-based comprehension. Symbols that arise in dreams come from the depths of this inner fantasy world.

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The transcripts were generated with automated speech recognition and may contain errors.

Interview 1: Carmen Mettler

Carmen Mettler is a leadership development facilitator, executive coach, and psychoanalysis diploma candidate who works internationally with individuals, teams, and organizations on transformational development. She runs a private practice through which she combines depth-oriented personal work with executive coaching and leadership development. In this role she accompanies clients in personal healing and development processes under supervision as part of her psychoanalytic training, while also working with leaders and organizations to design and facilitate leadership development programs.

Over the course of her career she has worked with thousands of individuals across North America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Australia. Her work has taken place in universities and business schools, as well as in both public and private organizations ranging from small enterprises to large multinational corporations. The sectors she has worked in include banking and financial services, mining and natural resources, manufacturing, retail, energy and utilities, infrastructure, government institutions, and international development organizations.

Her professional background includes extensive experience in organizational consulting and leadership development. She has worked as an executive coach and leadership facilitator for large consulting and advisory firms, where she coached senior leaders and executive teams and designed leadership programs for managers across different levels of organizations. This work included large leadership development initiatives involving hundreds of managers, team effectiveness programs for executive leadership teams, and training programs that helped leaders develop coaching and mentoring capabilities within their organizations.

Earlier in her career she worked in leadership consulting and human-resources development roles within both consulting firms and large multinational companies. In these positions she designed national leadership programs, facilitated organizational culture and change initiatives, and supported talent development and leadership alignment across complex organizations.

Methodologically, Mettler's work focuses on transformational development processes for individuals and systems. She works with leaders and teams through coaching, facilitated programs, and depth-oriented personal development to help them recognize and transform limiting patterns, strengthen self-awareness and presence, and build the capacity for sustained growth and adaptive leadership. Her approach emphasizes long-term developmental change rather than short-term performance improvement, supporting individuals and organizations in cultivating the internal capabilities needed for resilient leadership and sustainable outcomes.

BR = Bobby Rohrkemper (SYMBRION developer)

CM = Carmen Mettler (Psychoanalyst at C.G. Jung Institute and private practice)

Highlights

The new house has been in Carmen's dreams for two years

Carmen says she has manually done in her own life what the system now tries to do with technology

Dreams need a safe container in which they can come alive

The most exciting part of dream work is building the bridge to the unconscious and psyche's self-regulation

A symbol is anything that has meaning for the client, not just an external object

Carmen uses technology to study symbols across cultures, history, mythology, and Jungian meaning

She wants to track how the dream ego's relationship to a recurring symbol changes over time

Her first instinct for this dreamer is the symbol house, linked to psychic structure

Carmen immediately begins thinking about qualities of house: rooms, levels, location, old or new

Hotels and temporary lodgings become an interesting boundary case in defining house

Carmen emphasizes the importance of the ego position: passenger or driver in life

The snake dream is interpreted as undeveloped consciousness trying to come into the body

Carmen is struck by how her intuition matches the top automatically extracted symbols

She suggests AI should not be excluded from the field, but understood as part of it

Carmen's final assessment is that the tool is beautiful, intentional, and interactive

Carmen calls the tool amazing and intends to use it for clinical work and writing

BR Hello, nice to see you at home.

CM How are you doing? Very well, how are you? Yeah, pretty good.

CM You look and sound very busy.

BR I am busy. Yeah, it's really motivating me to try something new.

CM Oh, good. Meeting a new structure. Absolutely.

BR New apartment, new structure, new everything.

CM Yeah, I'm enjoying the last two months in the house.

BR Yeah, the last two months, right? Yeah, it's demolished. Demolished and built, yeah.

CM Yeah.

BR Are you keeping some space there or are you totally away?

CM Okay.

BR Yeah.

CM Flying away. Okay. To who knows where.

BR Yeah.

CM We have a house in the mountains, I think I've told you.

BR Yeah, eight hours away or something.

CM More like 12.

BR 12 and you were driving trees back and forth.

CM Yeah, and so it's closer to Cape Town than Johannesburg, which is great. Daughters live in Cape Town now.

BR Yeah. Yeah. And how far would it be to drive down to Cape Town?

BR Eight hours more.

CM Yeah. No, it's only eight hours. From the new house.

BR Yeah.

CM **The new house has been dreaming ahead** It's been in my dreams for two years, the new house.

BR The house comes as a symbol quite often, so.

CM Yeah. Yeah.

BR You have to go in an hour, right?

CM Yeah.

BR More or less. Okay. So I want to start then.

CM How long it takes.

BR Yeah. Okay. Let's start and give it a try.

BR So from here, I'm going to include this as a transcript, if that's okay with you. Okay. So thanks for meeting.

BR Thanks for helping me out with this. I've built a tool that lets you look at any number of dreams over as many years as you want. So the situation is that you have a new client, they're coming to you.

BR In this case, the client is about 50 years old. And I know specific facts about this person that I can share with you later, because this is all a, it's a public dream set. It's managed by a researcher from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and the dreams are public.

BR And he's interviewed the dreamer multiple times and has information about the dreamer. So, but before we look at the details, like, do you, do you have some, well, first of all, let's start with, so what is your experience with working with dreams and your experience as a psychoanalyst?

CM **She has already done this manually in life** So I've started working with dreams from about 21 when I started my first analysis. And I've been working with them for 30 years. So it's been a very meaningful process.

CM And I would say I've done manually what you're proposing to do with technology in my own life. So really isolating symbols, recurring themes and motifs, archetypal images, particularly during periods of transformation that support shifts, meaningful shifts in my life. And I've relied quite heavily on my dream life to be a compass, to guide me into making decisions in the topside world, as I call it.

BR Right. And you're helping others to do that too.

Dreams need a safe container And as a psychoanalyst, since 2012, I transitioned into working with one-on-one in individual settings, therapeutic settings, and then into psychoanalysis in analytic settings. And so now I work with, at the framework of Jungian psychology as a psychoanalyst, and using depth framework to help deepen the understanding of the dream material for the client. And it's been very helpful for me bringing the depth psychological lens into the work, because it's reinforced what was an intuitive process into quite a structured process that I use with clients, while still respecting the individual's own meaning making process, which is essential as a psychoanalyst.

CM And we've got to learn to listen deeply, and to hold a safe container for the dreams to come alive in.

BR Right. So it's so much about the personal experience in the session with the client. And that's where, is that what you find most exciting about dreams?

Bridge to the unconscious Yeah, what I find most exciting is building the bridge to the unconscious and activating the self regulating capacity of psyche, which exists in us just as it does with body. So I don't see biology or psychology as separate, I see them as two expressions of the same energy, seeking balance, homeostasis, equilibrium. And the dreams are simply information coming from the client's depths, we could say from the unconscious.

CM And the client's ego is building a connection to that world. And once that connection is strong and healthy, then the dream starts to inform life's movement and their movement through life so that they can build a healthy relationship to their own depths, and that their life then becomes an expression of an authentic, an authentic or real essence of who they are.

BR So what is a symbol for you? And how do you think that a client understanding their symbolic content and dreams can help them?

A symbol has meaning for the client So it's something which has meaning, it is something which comes from another dimension, it's information. Some, some would say it comes from the collective unconscious, or from the dream, which connects with that field. A symbol is really anything which has meaning to you.

CM And whether it's in the upside, topside world, so it could be you see a cross, and it starts to create an experience within you, a relationship within you to that, to that image. And it symbolizes something meaningful for you. So it's not just a cross, it's something that has meaning for the client.

BR And so this cross would relate to our ancestors, our immediate family. What else? What else would you look at in collective, in the collective unconscious?

CM So if you're looking at, so firstly, I would look at it, as I'm going down through the layers with the client, I would first ask for their associations to the cross. And, and based on their own understanding, help them to make meaning. And then we could explore deeper layers.

Technology helps across cultures and history So we could look at what the cross has meant through time, as a symbol. And that's where it's useful to have data. So to be able to use and I do use technology to help me with symbols, because you can look at a cross section of cultures, of history, of mythology, to interpret that collective meaning.

BR Yeah. And you would always do that one symbol at a time, because it's very detailed work.

CM When you match, so archetypal symbol, yeah.

BR Yeah. Okay, so you got a little bit into technology. So, so can you give an example of how you would use technology with, with this symbolic research?

CM Well, I'd be interested in taking a symbol from a dream that a client brings. And before the session, just for myself, using technology to understand what it means across different cultures across history, time, from a Jungian perspective, what it might mean, and then to hold that in the session, so they bring that understanding. And then to allow the client, if they wish to ask questions, and so use some of the information in the session.

CM **Track the symbol across time** But also, what I use it for is tracking the symbol across time.

BR Yeah. Yeah.

CM So if I have, for example, a client who's been working with me for three years, then I would use the technology to help track the symbol.

BR And how have you done that? That's, that's an aspect I'd like to show you my ideas on, but how have you done that?

CM So I like to look at how the relationship of the dream ego to the symbol has changed over the course of the analysis.

BR Okay. Yeah.

CM So if you take a house, for example, let's say the client comes in starts with a burning house, then the house structure dissolves into ruins. And then it starts being rebuilt. And then there's a new house.

BR Right. Right.

CM So that I find fascinating.

BR And I'm a stable element. There's fire, then there's something else, but the house is the house to be the recurring symbol, right?

CM The recurring symbol. And I may forget what the story is over time, because I'm seeing so many clients at once, it's difficult to track with my own memory. And so I like keep it on file, actually.

CM So that before I see the client, I just do a review of what has happened. And I use AI to do that.

BR Okay. And how technically, how do you do it? Do you have like one chat session per client that you just keep going?

BR Or do you have like another document where you make some notes?

CM I keep it in a document, and I upload the document each time. Okay. Okay.

CM And I ask for feedback if I need particular information.

BR Right. Okay. And then you ask about...

CM That's a good idea. I like the idea of keeping it in files. I haven't got that to that yet.

BR There's a challenge with these models that they can only handle a limited amount of input, but they won't tell you if you've given too much. So they will start to just ignore things from the past. But I have a way to get around that problem.

CM So... Yeah, that is a problem, because I've found that particularly with long-stage clients that have been working with me for more than a year, it'll leave out some of the information. And I can see that.

BR Yeah. You can upload like a book, for example, and say, I want you to summarize every time you see this word in the book, but it will give you maybe 20 examples. And you say, oh, do you have any more?

BR Then it will give some more, but it won't actually go through the whole book. There's a technical problem there, but it can be solved.

CM And if you put the clients in separate folders, does that help?

BR It depends how much text you're giving in when you give each message. Each time you send a message to chat GPT, it's like, how long is that message? And how much memory does it have for the past?

BR So... Okay. Yes.

BR Okay. So you have some files, you have some ideas about the symbol. Now, if we go like back a step, how do you decide which dream to work on or which symbol to look at in more detail?

CM Hmm. In the session, you mean, or in preparation?

BR It could be either.

CM Yeah. Well, in the session, I go where the energy goes. So I follow the client's energy and track the energy.

CM So I listen.

BR Do you mean by energy? Do you mean their emotion, their engagement, how much they speak about it, how much they might want to avoid it? It's hard to define what this is.

CM What I mean by energy. Yes. So I call it the field.

CM And from a psychological perspective, I would call it psyche that's in the field, that's bringing content, bringing the client and the material. There's always material. And whether that's information coming through talking, through symptoms, through the body, or through emotions, or through a dream, through a memory, whatever's in the field in that moment, I'll be listening to and tracking.

BR This is the very human aspect. Also, when I was motivating my projects, I thought, well, I don't want to decide which symbol to look at. And actually, I don't even want to, I don't want the system to tell me what's the definition of the symbol.

BR I want to be able to decide what it is. And for myself as the analyst, or when you speak with the client that they would tell you, what is this symbol exactly for you? Explain it to me as if I were an alien.

CM Yeah. So I don't like redefined symbols. Yeah, they're useful, I think, as information, if you're looking at it across cultures, if you're dealing with a client from a different culture, it's useful to understand.

CM But in the session, you want to be listening to the client's own experience of the symbol.

BR Right. Okay. All right, let's get started with some of this content.

BR And I want your just really direct feedback, anything you like or don't like. And it's not about marketing here. It's about really trying to, we have some initial version of something that's working and how do we improve it.

BR So and for the also for the course and my my grade in the course and everything, it's, it's also not about doing the best marketing. It's about really improving. So okay, so I'm going to show you a little bit I know about this dreamer.

BR And she is about 50 years old at the time when the dream series finishes. I didn't look at this information until today, like the because I wanted to develop my whole tool without being biased about this one dreamer and what will work well for her. But she's born in the 40s in the US.

BR She's the oldest of four children. She has a bachelor's in education. She finished that in 1977.

BR She has like a hobby in theater. She was married at 20, married for 10 years, divorced, had three daughters. Like a week before her marriage, she got a diagnosis of an inflammatory joint condition.

BR And so then she sometimes she had to use a wheelchair, braces. She was smoking for a long time. She started like seriously recording her dream journal when she got divorced.

BR And but she retroactively included a couple of older dreams from the past. And so there are about 3000 dreams that are recorded from the 70s. And in this first data set, she didn't know that her dreams would be studied.

BR And then there's more than an additional 1000 dreams when she did know that they would be studied. And so I compiled this information from interviews from different sources. So her father is a World War II veteran.

BR She was a social worker. Her mother was also a social worker. Her brother was a tank driver in Vietnam.

BR Brother, brother and sister. So yeah, two brothers, one sister. We know something about her, her husband, romantic relationships.

BR So I won't go into all of that. And but we know some things about other people. And then I've written a timeline.

BR So born in the 40s. Just as World War II was ending. The family settled in a small town.

BR She had a lot of experience with music. She let's see. Yeah, there's one relationship during high school.

BR There's marriage. And shortly before that, the chronic disease. John F.

BR Kennedy was assassinated. Her daughter, her first daughter was born. Five years later, there is the Apollo 11 moon landing.

BR And there were was the birth of two other daughters. So she has three daughters in total. And she divorced when her daughters were between two and a half and seven years old.

BR She did complete a master's degree. She worked at a community college on counseling and disability services, probably motivated by her own disability. And then she started recording after her divorce, a very serious dream journal.

BR And that that dream journal spans from 1960 to 2001. But the first more than 10 years are just a few dreams because they were added later. So most of the dreams are from like 1977 to 2001.

BR And so she had been divorced already while she recording that dream journal. She had some other romantic relationships. One of them was a man who was 12 years younger than her.

BR That relationship ended in 1996. Her ex-husband died in 1997. She had been a guardian role of a also have a granddaughter.

BR September 11 terrorist attacks. And later in the same year, the she recorded the last dream in her dream journal. So that's kind of a historical overview of the this client as we would see them.

BR And I separated the life roughly roughly into the 80s and the 90s. So like the 80s was like before this more serious relationship, but still after the divorce and then in the 90s, including this newer relationship. So you'll see one point of the analysis.

BR So so now this client arrives to you. That's all that you know about her. She sends you an email.

BR Here's 4000 dreams attached to this email. You might like that or not like that. But but what would you be curious about relating to this, this client?

CM Firstly, about her family of origin. So the story and how that affected her growing up.

BR Yeah, here's what we know. So we know that her father is a war veteran, her mother is a social worker, and her brother drove tanks in Vietnam.

CM And were her mother and father married? Or did they separate at any point?

BR I don't know. Yeah. But this is like, suppose we're kind of preparing before the first session.

BR And we want to look into the dreams a bit before we meet her. Like, okay, what would you what do you think maybe the dreams could tell you? Without yet speaking to her?

CM So you mean what questions would I ask the 4000 dreams?

BR Yeah, or even more specifically, what symbol would you look for? That would be would be one thing that we can actually try out together. We can look for a symbol.

House emerges immediately Let's start with house. Okay, so house

BR would be one that I have not yet done. So that's, that's good.

BR So I've looked at these ones. Like on the left here, you can see how many times these different symbols appear. So I've looked at water, car, white, kiss, fire, train, forest, garden, egg, snake, fissure and moon.

BR Okay, so we're going to do house. And you said that's one personally significant to you also.

CM So well, also, from a psychological perspective, where is her structure for the psyche?

BR Right?

CM And how does it show up in her dreams?

BR Yeah, houses, identity. It's who are we? Where do we live?

CM Yeah, where where does the vitality, the life force reside? And how does it habit? This particular dreamer dreamers life, and particularly because she has an illness, I'd be interested in the body and symbols with the to do with the body.

CM So what would body be? Right? Water, water would be an important symbol, water.

BR I'll show you what I know about water. But okay, so we're gonna look at so we have loaded this program and it's telling us so far, it's going to look at 4000 dreams tells us what what years they span. And you could put if you had a different client, you could do the same thing.

BR But right now we're working with Barb Sanders. And we are going to tell it that we want to look at a new symbol. And we're just going to name it house for now.

CM Yeah, because it could show up as a room a house.

BR Now here's the here's the thing where you get to give some input. So how do you want to define house? We don't have to be very careful about how we write this.

BR It can just be a spontaneous thought.

CM Structure.

BR Let's stick with like the if you're looking at a dream, how do you decide if there's a house in it?

House qualities immediately matter Like what is a house just like as if it's just a building or contain structure.

CM it's just a building or contain structure.

BR I first said in it here, I thought you meant structure like the structure of the psyche. And then I was getting too abstract.

CM But like actual structure.

BR And maybe like in which people live in which someone lives.

CM Or it could be empty.

BR Okay, good.

CM Yeah, so any kind of content could Yeah, any building because that would be all kinds of structures.

BR Okay, now there's going to be two questions like what do you want to include? And what want to exclude? So I'll start writing some things, but you can also just chime in.

CM Could that be things like, how many rooms? How many levels? And the location?

CM Is it in a city? Is it in nature? What is its relationship to?

BR Well, we're gonna get into the qualities of the house later. Right now, we're still at the top level. Like, what is a house?

CM So what is the house?

BR Yeah.

CM Is it old or new?

BR Right. Those are absolutely interesting qualities of house. So so we will extract some of that information for us.

BR But so now I told it what a house is now I should say what is what a house is not. So excluding commercial buildings, like, yeah, exclude shops. Essentially, like places where nobody would, would actually live.

CM So it would be places like trading or commercial places, places of work, places with collective audiences gather like theatres or auditoriums or conference centres would exclude those collective kind of structures.

BR I think somehow if someone is homeless, they still have the concept of a house. But this, this is a bit more complex. We'll leave that away for now.

BR Do you have any other thoughts of how to determine what is the house? What is not a house that we haven't captured until now?

CM How do you know if something is a house? It has a door. It has passages and rooms, a kitchen, bedroom, walls, windows, foundation, artefacts like furniture.

BR Okay, that's good. It's good for now. Now, we're going to have the opportunity to refine the symbol definition.

BR So now it's, it's taken our input and it's going through all 4000 dreams and it's looking for boundary cases, like things that are a little bit unclear. And it's going to like, look at all of them and decide what to ask us. And this goes pretty quick, because I have 20 agents working on it in parallel.

BR So they're all these little workers are going around there. Some of them are reading some dreams, others are reading other dreams. And then they speak to each other.

BR And they're going to decide which question to ask us next. Wow. And then we can do that.

BR We're going to do that multiple times if we want to. And then each time after we answer a question, it's going to incorporate our new information in the in the definition.

CM Yay.

BR And then it's going to take that definition and again, look at all the dreams and decide is the symbol present or not. So this is a lot different from like a tagging system where, where you have to manually tag is there a house and we don't even have to have the word house in the dream. It can be I'm in my bedroom or so and this would still.

BR **Boundary case: hotel as house** So here's a question. Do we treat hotels or other temporary lodgings as house? We haven't thought about that while we were writing our definition.

CM So yeah, we thought about commercial spaces.

BR I didn't think about hotels. There are people that live in hotels for a long time, or they becomes their home for a few months.

CM Like a safe house for me would be important because that's a temporary lodging.

BR So there's no right answer here. We can just decide what we want.

CM So I would say yes, because I know people live in hotels and temporary lodgings as then, then they called that their home or their house.

BR Does this bring up any other thoughts you'd like to add now? Or can we just wait for the next question?

CM Yeah, I think it's important that they're there for an extended period. So not just overnight.

BR Yeah. So that it's more like a house than a visit, just overnight or a short vacation.

CM And it's because a hotel can also be used for a conference where you're having to speak in front of people. We don't want to confuse that. And that would be another one that I'd be interested in, like, how she shows in the field.

CM Yeah.

BR So now it's taken what we've given it so far. And it's, it's given now it's refined to this definition, based on what we've said to include and what we've said to exclude, and now how we answered the question. It's quite, quite comprehensive in a way.

CM Amazing. I want to do snake.

BR Do you want to see I have snake already. So I can show you the results.

CM Yeah. So I can walk. I'm interested in with this woman.

BR Why? Why do you think about those two?

CM **Snake as undeveloped consciousness** Because of her story. Snake is undeveloped consciousness. I was trying to come into the body.

BR And I'm wondering if it's Yeah, if it's presented in her dreams, and how it's like sheds, I'm sorry, as a snake sheds its skin also as a symbol of transition. There's also the, there's some dreams with bridges, that would be like a transition. But the snake is something else.

BR So now we get another question. Should any structure described as someone's house count as a house for tagging purposes? Even when the dreamer is only visiting and not living there?

CM Interesting question, isn't it? How does it know to ask that question?

BR It looked at all of the dreams, and it looked at our definition. And then it's thinking, okay, can I categorize this as house or not? Or am I not sure?

BR And it decides that this is the best question to ask next.

CM So that as you were going through this, my intuition was presenting this image of her in other people's houses and wondering why she visited so many other houses.

BR Yeah. I mean, it still is a house.

CM I think yes.

BR Yeah. Do you want to do one more? Maybe we'll just go ahead.

BR Let's say no. All right. So now it's looking at all of them.

CM Yeah, for her, I'd be interested in animals and how they show up.

BR Yeah, for sure. So I want to tell you a little bit what's going to happen next while we're waiting. So it's the next thing it will look at the dream ego.

BR So I've characterized the dream ego in two ways, according to the engagement of the ego. It's either doing something or not. So it's either passive.

BR Well, let's say it's either avoiding, it's passive or it's active. Yes. I put three different categories for the dream ego.

BR And then something happens to the dream ego and in many dreams, not always. But so this thing that happens to the dream ego is that negative, neutral or positive. If nothing really happens, it's neutral.

BR So I call that outcome, the outcome for the ego. And so in a moment, we will have a chance to answer a question about the ego. It's going to ask us similar questions.

BR How do I judge the engagement of the ego? How do I judge the outcome for the ego? Are those aspects that you've thought about when working with clients?

CM **Passenger or driver** Yes. So, you know, for me, it's very important to know what the ego position is. So is the person a passenger in their life?

CM Are they a driver in their life? And so how is the ego relating to the contents and to the other characters in the dream?

BR Yeah.

CM And then for the ego, what is the outcome? You know, does the ego grow stronger over time? Or does its structure grow?

CM Does it become overwhelmed? Does it become destabilized? Yeah.

BR So we've, we've narrowed it down, like, we've already found the dreams where the symbol house appears. And now we're just looking at those only those ones to see, what is the ego doing? And are we able to categorize the ego into those three, three categories?

CM Hmm.

BR So can we put it in?

CM Yeah, you mean in relation to the house symbol?

BR In in dreams where the house symbol occurs? And what is the ego? Yeah, not that not that it has to be action on on the symbol, or an action of the symbol on the ego, just when it appears?

CM Yeah, okay. So what what is happening with the ego? How is it engaging?

CM What is the outcome? When there's a house in the dream?

BR Yeah. Yeah.

CM So can't see you now. Where did you go? Oh, there you are.

BR Let's see. Getting something else ready.

CM Yeah, I just had closed the windows. I couldn't see. Okay.

BR So now here's our question. When the ego alternates between avoiding and later taking initiative in the same house scene, should we encode engagement? By the earlier avoidance feels more intense.

BR It's a valid question. Like you have dreams, many things are happening. There's some avoidance and there's some engagement.

BR What? How do we choose?

CM So is engagement? Taking initiative, which is more decisive?

BR Yeah.

CM Or is engagement about being emotionally intense, even if it means avoiding?

BR Yeah, we want to think more about the material facts of what happens or the emotional engagement.

CM I think emotions because of her body condition, but that's biased.

BR So let's just say, like, follow the one that feels more intense or something.

CM Let's say, yeah, the one that feels more emotionally intense.

BR Okay, now we get one more question. This relates to the outcome. When a house scene ends with the ego feeling proud and relieved about some achievement, but also still angry, unusually or socially disconnected, should we encode that the outcome is positive or neutral?

CM Neutral.

BR Or ambivalent. They have different mixed feelings.

CM Yeah.

BR Yeah.

CM It's not a positive outcome.

BR Okay. So it's making a new, it made some new definitions, how to encode active, how to encode neutral, negative. Okay, we're going to stop that.

BR Then we're just going to let it do its whole inventory. So now here's a dashboard that shows different dreams. And I can choose one of the existing symbols.

BR Like you said, you were interested in snake. And now I have this grid at the top right. So the ego engages, it does nothing or it avoids.

BR And then the result is negative, neutral or positive. And then in the cell here, you see how many dreams are in each category. So if we look at dreams where the ego engages and the result is positive, then these are some examples.

BR Let's find a little bit, a little bit long, but so here's one.

CM So it also gives you the dream.

BR I have the original dream. And then below I have, it says engagement and outcome at the bottom, right? And that's the, that's a justification for the decision.

BR Like, why did it decide positive engagement? Why did it decide positive outcome?

CM I'm just reading the dream.

BR Yeah.

CM Beautiful.

BR She trusts the snake.

CM Yeah.

BR Snake is graceful and gentle. It's a relationship developing in there.

CM Yeah. So that's what I mean, what I mean by undeveloped consciousness. So I like to look at snake to see what is developing for the ego.

CM So here there's a telepathic communication developing between the eye and the objects that it needs.

BR Yeah. So the client, the client came to us, it's, it's like 2002 right now, the client came to us, they've recorded all their dreams. And now we found this, this meaningful dream from 1991 with the snake.

BR So how would you then use that in a session?

CM Well, that's giving me a lot of information already. So I would want to know, if it's now current time, what is the, what is the snake current time showing me?

BR So you could look at some more recent dreams?

CM Yeah, well, I could ask her about her relationship to her needs, and how she consciously create spaces for herself, where she can be efficient, and effective. And right. So yeah, it's still quite archetypal, and it's quite out of consciousness.

CM So it's developing. Because she's admiring the powers and gracefulness. And so I'd be interested in whether she's found the place to rest, whether the situation has, in fact, improved.

CM And, and if we look at the chronological time, how is her health?

BR Yeah, 1991. So we can go back and look at what was happening then, what's now how?

CM Was this before she was diagnosed?

BR Yeah, because she was diagnosed, actually, even before she started recording all the dreams.

CM So she was ill at this time. Here's something trying to support her.

BR And that one is still going for a moment. So for your question. So we've got this dream in 1991.

BR So that's fallen around here. And the illness was actually way, way back in 1963. Yeah.

CM All right. So this is before her relationship develops with Derek, or could it be around that time?

BR We don't know exactly. Maybe around that time.

CM We could ask.

BR Yeah.

CM Because there's something about connection. And I'd be interested in exploring that with her connection to her own body, herself and others.

BR Yeah. So we can go and look at different dreams. But we're interested in house.

BR So soon, we will have some results about a house. From what you've seen so far, what's your impression?

CM **Amazing tool** It's amazing. And I would want to use this for myself, I would want to use it for my clients, I'd want to use it for my writing. I think it's amazing.

BR It's like a tool. It doesn't give you answers. You have to find the answers yourself.

BR But I could tell like, while we were speaking here, it brought questions to you. And then we could look at the timeline. And we could.

BR Yeah.

CM Yeah. So it felt to me like I was engaging with it. And it was engaging with me.

CM There was a way of communication. It felt it was it knew what questions to ask. I don't know how it knows.

CM But obviously, whatever's going on in the background, which you've coded knows. Yeah.

BR So not sure if it's finishing, but we will see. It has a lot of stuff to do.

CM Looks like it's got the whole army working on this one.

BR Yeah.

CM Funny, because that's what we spoke about at the start of our conversation.

BR Yeah. The army. Yeah, we did the war.

CM The new apartment, my soon to be no longer existing house.

BR Yeah. Yeah, we spoke about house. I think it's still running.

BR We'll see. Don't want to stop it.

CM In the meantime, I'd like to see why there's so many.

BR So many? In what sense?

CM At the top there.

BR Yeah. Yeah. There's, you know, water is everywhere.

BR And you can see all the different engagements with water.

CM Mostly neutral, mostly positive.

BR Yeah, up here, like I put positive at the top, right? Yeah. One of the first ones I had looked at that I kept kept looking at was was a negative.

BR Her daughter was drowning and she was afraid and wasn't able to go and save her. Hmm. That.

BR That was avoidant and negative. That was this dream. That's her.

BR That's her oldest daughter. But then then things are more positive later.

CM So that's the other thing I'd be interested in is how things unfold in the series. But with the school and with the ego.

BR Yeah. Yeah.

CM And so how would you see that? Would you have to click on each instance?

BR Well, I had to see some trends there. So there I think we always see trends somehow. As humans, we just see patterns in there.

BR We sometimes imagine that they're there. Sometimes they're really there. Sometimes our intuition tells us.

BR But I've also used some statistical significance testing to actually see if the trends are real. So I'll show you an example of that. And put it on a different screen.

BR So here I'm comparing this period in the 90s to the period in the 80s. And there, this red one here said there was the biggest difference in the trend was when she engages a lot, but the outcome is negative. The ego engages and the outcome is negative.

BR And that, that.

CM What does that say? What does it mean?

BR With water. It's like, you look at the number of dreams that were in that category in the 80s, and then in the number of dreams in that category in the 90s. And there's just a lot more in the 90s.

BR In that particular category.

CM And then negative outcome.

BR Yeah, there's just more where she engages, but there's still a negative outcome. So that points to a problem, I suppose. That points to a reason for maybe being in analysis.

BR Okay, so there we go. I made a mistake while clicking. I have to do it again.

BR But I accidentally excluded that one, but it's not a big deal. I just won't be able to show you right now. We can try it quickly.

BR So now we would come back to this tool.

CM We can make an extra few minutes.

BR Okay, we'll try. We'll see if it's done. If not, I'll just tell you later.

BR But now, we can speak in general for a few minutes. I think that's best. We speak a little bit about what you would want to see in this tool.

BR Any concerns about it? This is a very early version. So I have it working.

BR It's pretty user-friendly at the moment, but it's not ready for other people to use it.

CM So is it only possible for the user to identify the symbols, or could the program also do that? Like, tell me what are the 10 symbols that appear most often, or is it me that has to ask for a symbol?

BR Yeah, I've done that experiment, what you're talking about. I've done it in a very generic way, where I don't define the symbols myself. And I think that's what you're looking for.

BR You don't want to have to think ahead and just to have a first impression, which symbols are there.

CM Yeah, could you give me just 10 symbols to work with, with this client?

BR Right. And there, I did it using research from Aras and the Book of Symbols. So yeah, and I did come up with a graphic.

BR It's not as... I don't find it yet as meaningful. But I think it's certainly interesting.

Her intuition matches the top symbols Look what's underwater.

CM

BR There you go. Houses right there. Oh, this is meaningful then.

CM Yay.

BR So we're onto something.

CM And family. There's mother and father. They're also very meaningful.

BR Yeah.

CM And animals, there was my other intuitive sense. And their children. And I was thinking about transport as well.

CM So there's car and road.

BR Yeah.

CM So what I'm fascinated by is how intuition is supported by what I'm seeing. How is that possible?

BR Yeah.

AI as part of the field Because often people say, oh, you know, technology and AI is just about data, right? And it's about language model, large language models, and working with...

BR Right.

CM ...helping us to accelerate outcomes. But what I am sensing is that there's a way in which, because it's so interactive, the way you've designed it, why are we excluding AI from the field? It's part of the field.

CM So it's... ...generating, just like a dream generates information, just like a container, an analytic container generates information.

BR Yeah.

CM We're in a container right now. And AI happens to be the information that's in the field.

BR Yeah. Yeah. I relate to what you're saying.

BR Because I spoke with a very senior analyst who at first was very excited about the idea. And then, actually, they decided, no, they like how they work with dreams already. And they refused to look at the tool.

BR So there is...

CM People are resisting it because of fear. Because I'm understanding, based on my intuitive hits, the images that were coming to me when I was looking at the chronology and the biography, correlates with what I'm seeing in the top few.

BR Yeah.

CM Right up to road. Yeah. In fact, I had cross as well.

BR Oh, yeah. Yeah.

CM And I had written down here on my page, transport.

BR So cross is related to road somehow. And when you think about transitions and paths.

CM I find it fascinating that as we go, I mean, what does this mean? The relative frequency at the top.

BR Right. Yeah.

CM That's how often they appear.

BR How often they appear compared to the others. Yeah. Yeah.

CM So there's something for me here about...

BR It wasn't easy to get this working. Because when I did it the first time, I ended up getting things that are very specific. And then you have like...

BR I mean, we see three different kinds of water. But the first time I did it, it was also showing people's names as a symbol or a specific location as a symbol. So I had to educate the system.

BR A symbol is something more generic. I want a more general word. I don't want 10 different words that are just specific examples of a symbol.

CM So this shows me that you've worked very closely, intimately.

BR I put in a lot of domain knowledge, a lot of human expertise. And a lot of it you don't see. Like when we wrote the definition of house, that's just like on top of what I had already written.

BR Not for house, but I wrote it in a general way. So it applies to any symbol. To explain what is a symbol, how do you look for them, what are...

BR Yeah, what does it mean, what kinds of things can even qualify to be considered as a symbol, and which ones cannot.

CM So this is where I find, you know, like everything has light and shadow. I find this is light. This is beauty because of the conductor, the person who's creating...

CM Because you're the conductor, the music for me has harmony. I can relate to it. Maybe if somebody else had created it, it would be a different feeling I'd be having.

BR At first, I had no clue how to start this. And I wanted to do something that was measurable, but meaningful. So how do you do both?

BR Well, part of it is that I go in and look at random dreams and see if I agree with them or not. And then I actually calculate how many, what percentage of the time do I agree with its categorization? What percentage do I not agree?

BR So yeah, and a big topic was how to eliminate hallucinations. Because models will invent things that are not there.

BR So I had one dream that said, the entire dream said there were waterfalls.

BR And then the summary was other things like waterfalls are beautiful. Waterfalls sometimes have rainbows coming out of the mist. Sometimes they're very loud.

BR And actually, I don't want any of that. I want it to stick to the objective reality of the dream without putting anything else in it. And that's a problem that sometimes people have with AI.

BR It takes a lot of extra engineering to make it accurate and that it sticks to the knowledge that it should know about what you're doing at the moment, and not just other knowledge that it's gained from.

CM I think that's what creates that perception amongst people who use it, that it's dangerous, or you can't trust it. It's not the AI, it's the person who designs the data scientist or the engineer who's designing it. And that's who needs to have integrity and deep understanding of the content and what the user needs.

BR Absolutely. Okay, so our house has been built. Our house is finished.

BR Finally! And now we refresh this. And here it is.

BR So I'm going to clear this. Wow, we have a new top symbol. They actually found more than water.

CM The field already knew. Did you see that? It's incredible.

BR So now, look at this. There's a dream. I just picked a random one.

BR I'm sleeping, trying to wake up. I'm in my bedroom. Okay, the word house is not even mentioned there, but we've found it.

CM I try to open my eyes and look on the bedroom wall. And there are two invisible spirits. And there's the telepathy again.

CM Ego tries to wake up.

BR That's interesting. So would you agree with the categorization there? Is there an engagement?

BR Is there an active engagement?

CM Yes.

BR They try to wake up. They try to do something, right? And then what's the outcome?

CM What is the outcome? I try to open my eyes. I became aware.

CM I was afraid.

BR Spirits. There's spirits there. I'm afraid of the spirits.

BR They mean no harm. I don't know. If I had that dream, I would experience it as a positive presence.

CM Yeah, that the dream is afraid of, but that they are not harmful.

BR It sounds like she's no longer afraid. She was afraid.

CM Oh, I was afraid.

BR Then they let me know. So it sounds like the end result is no longer afraid. Yeah.

CM No, the result is neutral because there is no change.

BR Yeah. So we agree with that.

CM Because she was afraid and they let her know, but she then woke up. So she didn't change her ego position.

BR Right. Yeah.

CM But there was definitely engaging.

BR Mm hmm. So yeah, thanks, Carmen. This has been really excellent.

BR And I could show you more another time. Pretty awesome. It's really nice that you could use your intuition here.

BR And we found a new top symbol.

CM So I love coming first. You know that.

BR Right. Absolutely. Yeah.

BR You have this very interesting profile that you have many different parts of you.

CM Yeah. We're all multifaceted and complex creatures.

BR Yeah.

CM Yeah. Thanks for inviting me.

BR Any last thoughts? You don't have to repeat anything we've said already, but any other any last thoughts?

CM **Final assessment: beauty and intentionality** Thank you for inviting me and for all the energy that I can see has been invested in this project. And as I say, I just it's a beautiful outcome and I love how it interacts with me. So thank you for shaping it in a way that has intentionality and beauty in it.

CM That's my overall assessment. Thanks very much.

BR You're the first person I've interviewed, and it was very, very rewarding for me, too. So thanks very much. OK, I think I would close for today.

BR Then we continue another time.

Carmen followed up by email:

A synthesis of my experience with your creation:

Like dreams are a map of psyche, the tool is a map of the symbolic landscape of the dreamer.

I found it especially valuable defining the symbol ourselves and seeing how the dream ego related to it and the outcome over time.

I also found it valuable seeing the most frequently recurring symbols.

I can see how this tool could support the work of analysis while preserving the sanctity of the analytic container and allowing the self-regulating nature of psyche to guide the process.

My hope is that this tool is used to help analysts identify themes and patterns to support meaning-making for the client, while allowing space for the analyst and the client to remain curious about how the dreams provide a map and navigation support for the dreamer to build generative capacity and a strong connection to the unconscious.

This is the ultimate purpose of the analysis and of life — to shine a light in the darkness, i.e. make the unconscious conscious and embody what is essential.

I see the tool as an enabler of that process.

Warm wishes,
Carmen

Interview 2: Alessandra di Montezemolo, Psychoanalyst

Alessandra di Montezemolo is a Doctor of Psychology, Jungian psychoanalyst, and Training Analyst at the C.G. Jung Institute Zürich. She is a member of the International Association for Analytical Psychology (IAAP) and holds the Swiss qualification in analytical psychotherapy. Based in Paris, she maintains a private practice where she works with individuals in long-term Jungian analysis and provides supervision for analysts in training. At the Zurich Institute, she teaches and conducts training analyses, supporting the professional development of future Jungian analysts.

Alessandra di Montezemolo is a Doctor of Psychology, Jungian psychoanalyst, Supervisor and Training Analyst at the C.G. Jung Institute Zürich. She is a member of the International Association for Analytical Psychology (IAAP). Based in Paris, she maintains a private practice where she works with individuals in long-term Jungian analysis and provides supervision for analysts in training. At the Zurich Institute, she teaches, supporting the professional development of future Jungian analysts.

She was first trained in Freudian psychoanalysis in Rome and later completed her Jungian analytic formation in Zurich. Her clinical work focuses on depth-oriented psychotherapy, including dream work, symbolic understanding, and careful exploration of unconscious patterns. She works in English, French, Italian, and Spanish, reflecting an international background shaped by living in several countries.

Alongside her clinical work, she has held senior leadership roles in major global organizations. She served as VP Communications at Thales Alenia Space (High Tech and Satellites company), Global Corporate Communications Director at L'Oréal, and European Corporate Communications VP at McDonald's Corporation. Earlier in her career, she was a Senior Consultant at Schandwick, advising international companies and global brands. In these roles she led large teams and oversaw media relations, internal communications, brand coordination, philanthropy, and international strategy. This experience gives her a practical understanding of executive leadership, institutional pressures, and the human dynamics inside complex organizations.

In recent years, she became a Partner at Stillpoint Spaces, an initiative that brings Jungian psychology into dialogue with contemporary cultural and social themes through seminars, lectures, and facilitated discussions. Her work brings together clinical depth, academic training, and high-level corporate experience, allowing her to support both personal development and leadership growth with psychological insight and real-world perspective.

BR = Bobby Rohrkemper, SYMBRION developer

AM = Alessandra di Montezemolo

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Highlights

Alessandra says dreams are precious because they are meaningful only in relationship with the dreamer

Her childhood house has remained an anchor point in both her life and dream life across decades and countries

She criticizes interpretations that erase the dream's real meaning by moving too quickly into abstract concepts

Her core method is to live the dream first: stay with the images, colors, smells, and movement before conceptualizing

She asks about dreams very early in treatment and says even people who claim not to dream will begin remembering them

Symbols may already be there, but they can only be perceived when the person is ready for them

Her dream of the rocks, the sea, and the woman selling books marked a major turning point in her own development

When shown the client's dream corpus, Alessandra immediately says: take the house

In the basement dream, she insists the war, the sea's threat, and the family gathering all belong to the actual dream situation and affect the outcome

She argues that ocean should be treated separately from generic water because it carries a distinct quality

She repeatedly points out that dreams often contain both danger and hope, and may need more than one category

A key warning: not every recurring image should be called a symbol right away; often it begins only as a theme

Very long, complicated dreams can be defensive; significance may emerge only years later when related images return

She sees real value in tracking links between dreams across the course of an analysis

Her final assessment is that the tool has real potential as a discovery aid, but only if it remains grounded in the dreamer, feelings, and living imagery

Alessandra is impressed by the tool's interest and offers development help

BR Hi, Alessandra.

BR Hey, nice, nice cabin you have there.

AM I'm on a few days of holidays in the mountains, so...

BR Thanks for taking the time.

AM Yes.

BR So, where are you?

AM I'm in, it's a, it's a place called, Champolluc, which is in, after the Mont Blanc,

BR I've been there. Actually I spent time in Brusson.

AM Oh, yes, it's further down, but yes, sure, you always go through Brusson, to arrive.

AM I've come here since more than 25 years, so...

BR Okay, yeah, that's great. Yeah, you have to tell me more.

BR So... So, do you mind if I record what we're gonna discuss?

AM No, it's fine. Just let me know what you use. whatever...

BR I can send it to you, yeah. I'll make a transcript of everything, and if there's anything obviously personal, then I'll just remove that.

AM Okay.

BR Okay. So... so I'd like to show you a tool that I've developed, but... but first, I'd like to hear a bit about how you work with dreams yourself, and what is your attitude towards dreams, and how you work with clients and their dreams.

AM **Dreams matter through relationship** Okay, so, I'm just writing, a chapter of a personal book, and I was just... writing, a paragraph about the house of our dreams, which, talks about a house Of my childhood, built by my grandfather, that has, been in my dreams... in my life and in my dreams all my life. And, in this paragraph, I say how... Important and precious dreams are. and the relationship we have with our dreams is... I talk about relationship to our dreams, because the dreams are not meaningful without Us being in relationship with them.

BR And with the content.

AM Which is not only, the concepts, and not only a transformation of something of the past, but it's, the image, very lively image of where we stand That, in some cases, also indicate.

BR Where...

AM we... should be going. So there's something really, really, really important.

BR So for you, this particular house is the anchor point.

AM **The house as lifelong anchor** Yes. Yes, and it has been all my life, and I've been traveling all my life, so in different countries, and even in the summers where I was not able to go there, I kept on dreaming of the house. So that's.

BR No.

AM **Against erasing the dream's real meaning** And that's, and even how the dreams were interpreted in my first Freudian analysis. And I really could not understand, because they kept on erasing The real meanings, and going back... to concepts, and to, you know, how the dream is transforming problems in the dream, or, or satisfying a desire, which sometimes is true. I don't...

BR It was getting too far away from your own association.

AM **Live the dream first** Yeah, not even. I work less with association than with going, living the dream. It's like, when you go to the movies, before you.

BR I mean.

AM think of what the movie is about. You go into the movie. It's the same thing, a dream is something very lively. If you immediately go away from it, you lose that liveliness. And Jung said, stay with the dream. Stay with the.

BR Right.

AM with the images of the dream, not the concepts, the images, the colors, the smells, what happens. And the way I work with dreams is exactly that. I tend to... Talk about dreams very early on. asking to people in the first sessions if they dream or not, and I tell them that they should take a notebook, or they use the telephone, whatever. To write down the dreams between the first session and the second session. And even people who say they never dream, they don't know what it's like. Everyone dreams, and dreams are dreams.

BR In the journal there is, right?

AM **Ask about dreams very early** Yeah, and the thing is, then, the way I work with it is I do wait for the the person to bring the dream, but in some cases, I ask, do you have any dreams? You know, we're exploring something that the patient is talking about, and ask him, did you have any dreams? And... very... almost every time, the dream they talk about is connected to what they were talking about. So, there's... there's something really precious about dreams, because dreams happen at night, and they bring... something that we're not really aware of, and, usually it really, how can I say, it helps. connect... The conscious life to the unconscious in a very lively way.

BR Absolutely. So, two questions come to mind, like, do you... do you think that we actually... kind of symbolize while we're asleep, that these symbols are created at the moment when we're asleep? Or do you think they're kind of always being created, and then just being made conscious when we're asleep?

AM **Symbols are there, but readiness matters** I think... during the day. we have... we perceive many things that don't... don't come to consciousness, because we would be going crazy, and, you know, we would be overwhelmed, but all the things we cross during the day. But these things stay in, and then they reappear in dreams, reorganized in... The dream way of organizing things. And, I think the symbols... Are there. I think the symbols are there, but I think the symbols can only be reached and perceived when the person is really ready to perceive it. So, it's a two-way thing. They're there. But, but, you know, it, it's, it's not obvious that, you're going to, see them, if... the dream doesn't bring it to consciousness. Right. So, yeah.

BR Okay. And then, next question, you don't have to tell me how, but do you have a sense of how this house, your personal symbol, has changed over... over time?

AM Absolutely, I can tell you the dream, because I just was... I was, was riding it.

BR Curious.

AM And especially how it's changed, like...

BR Over the years, if this house has developed.

AM **Turning-point dream of sea, rocks, and books** Yeah, and this dream happened, I don't know if right before or just when I started my training in Küsnacht, and the house appeared this way. I was with a group of people on the rocks down by the... because it's on a mountain, it's a Mount Cicero, where Ulysses was with, with, the... the magician. And the sea was really, really agitated, and I had to cross some... small, places, from rocks until... The higher rocks, where we usually stay to go to the sea, to the.

BR to...

AM swim. And I was the guide. I was guiding this group of people who had no idea how to do this. The sea was very agitated. And I was aware of the power of the sea, and I knew that the... the waves, they come, and they go, and then there's a moment of calm, and in that moment, you can cross across the, the, on the path. without having the... being overwhelmed by the waves. And when we cross, and we are safe on the higher rocks, I notice there's a woman That has, exposing and selling books on the rocks. And that's where I really, really came to who I was. From a place where I used to learn... I learned to swim, I learned to play, I learned to imagine, I learned to live in wilderness. all of a sudden, I see this woman, I say, what are you doing here? And she tells me, I've always been here.

BR Hmm.

AM Were not able to see me.

BR Yeah, that's very...

AM It's a dream.

BR Very powerful.

AM And then, when I finished my training, I did two seminars inviting very well-known Jungian analysts and people to discuss the soul of the Mediterranean Sea. So, that was the turning point of this house that was so significant all my life. And, it was represented so well in this dream.

BR So just remind me, where was the house?

AM The house is in Chilcheo, which is between Naples and Rome.

BR Okay, and in the dream, how was... what was the role of the house?

AM The role of the house was, more than the house was down by the sea, the rocks, because the house is up on the hill, and you go down to the sea, and you have rocks, where usually I spend all my summers, you know, diving and swimming and learning to swim and to climb the rocks, so I was used to this wilderness, but I had never noticed that This woman was always there telling me that books and knowledge, was part of my life.

BR Oh, wow. Okay. Okay, thank you. Thanks for sharing.

AM I can send you the dream, because I wrote it in English, it was one of my papers for the Institute.

BR Okay, sure, sure, great. Okay, so I'd like to actually... walk you through a tool, and then... Yes. I think... I know a little bit about your attitude towards AI, your... I think you're... open to some ideas. You're also conservative in how it should be used, so you have a balanced attitude. But I'd like, really, a fair impression of Or an honest impression, I would want to say, of anything you like or you don't like.

AM Absolutely.

BR And it, so just, yeah, very direct opinions would be helpful. So, we will treat it, actually, like a case study.

AM I did read what you sent me.

BR Okay, thanks, that saves us some time. And... So then I'd like to present you with this hypothetical scenario. You might not... This might not be how you would do things on your own, but you've, You know a lot of things about this client, maybe you've had a few sessions with them, and then they send you an email and say, here's 4,000 dreams. and you think to yourself, what do I do with this? Actually, maybe you don't even want them to send these dreams. But suppose they do, and then you're curious, based on what you know about this person. And your first few sessions, then you get curious about a few symbols. in... In this person's dreams.

AM And you'd like to go back and look at 40 years of dreams.

BR And you'd like to look at one particular symbol. So based on what we know about this woman. We have some... some details about her, so I'd like to see if you and I can think of a symbol that we'd like to explore together. So we know she's from a small town in the US. I think, since you've read a bit of this. Like, her father has a military background, her mother was a social worker, she has a disability that developed right before her marriage. She has... she's divorced. But just kind of the timeline of what we're speaking about here is that Most of her dreams are recorded in the early 80s. So, Ronald Reagan has been just elected president. She divorced about 5 years ago. So she's coming to you in this... In this scenario, and she... has... Not yet. Oh yeah, so she's coming to you, she's a bit... She's maybe about 56 years old.

AM And she has this huge dream journal. She got divorced.

BR 25 years ago. But one significant relationship after the divorce. With a man that was 12 years younger than her. The... that relationship lasted more than 5 years. Just 3 years ago, her ex-husband passed away due to a heart attack. The September 11th terrorist attacks were, last year. So she's coming to you at this time. And then we're curious about what can we learn from her dreams that might help us In the... in the clinical process with her. So what kind of questions come up? And then can we link those questions to any specific symbol?

AM Well, first of all, the question I would have is, Why did she... Why did she have this journal? And what did this journal tell her?

BR Well, we do know the journal is related to grief from the divorce.

AM Okay.

BR But we don't know much else, because we've only had two sessions, and we haven't spoken really a lot about the journal yet.

AM But, I mean, I... how can you go into a sim... Well, before... Knowing what's in the dreams.

BR I think you'd have to take something very naive. I can show you a little clue here, This is what I've... what I've looked at already. So... so I have these symbols, just concentrate on the left part first, so that. It is... it's funny that we're talking about...

AM **Take the house** Ow! Because that appears in 2000 Dreams.

BR And we spoke a lot about water, and that's in 1000 Dreams, so... So... and then these are some others that I chose without actually much... I didn't read the case study before I chose any of the symbols.

AM Well, take the house! I would take the house!

BR So, I mean, I... so we have a house here... And... Now, I've categorized the dreams, so... so the... we have a property of the ego, so it can... the dream ego might engage and be very active, or it could do nothing, or it could avoid danger.

AM Hmm.

BR And then I have a different categorization of the outcome of the dream. So the general outcome towards the ego is negative. nothing really happens, so it's neutral, or it's positive. So... so we can explore... So which... which of these 9 categories are you curious about at the moment?

AM I would... I would, go into ego engages. Yeah. And, I would go, maybe on, neutral? I can't imagine that an ego engagement can be neutral, so I would go, or negative or positive.

BR Yeah, so let's look at it. Either one, negative or positive? Go... go on negative. Yeah. So let's find...

AM Because we're in the beginning of the therapy, so we need to understand the problem and what's coming up.

BR Okay, now, do you want to look at dreams from 20 years ago, or do you want to look at more recent ones?

AM I'd like to look at more recent ones.

BR Alright, so the names are...

AM A dream... a dream can come back from the past, but you can't look at it if it's not coming back in the... in the... in the now, so... Okay.

BR Now, what you see here in this column, these are some titles that the language model gave to the dream, not what the dreamer gave them. But do any of the titles pique your curiosity?

AM Secret war project in my basement.

BR Okay, there we go. So, let's read that dream. Okay. War is going on, and I have in the basement of my home a secret sandwich, which is somehow important to the war effort. Actually, the sandwich is a sort of camouflage, or whatever I am creating. I have a young female roommate. I'm in the basement, working on the secret project, wondering if I should let the military know about it. can't be the Air Force, because they are the enemy, but maybe the Navy. I'm trying to change channels on a weird TV, and having trouble seeing what is on each channel. Then I look out the window and notice the shallow end of the ocean is practically up against the house. No extra safety space if there's a storm. I see the area really close to the house as sort of a tide pool area. A friend of my roommate is coming to see my project, and I try to hide the sandwich. Then Dwight and even Jake come in. Apparently, I've called a family meeting. So, do you agree? That she's engaging, that the ego is doing something active.

AM Yes.

BR Yeah, so she's making the sandwich, she's... Hiding the sandwich, she's doing things. Do you agree that... that... That there's a negative outcome towards the ego. Or is it... or is it unknown, or what would you say about.

AM **War, sea threat, and family all matter** Well, the, the... The shallow end of the ocean is practically up against the house, so there's... there's not... It's a... it's a very difficult... situation. Right. And then she tries to hide the sandwich. Who, who are Dwight and Jack?

BR We'd have to look at the... yeah, the...

AM Doesn't matter.

BR study to see if we have that information, but I don't remember offhand. So... Now... So... so we've agreed with the overall classification, and now the language model also gives a reason for its decision, so that this is the reason for deciding for for the, positive engagement. So the ego works on a secret project in the basement, considers informing the military, manipulates the TV, looks out the window to assess the surroundings, and calls a family meeting. So these are all... Actions, like... Where it does something. And then... And then we have also a justification for the outcome. So why did we... decide that it has a negative outcome. So the ego is aware that the ocean is practically against the house, with no extra safety space. And this is exactly what you had mentioned. When you were... With your intuitive answer about the ocean and the house. So it felt... would you... for you, did it also feel like a threat from the ocean while... The ocean might take over the house, or what was your...

AM But what is missing here... is the war. The thing that there's a war going on, and she has a secret sandwich there.

BR Yeah, I mean, here's a difficulty I have sometimes, because... there's an initial situation, and there's a final one. So, I mean, the war is there at the start. The war is still there, so the war is kind of constant.

AM Yeah.

BR So if we think about the outcome, well, there hasn't been actually a change in the war. But she's... The things that have changed are that the ocean is closer to the house, and she's... they have a family meeting, maybe they'll try to do something, so I feel like a sense of optimism.

AM Mmm.

BR But I wouldn't... I wouldn't... because what I'm really interested in is, what does the ego do, and then what happens to the ego? So the war, of course, it's a negative.

AM The ego... you're right, but the ego... this is the basement, so we know what the basement means.

BR the unconscious.

AM Exactly. And, there's this spy... sandwich. War is going on, and I... in the basement of my home, I have a secret sandwich, which someone is important, to... to the war effort. So... what is this ingredient that she has that is so important to the war effort? Where do you put... I mean, we're talking about, images and symbols, but where do you put the feelings? There's war. So, war is, is, is, is, is, is, recivity is, is, is, is, is, is. She has that special ingredient.

BR Yeah. Yeah.

AM So, so... To me, the ego summary It's not only... The... narrative.

BR Yeah.

AM It's...

BR what are the emotions and feelings? Yeah, it's not only what changes, but... So at the moment, I'm not trying to interpret, affect or interpret symbols. I'm more focused on collecting facts.

AM Yeah, but it's a fact. There's this sandwich... there's two facts. That is so near to the house, so it's threatening. And there's the war and that secret ingredient. Those are the two... two big things in the basement. Right. So, how can you not, consider It's not an interpretation, it's a situation.

BR Right.

AM If you... dream of war right now, your dream.

BR Absolutely, it's very timely.

AM Yeah, exactly. So, I was wondering where... when did she have this? Because she, she, she talks about a brother, you know, you said in the description that her brother I think went to Vietnam. I mean, war in those years was very, very present in the life of people, so...

BR Yeah, she's experienced the terrorist attacks.

AM Yeah, and she experienced the terrorist attacks.

BR Right. Right. So...

AM Does the engagement... how can you talk about the ego engaging? How does the ego engage?

BR They have the... They have a problem, and they do something about it, so she's... The problem is the war. Then she's taking action. So the... so the war is part of the context, so I understand what you're saying, that... that... that should be...

AM At least the question mark, because when you have such a scenario, and there's this threat of the sea, and then the outcome for me of the dream is also the fact that she has a family reunion somehow. The narrative says that in the beginning, she's alone with this sand that she created, and she doesn't know to who she needs to speak to, and she just... It's the Navy, by the way, it's not the... So the name V has to do with the C, yeah. and it's protective, because it goes on the sea, and it ends with almost a family reunion, so the outcome is also gathering people in a sort of intimacy, together. And this is not interpreting. To me, this is.

BR There's a positive aspect to the relational development, right? The family reunion is a positive... so you could even argue there's a positive aspect to the outcome.

AM **Dreams can be both** Absolutely.

BR And then it becomes a question, okay, if we want to force the whole dream into one category, negative or positive, then do we look more at the ocean, or do we look more at the family reunion? And maybe it's both. It has to be... Maybe there needs to be.

AM Dream has always both. I mean, if it's a nightmare... The outcome is you wake up, and it's a nightmare.

BR It's a...

AM If it's a negative dream, it doesn't have... any... kind of... Hope in it, here.

BR And...

AM there's a lot of issues, especially this ocean coming so close, but then she calls upon the family. It's like she looks for a safe place, somehow, in all this.

BR Okay, so I'd like to walk you through, like, the more interactive part of the tool I've developed, so... I mean, based on this, we might already have some ideas about which symbol we could explore more deeply. Because I'm... I'm seeing war, basement, food...

AM **Ocean is not just water** Ocean.

BR So I have water, but we can go... we'll go specifically for ocean, if you want. Okay, we'll do ocean.

AM Yeah, do ocean, because it's not water, it's not, you know, she's not drinking water, or she's not near water, it's ocean.

BR Okay, so I've launched the tool. It's telling us we have 4,000 dreams we're going to look through from 1960 to 2001. We don't want to look at a symbol we already have, we want to... Make a new one. Okay, now, in your own words, can you describe how... if you were an... if I were an alien, or a robot, how would you describe to me what is an ocean?

AM You can't stand in the ocean, you have to go into the ocean and swim. It's not like, the Earth, where you... you can walk. on it. There's only way you can be on the surface. And, how do you say, float?

BR Yeah.

AM Swim in it.

BR Okay, now there's going to be two next questions. What's... what is included in an ocean, and what's excluded? So... I mean, do you want to only... include, like, the 7 major C's, or somehow... the Mediterranean... the Mediterranean is also good, or... we're getting a bit into.

AM What I would include, certainly, in the ocean is, fishes.

BR Well, in terms of just identifying the... is it an ocean or not? Like, someone says.

AM Oh, it's...

BR Mediterranean? Is it ocean? Is it...

AM It's a very, very large, quantity of water, but that allows a very specific kind of life in it.

BR Okay, now what's not an ocean?

AM What is dry.

BR What?

AM Air?

BR I think... I think we don't have to go to that level, just, like, Like, anything where it doesn't specifically say it's an ocean, kind of, like. But I'll type what you say anyway.

AM Ground! Ground!

BR Pardon?

AM How do you say?

BR Night ground, yeah, net...

AM Not ground.

BR Yeah, okay. Okay, I'm just gonna go ahead there. So now we come to an interactive part. So it's gonna look at all 4,000 dreams, and it's taking the definition that we've given. And it's looking for, like, things that would be a bit difficult to classify. Like, is that an ocean or not?

AM Hmm.

BR And then it's gonna decide what question to ask us, and we're gonna respond? And tell it what to do in that scenario. And then it's gonna refine the whole definition, and we can... it will then look at all the dreams again, and decide if there's any that it would have difficulty Classifying as, oh, that's a dream with the ocean symbol, or that's not a dream with the ocean symbol? So... So it's doing... It's doing all of this, like, in parallel, so it works quite... Fairly quick. Considering the amount of text and everything. And... There's a lot of things happening behind the scenes, too, so more than what you see here. Should large rivers or wide-flowing waters be tagged as ocean, or should all flow in Ex-cluded, regardless of size. I think... I think we don't want to include rivers.

AM No!

BR Okay, we'll do... we'll do one more. Just gonna review them all again. But now it's taken... the... So it took the... The things that we're told to exclude and exclude, and now it's written a new definition, here. So every time we give it some more information, it's updating. the definition... So I did side... decide to include C's... Excluding any kind of ground. Does the dreamer or Dream Ego need to be in the water for ocean to be tagged? Or is it a purely visual vista of ocean? It's not... not necessary for the ego to be...

AM Oh. It can be from land, it can be from above, it can be... You can be flying over the seats. By the way, it should be the sea instead of ocean, because... Well, anyway, it's the same thing.

BR So we gave it some information. It's updated the definition again. Now I'm... now I'm just gonna say, no, we don't want to refine any further. And now it goes through all 4,000 dreams, and it decides which ones have the ocean symbol in them. And then it's gonna come to a... another stage. Where it has... now it's gonna have a definition for the ego... Engagement, and a different definition for the ego outcome. Because we saw in our example, it can be a bit fuzzy, there's multiple things happening in the dream. How do we decide, is it positive or negative? Based on which part of the dream are we looking at? So now it's gonna ask us two questions. One question will be related to the ego engagement, and another related to the... The outcome for the ego. And, and, that can also go multiple times, we'll just do it once. And then after that... It's going to... Take only the dreams where the symbol was present, and then... Evaluates the characteristics of the ego for only those dreams. I think it's gonna be interesting to see... How... how, ocean compares to water. Was I already... we already saw we had a thousand dreams with water. So we expect this one will be smaller, but... How much smaller?

AM Something interesting just came up as an association. One of my dreams of the sea and the ocean was I was walk... the water had dried, and I was walking at the bottom of the sea. How would... you know, if you exclude... in the definition we just had, this dream would not be included.

BR Well, we... now that we... because we know that, and that's your dream, so that... so the analysts using this tool, they can... they can decide, I want to include A landscape that is dry, but was previously an ocean.

AM Yeah, because, by the way, many, many landscapes were previously an ocean.

BR It's a net. Yeah, now we have a question here. When the Dream Ego takes initiative. And also shows strong fear... Should the engagement be encoded? For the most intentional behavior, or for the strongest emotion? It's exactly the duality that we have sometimes. We want to encode for the physical... Reality of what happened, or the emotion?

AM That's where you need the dreamer.

BR Yeah, we can say use your best judgment to decide what is stronger, but...

AM Yeah. But you can't really choose for them.

BR So the... There might be a way for me to include some feedback from the Dreamer.

AM I think you important, Bobby, because in this case. what stays with the person when he wakes up about the dream. If it's the fear, then it's If it's the story, you know, if it's the narrative or what he's doing, is, is another point.

BR That's for the dreamer, what's... what's important, yeah. Or I just find a way to allow both categories to apply to a single dream that can be awesome.

AM Exactly. I think that is really, really important.

BR So we have a new question. When the ego survives serious ocean danger. Storms, sharks, exploding ships, and reaches shore or safety, but remains frightened or shaken. Should the outcome be positive? Or neutral.

AM Positive.

BR It's positive.

AM Because you've gone through a very dangerous situation in the unconscious, and you've reached the shore. You're not, you're not sinking in the ocean. You're not eaten by the sharks.

BR Right, right. Okay, so it's updated the definitions for how it decides the categories. And... So this is what it has. Decided. So these... Types of events.

AM Yes, positive, even if they end up alone or uneasy. Sure, it's uneasy, if you just survive to a shark.

BR Yeah, that's sad. positive, so... Alright. Nope.

AM It's really interesting. Anyway, I'd love to...

BR What is it?

AM Play with it.

BR Brings up so many real questions. that I realize are not about the technology, they're about... About us, as analysts. Deciding, together with the client, what... what do we want to really look at?

AM Yeah, how are we navigating into the dream with our client? Making a notion when saying it?

BR So, Ocean has appeared in... 279 dreams. So that's... Significantly less than water, as expected. And... We can now look at some more recent dreams. And we... first of all, we do see that dream that we looked at before, so that's... That's encouraging. And... But there were some other pretty recent dreams. Is there one... one here that you would like to look at? How are we gonna also sort by category first, and then... And then look. But right now, we're looking at all of them.

AM Keeping the baby and the hamster safe. What's this?

BR That's who we are.

AM I am holding a large Guinea pig or hamster in a football hold in my left arm, and a baby in the same hold in my right arm. I'm seated on the very edge of the ledge that looks straight down, long distance. to the ocean, long distance. I see some movie stars standing on another ledge, several stories down. I see several people swimming in the ocean in black sleek wetsuits. I pull back, afraid I will slip and fall. I also lay the baby and hamster further away from the edge, so they won't be in danger. I realize that the woman who owns these creatures has secreted a message somewhere on the hamster. I think that... is clever. There's always these secrets that come up, anyway.

BR Yeah, there's... that would be a symbol on its own, I suppose, also.

AM And it's interesting, the ego pulls back from the edge out of fear, of slipping and falling towards the ocean, and moves the baby and hamster further from the edge to avoid dangers.

BR I would find by the end of the scene, the ego and the creatures are.

AM Positioned further from the dangerous edge above the ocean, making them safer than at the beginning.

BR Hmm.

AM But that's... Because she fears that something could happen. Symbol summary, there is an ocean far below the ledge. The ledge looks straight down a long distance to the ocean. Several people are swimming in the ocean. The people swimming in the ocean wear black wetsuits. Ego summary, the ego is seated on the very edge. Again, the ocean is very... there's this... The... the limit between You know, where it's safe and where it becomes dangerous is. Sin.

BR Yep. Yeah, absolutely. Yeah.

AM No, it's really interesting. Let me ask you a question, though. This is a case where you have someone Who has had a diary of Dreams, and has thousands of dreams.

BR Right.

AM So, how many of our... Clients and, and, and patients Come in that way.

BR Probably... probably ones that are psychology students. But maybe not... not necessarily.

AM Not even.

BR A lot of others.

AM A psychology student is not used to working with dreams. When I was working with a still... I was developing still point spaces in Paris, and I was working with,

BR Right.

AM develop... how do you call, Behavioral, cognitive behavioral, They have no idea how to work with dreams.

BR Oh, that's right.

AM He often came to see me and said, this person is bringing so many dreams, and I have no clue how to work with it.

BR Yeah, yeah.

AM So you have to be a depth psychologist.

BR Yeah, it's very... it's... yeah, one of the schools related to depth psychology, right? Yeah.

AM Although, let me tell you something, this is really interesting. I heard an interview the other day on the French, from doctors, and they're, they're collecting dreams of patients. And are looking into no symbols. They're just looking at facts, for instance.

BR Right. How many...

AM In men's dreams, is there more men or women? In women's dreams, are there more men or women?

BR This is, like, dream research, basically, which is not... that's about... Understanding why we dream, what's the neurobiology... neuroscience of dreaming, what is the... Yeah, I would...

AM Although, you know, when they said, that... There were more men than women in men's dreams, and more women in women's dreams. you know, you immediately think they don't have that category, but you even immediately think, as a union analyst, about, you know, what's the meaning of the masculine and the feminine. I can't remember what the... if it was the contrary, if there were more women in men's dreams, or the contrary, but... Yeah. What I'm saying is... That the case of a patient coming in with so many dreams. is very rare.

BR Yeah. Yeah. Maybe... When it's... when it...

AM Maybe that's...

BR Even though it's rare, when it... In the cases where it is happening, do you feel like... They can get a lot of value from their dreams.

AM What I was about to say is maybe by, you know, after a few years you're working with a client, then you have a certain number of dreams, and that's when it really becomes useful.

BR Yeah. Yep. insane.

AM symbol has evolved. In the dreams.

BR yeah, I presented the hypothetical scenario like this, because, well, it's a little bit... closer to reality. We could imagine having met this person a couple times, but...

AM Yeah.

BR Yeah. But I... I agree. This... and that's why... that's why I wanted to make it very flexible, so... so the definitions of the symbols are not... Not already programmed. It's... you can decide on your own what to look at. But I... I can... I could think about, like, having more of a... interactive discussion with the dreams, not so much forcing them into particular categories. Buy it. But other types of... Other types of interactions, where this kind of tool could be... I think you're living...

AM **Not every image is a symbol yet** need to include... the... the narrative, the image... because sometimes images are not symbols, that's the other thing. A symbol is very special. It comes... it is alive when the patient talks about it.

BR And so...

AM Sometimes, they don't see the C as a symbol. Maybe at the end of the therapy, they do.

BR Yeah.

AM in the beginning, no, they see the sea, oh, I go to the sea, I love swimming, but I'm afraid of the sea. They don't see it as a symbol.

BR Right. So... and... and...

AM I'm very, I'm very frightened. I don't know how to swim well. I think the emotions tied with the theme... I wouldn't call it simple, by the way. what's the theme? And then, is it a symbol or not? I really think that it's not always a symbol.

BR Yeah, it starts as a theme, right? Yeah. Yeah.

AM Because understanding the symbol, Takes a long, time.

BR I mean, there are symbols in the sense that they... Yes, yes. Everything can be a symbol. It's a question, is that a significant symbol for the dreamer?

AM Well, if you look at the definition Jung says, Jung says it's an image and not a symbol. A symbol is something that comes alive if... when he talks about the symbols of the Catholic religion.

BR He says they become flat, they could... when they become dogma, they're not significant, and they die as symbols. Right, if you look at them too...

AM Too much, you try to understand everything about them and explain everything about them, then they lose.

BR

AM Or you do some mathematic, you know, you go to church, and, you know, I'm talking about, going to church, and you don't even have a clue of what that, Ritual means.

BR anymore.

AM You just go it, and you do it as a machine, you know?

BR Here you go.

AM To mask, because you were... there's no symbol, it's dead.

BR Yep.

AM And then that's really a theme... that's when I would talk about a theme, and when is it alive, and when is it... when it is not a symbol.

BR Yeah, that was my experience going to Mass as a routine, and not feeling a lot, and feeling I had to sit Still, so I felt like a child in a classroom.

AM Yeah.

BR And... and then... Yeah, well, 20 years later, I visited a church in Lisbon, and I saw these rosaries. And I looked in the display case of these rosaries, and they were called novenas. They had 9 beads, so you would use them to say particular prayers. And I broke down in tears standing right there, and I couldn't... I couldn't... And...

AM That, that becomes...

BR I couldn't understand what it was, right?

AM Yep.

BR And... And... Yeah, and then this... this became a symbol for me that these rosaries came up in my dream. And I was thinking about my mother, and... And I thought about all the times she was praying for me, praying for our family. And... and then... in the dreams, things would happen, where she's... she's giving me a rosary, I'm giving it back. there's something I like about it, something I don't like about it, so... And then it became very powerful.

AM That's, that's exactly it. How do you evaluate? The same thing Whether it's just a routine and not alive, and when all of a sudden the symbol appears, it becomes alive.

BR Right.

AM Until then, it's not a symbol.

BR Yeah. Yup. It's... yeah, it has a... Now... Does it happen that you discover a new symbol from a dream by discussing it with a client?

AM Yes. Or is it? Yes. I never start by thinking there's a symbol in here.

BR Yeah.

AM Might have the intuition there is one. But I bite my tongue and wait to go into the dream with the person.

BR And if I were your client, and I'm telling you the story about the rosary, what would... what would you do with that? And...

AM I would ask you right away... Don't look into dreams, what would you do with the dreams? What I would ask you right away is, when did you experience... when did you first see a rosary in your life? Because it's certainly connected to something that you... For sure.

BR My mother and my grandmother. Yeah.

AM So something very, very important for you. Right. But I didn't know it at the time, but it would be important later. Sure, that's... that's what I'm saying. You just see that... happening. And... All of a sudden, It becomes really... significance. And you re-evaluate, re-evaluate your previous experience, which is very important. How do you connect To your past experience.

BR Hmm. Awesome. Yeah.

AM Because that's, you know, the work with dreams is a work on individuation. Every time. And something else, sometimes patients bring very, very long dreams, very complicated dreams.

BR Mmm...

AM **Long complicated dreams can be defensive** Where it's impossible to find anything if you just go through the dream. Right. And it's very defensive, because when it's too complicated, you can't find anything in it. And how do you work with that, to me, is... Is there something really that impressed you, or that... and usually. When it's a dream that is defensive, there's nothing that really impressed But then later on, something, of that dream reappears in another dream, and it becomes significant. But it was buried, like, a patient came in with cities and skateboards, and it was a mess, it was a disaster.

BR Mr.

AM It was his mind killing symbols, killing emotions.
BR Yeah.
AM And being overwhelmed by this, very cold and gray city, and... A few years later. he had a dream where he was going into the building, he was meeting people, he... his son, he had to take care of his son. So, that's when it comes alive, and then you can relate back to the other dream.
BR Hmm, yeah. Absolutely.

Tracking links across dreams matters So, the story of the dreams...
AM keeping track of the dreams in a certain way during analysis, I would consider that very important. Very significant, because I tend to... my patients are very impressed by this, but I tend to remember a lot of the dreams they bring, and they tell me, how do you... how can you remember that dream? It was 5 years ago. I tend to, have my own a secret place... my emotions.
BR Okay, yeah, that's it. You've frozen for a moment, but I can still hear you.
AM Yep.
BR Oh, there we go. I just turned off the video in case it was the internet a bit slow, but...
AM Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, I'm up in the mountains, so it can happen. You wanted to share or ask?
BR Well, is there anything else you'd like to comment on? I'm quite... yeah, I'm quite...

Impressed, but stay with dreamer and feelings No, I, I want to...
AM I'll show you what...
BR I'm impressed! I wanted to tell you I'm impressed. I think it is a way of working with it. I think we need to be very cautious of looking at it as a narrative and going too much into the narrative.
BR And that's why.
AM I am saying the relationship with the dreamer is the key to the dream, and the emotions and feelings that appear in the dream, and while the dreamer is telling you about the dream. That's really, really, really very important.
BR Yeah, I mean, actually, your last comment inspired me about links between dreams. So... You had the good fortune there that you spoke about multiple dreams that were related. But I suppose there's many, many dreams that are related that we don't actually think about.
AM Yeah. I think it...
BR Technology could help finding links.
AM And they can appear at the end of analysis. I just ended an analysis, a very, a very successful analysis with someone, and we were able to, first of all, he brought his first and unique dream with me in it. And it was so funny, because he I had this dream two weeks ago, before coming here for the last time, and he was dreaming that we were in the movies, and he was, for the first time, just talking to me, and I was talking to him, so he was discovering me not only as his analyst, but.
BR Oh, wow.
AM It's a real human being, and we were at the movies.
BR relational.
AM the movies would never... the film would never start. And he said, why isn't the film starting? And I said, well, tell me why the film is not starting, because now it's your film, it's not mine anymore.
BR Right.

AM But I'm true... I'm there. And then he had to go run away to get some sweets for me, and then he was looking for the sweets, and he said, why am I looking for sweets instead of being with her? And obviously, during the last session, he came with a little pack of sweets. So, you see that.

BR Thank you both.

AM B. a very lively dream, but then we were... we were able to refer to religious dreams he had had. He's a Jew, a French-Israeli.

BR And...

AM he could not relate to his dreams about being a Jewish person, because he was terrified from what was going on in the world. But then, all of a sudden, in the last session, he could relate to it.

BR Oh, wow, yeah. Yeah, that's very powerful.

AM That's an Very important. How does reality come into the dreams, and how should we consider reality sometimes in the dreams?

BR Because it's not only symbolic, it's not only dream work, it's...

AM the world. State of the world.

BR Absolutely. Yeah. Yeah, it's all about everything happening.

AM **Impressed** I think you can further develop it. I think it's very interesting, and I'll be glad to help you out in whatever I can do, because I really, I really am impressed.

BR Yeah, thanks so much. Yeah, I want to... want to make it something meaningful, so... It's not... It's not easy, convincing some people to even look at it, so... I'm in a little bit of a difficult situation here, because I had... A reaction from a... very senior Jungian who said, oh, I'm happy with how I look at dreams, I don't want to look at it. And then I also showed it to the the... well, I haven't shown it to him, but I asked... I had some emails back and forth with Someone that's collected many dreams, but is more on a neuroscience side, and he says, well, we don't have the capacity for frontal lobe action in our sleeping state, and so therefore we can't.

AM symbolic. Killing the dream!

BR So I don't. So I'm a little bit in between. There's some... but they say, like, sometimes when you have a good idea, people... People are gonna tell you what they don't like about it.

AM You know, Bobby, what I'd love you to do... I had a professor in university who's a neuroscientist, and I connected to him lately, because he was talking about memory and imagination, and he was saying that imagination is key to to man, and that memories are just imagination, but how important imagination is. And if you look at dreams with imagination, and that's the key to looking at dreams.

BR that's when they are alive, and that's when the symbol appears. If you look at them with a dry scientific approach, you kill them.

BR Yeah, yeah, that's why we looked at only two dreams today, and not all of them, and not trying to...

AM Try.

BR So I'm glad that we did that, because it's a... yeah, it's a discovery tool, not a... not an interpretation tool.

AM No, and you know, there's... I think there is a lot of potential. I can't... I cannot understand why people have to shut doors instead of opening. I mean.

BR Right.

AM Sure, you have to open, nothing is perfect, but sure, I mean, when you wrote, I said, why wouldn't I do that? say I don't like it, but really, I'm very admiring, and I know it takes a lot of courage. Right now, there's a lot of defensive stuff on.

BR Yeah. Yeah, absolutely. But it was important to me to take a scientific approach towards accuracy of the.

AM Yes, yes.

BR Because I had dreams that were very short, and it would say. The dream... the entire dream was there were waterfalls. and then I have a summary, and it says, one might imagine a rainbow in the midst of a waterfall, and waterfalls are beautiful, and... but none of this actually happened, so... so I had to make... make sure, really, that.

AM You stick to the dream.

BR stick to the reality, right? Not based on some other knowledge from the world that was not part of the dream. That's why I think when you talk about.

AM associations, that's typical of the Freudian way of... and then you will go away from the dream.

BR Already.

AM Amplification is a bit better, but it's also a problem, because you leave the dream. Instead, looking at the colors, looking at how... was the sea agitated? I mean, asking a question about, you know, what... how is it? How... did you feel in it? It's really sticking to the dream, and I agree, you can't go out of the dream, because if you go out of the dream, then it's a disaster, then...

BR Right, right. Yeah. Well, thanks so much. It was really great.

AM So anyway, I really think that one of the key things, I think, is How you call it a symbol right away.

BR Yep.

AM Because, to me, it's... It's very, rarely a real symbol, and.

BR It's...

AM Images, and it's, so, yeah, that would be my, you know.

BR Yeah, there's good feedback, yeah.

AM Okay.

BR Okay, thanks for that.

AM It goes, and...

BR Have a nice holiday. Thanks a lot.

AM Thank you, bye-bye.

BR Take care. Bye-bye.

AM Bye-bye.

Interview 3: Jackie Chen, Psychoanalyst

Jackie Chen is a Jungian psychoanalyst based in Hong Kong. She trained as an analyst at the C. G. Jung Institute Zürich and works in private practice with individuals in analytic psychotherapy and personal development.

She completed a Master's degree in psychology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2022 while training at the C. G. Jung Institute Zürich. Prior to entering analytic training, she obtained a Juris Doctor from Vanderbilt University and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 2009 (not currently practicing).

In addition to her analytic training, she holds certification in psychological types through the Gifts Compass program, which is based on Jung's original model of eight psychological types and focuses on personality development and individuation dynamics.

She is also certified as a facilitator of the LEGO® Serious Play® method, a structured workshop approach that uses LEGO models to help individuals and groups express ideas, explore problems, and generate insights through metaphor and storytelling. The method is commonly used in coaching, leadership development, and organizational work.

She is a member of several professional organizations, including the International Association for Analytical Psychology, the Hong Kong Institute of Analytical Psychology, the Hong Kong Psychological Society, the British Psychological Society, and the Association of Professional Astrologers International.

She works in Mandarin, Cantonese, and English.

BR = Bobby Rohrkemper, SYMBRION developer

JC = Jackie Chen

Highlights

Driftwood and water become the motivating example for a user-defined symbolic search

Jackie raises a key challenge: different symbols may represent the same psychological idea, such as water and forest for the unconscious

Jackie's own dream practice already functions as a manual symbol log

She keeps dream symbols in an alphabetized Word document and returns to earlier dreams through keyword search

Her current method works for exact keywords but breaks down when she wants a more specific detail

For a new client, Jackie would first want to know whether there are recurring themes and whether recent dreams followed the decision to enter analysis

Her first move in the "Father's Marriage Without a Bride" dream would be to ask how the dreamer felt on waking

Jackie chooses the symbol secret and defines it as hidden information that others do not want known

She appreciates the interactive clarification process because exclusions and edge cases are hard to anticipate in advance

Jackie explicitly endorses the distinction between dream-ego engagement and dream-ego outcome

Manual dream work can miss brief mentions of symbols, whereas the system would still detect them

When the tool finds about 300 dreams containing “secret,” Jackie immediately recognizes that the definition may be too broad

Jackie imagines the final form as a website used on a computer rather than on a phone

She raises strong confidentiality concerns and warns that uploading dreams to servers could disturb the analytic container

Despite those concerns, Jackie sees the system as extremely valuable as a private tool, especially for one’s own dreams

BR Hi Jackie, good to see you again.

JC Hi Bobby, good to see you again.

BR Good afternoon. Can you hear me now?

JC Yes, I can hear you. Good morning.

BR Good, good. I had my volume turned down. How are you this afternoon?

JC Pretty good, pretty good. You? How’s your morning?

BR Yeah, it was kind of a rough night, but I had a really interesting dream, so maybe that helped. Do you mind if I record our conversation?

JC Sure, go ahead.

BR And then I’ll use the transcript in my report.

JC Okay, feel free to do whatever you want to do.

BR **Driftwood as motivating symbol** Thanks a lot. So I had this dream last night, and there was driftwood in the dream. I do these art projects where I’m collecting driftwood from the lake, and it became a really important symbol for me. It’s appeared in a few dreams.

JC And also water, right?

BR Yes, water is huge. And it relates to this tool that I’ve been developing. My initial inspiration was that I have symbols that are important to me, but you don’t find them in a symbol dictionary. I want to be able to define them and search for them across all of my dreams.

BR For example, driftwood would be wood that you find underwater. Maybe it was once floating and then sank. The system goes through the dreams and asks questions such as: what if the wood is not underwater at the time it’s found but was previously underwater? Or if the dream explicitly says driftwood. Or if it resembles old wood but it’s not stated whether it was underwater or not.

BR That’s the basic idea of the tool.

JC That is really interesting. When I was reading your project I really admired the amount of effort that goes into building something like this. Especially when you first develop it, you have to train the model carefully so it understands exactly what to include and what to exclude.

JC **Different symbols, same idea** The one question I texted you about the other day is related to this. I was wondering how the tool would catch symbols that refer to the same idea but do not appear in the same form.

BR Yes, go ahead and repeat that question.

JC For example, different symbols can represent the unconscious. Water is one example. Sometimes the water is turbulent, sometimes peaceful. Those would probably be captured.

JC But what if there are other symbols that relate to the unconscious? For example, a forest. A forest could also represent the unconscious.

BR Exactly.

JC So if the tool is looking for water, could it miss something like a forest that represents the same psychological idea?

BR The tool is flexible enough that you could define the concept however you want. For example, you could say: find any symbol that relates to the unconscious.

BR Personally, I find it more powerful to define symbols separately and analyze them one by one. But it depends on how the analyst wants to use it. I'll show you an interactive mode where we can experiment with different ideas.

JC That would be perfect. Before we start, I want to tell you something interesting. What you're doing is actually very similar to what I do when I record my own dreams.

BR I was going to ask you about that. Do you want to talk about how you record your own dreams or how you work with clients' dreams?

JC **Manual symbol log** More about my own dreams. Client dreams come and go, and we usually work with them during the session. But with my own dreams I keep a dream log, which is more like a symbol log.

JC I record key symbols like water, a round table, or religious places. I list the date of the dream, and then if the same symbol appears later I can go back and find the earlier dreams.

BR Do you do that on a computer or in a notebook?

JC **Alphabetized Word document** Just a Word document. I organize it alphabetically. For example, I might have an entry called "religious place." Then under that I list the dates of dreams that contain churches, temples, or similar places. Sometimes I also add comments such as "Catholic church" or "Buddhist temple."

JC Then if two years later I have another dream about a religious place, I can easily go back and find the previous ones.

BR What happens if a new symbol becomes important and you want to search the past dreams for it?

JC Since everything is in Word, I can just search for a keyword. For example, I might search for "temple."

BR So you're looking for the exact word.

JC Yes. English is not my first language, so my vocabulary tends to be consistent. If I see a church I will probably write "church," not "cathedral."

BR So you already have the concept of symbol tracking, but it's based on keyword search.

JC Exactly.

BR But sometimes you might want to track a different aspect of the symbol, like a statue inside a temple.

JC **Keyword search limit** In that case I would have to go through the dreams one by one.

BR Right.

JC The keyword search narrows it down, but if I want a more specific detail I still need to read them manually.

BR I think my tool could help with that. It should find those cases quite well. Even if there are spelling variations or slightly different wording.

JC That would be fantastic. I would love to see it.

BR And please give me very honest feedback. I'm trying to improve the tool.

JC Of course.

BR I extended the dataset to ten dreamers—five male and five female. These are the years when they recorded their dreams. The one we're going to look at is Barb Sanders. She recorded dreams from the 1960s until 2001.

BR Let's imagine a hypothetical situation. It's December 2001 and she comes to you as a new client. She has dream journals going back decades. You have some background information about her life but you haven't read the dreams yet.

First questions for a new client What kinds of questions might you want to ask about her dreams?

JC For this kind of client, I would first want to know whether there are recurring themes.

JC But I would also ask whether she has had any recent dreams since deciding to come to analysis.

BR Yes, that makes sense.

BR Let's imagine we look at one of the most recent dreams. The system generates titles automatically to make them easier to browse. One title here is "Father's Marriage Without a Bride."

JC Let's read that one.

BR Okay. The dream says:

BR "I am involved with some secret spy business where I am trying to steal secrets or get business information. A man on a couch has large dark eyes and is gasping for air. He is having a heart attack.

BR I am trying to get a signature from someone to take over the business. A man is escaping in a car down a narrow mountain road. A white substance appears on the road when he uses the brakes. He tries not to use them so he won't be detected.

BR Now my father is getting married and I am the bridesmaid. The bride is not there, but we do the wedding anyway."

JC My father is getting married and I am the bridesmaid. The bride is not there.

BR Yes.

Ask for feeling on waking If I were working with a client, I would begin by asking how they felt about the dream when they woke up.

BR It felt very real. My parents were divorced. My father had a lot of stress from military service and eventually died of a heart attack. The dream reminds me of those experiences. I often felt unsafe at home when I was young.

JC So you felt you had to be careful at home.

BR Yes.

JC Who do you think the secret spy might represent?

BR I associate it with war. My brother was in the Vietnam War. I followed the news constantly and wished the war would end. I had dreams where I was trying to help end the war somehow.

JC How did you connect that with the dream about your parents?

BR The word "spy" makes me think about governments and wars. Even though the dream mentions business, the feeling reminds me of those associations.

JC That's interesting.

BR At this point we could use the tool to explore one symbol in the dream across the entire dream series.

JC **Choosing the symbol secret** I would probably focus on the theme of secrets or hidden things.

BR Okay, let's use the symbol "secret."

JC Yes.

BR The tool now asks us to define the symbol in our own words.

JC Maybe something like: information that is hidden, something people do not want others to know.

BR Good. Now it asks what should be included.

JC Include secrets held by anyone in the dream—thoughts, fantasies, emotions, or information that is deliberately hidden.

BR And exclusions?

JC I cannot think of any specific exclusions for now.

BR That's fine. The system will look for ambiguous cases and ask us questions later.

JC **Interactive refinement helps** That's helpful. It's difficult to anticipate every situation in advance.

BR Exactly.

BR Now the system scans all the dreams and identifies cases where it is uncertain. It generates clarification questions.

JC So the program asks questions and we answer them to refine the definition.

BR Yes. For example, it asks: if a character withholds information without strong emotion, should that count as a secret?

JC I would say yes.

BR Another question: if someone hides an object without explicitly calling it a secret, should that count?

JC Probably not automatically.

BR Okay, we answer the question and the system updates the definition.

BR After that, it analyzes the dreams again and classifies each instance of the symbol. It also looks at the dream ego—whether the ego avoids a situation, engages with it, or remains neutral.

JC That's interesting.

BR It also evaluates the outcome for the ego: positive, negative, or neutral.

JC **Dream-ego perspective** From the dream ego's perspective.

BR Exactly.

JC I like that distinction.

BR The system then produces results and explanations showing why it categorized each dream in a certain way.

JC That would be very helpful for analysis.

BR Yes. You can filter the dreams according to ego engagement or outcome and explore patterns.

JC **Manual work misses brief symbols** When I do this manually, I often miss details. For example, if water is mentioned only briefly in a dream I might not record it.

BR Right.

JC But the system would still find those cases.

BR Exactly.

JC I think that's very useful.

BR The tool currently finds about 300 dreams containing the symbol "secret."

JC **Definition may be too broad** That might mean our definition is too broad.

BR Possibly. We could refine it further.

JC Overall, I can clearly see what you're trying to achieve. It's a very helpful tool.

BR Thanks. One question I have is about the final form. Should it be an app, a website, or a standalone program?

JC **Website on a computer** I would imagine a website. Analysts might need to upload a large number of dreams. That would be easier on a computer than on a phone.

BR That makes sense.

JC **Confidentiality and analytic container** But there are also confidentiality issues.

BR Yes.

JC Clients might be uncomfortable if their dreams are uploaded to a server. Even asking them could create doubts about confidentiality.

BR Right.

JC In analysis, the container—the safe space between analyst and client—is extremely important. Introducing a technical tool into that container changes the situation.

BR That's a very good point.

JC Also, as a former lawyer, I know that confidentiality becomes complicated with cloud systems. Even in the legal profession people struggle with these issues.

BR Yes.

JC **Private tool especially valuable** But as a private tool, especially for one's own dreams, I think it would be extremely valuable.

BR That's great feedback.

JC I really like the concept.

BR Thank you, Jackie.

JC You're welcome. I hope it helps.

BR It definitely does.

JC I enjoyed seeing the tool.

BR Thanks again. I'll talk to you later.

JC Cheers. Bye.

The bug described in the interview was ultimately traced to a key mismatch. After resolving the issue, Bobby wrote to Jackie:

"Ironically, the secret dreams did not want to be found!
But now I've fixed the bug and have found them.
Could you give me your short reactions to these few examples?"

Jackie replied with positive feedback regarding the extracted claims and the ego classifications in the dreams containing the symbol **secret**.

Interview 4: Niveen Abboushi, Psychoanalyst

Niveen Abboushi is a Jungian counselor trained at the C.G. Jung Institute Zurich. Her work integrates analytical psychology with trauma-informed approaches and narrative exploration of personal myths and life patterns.

Abboushi holds a master's degree in Money and Banking from the American University of Beirut and later completed an MA at Columbia University. Her professional path combines several domains: financial consulting, alternative education advocacy, and Jungian counseling.

In her counseling work, she focuses on understanding personal narratives, unconscious patterns, and the symbolic language of dreams. She works with children, adolescents, and adults, using methods drawn from analytical psychology including dreamwork and sandplay therapy, and she is also trained in EMDR for trauma processing.

Abboushi describes her approach as informed by both Eastern and Western traditions, emphasizing archetypes, synchronicity, and the tension of opposites within the psyche. Her practice explores how these dynamics shape individual life stories and how therapeutic work can help clients reinterpret patterns that no longer serve them. Her counseling space, titled Rosemary and Tea, reflects this theme of psychological opposites and the creative tension they produce.

BR = Bobby Rohrkemper, SYMBRION developer

NA = Niveen Abboushi

Highlights

Niveen describes dream work as a sacred journey and says dreams are central to her clinical practice

Her dream work is case-by-case, focused on symbols, associations, narrative, and what reason cannot yet process

She compares symbol tracking to an oral tradition: themes live in memory rather than in a formal external log

Niveen imagines a "black book" of symbols, themes, and recurring words, but says she processes most of it in her mind

She stresses that the meaning of symbols evolves over time and across different cultural backgrounds

Her example of Holocaust and World War II imagery shows how the same symbol or event can constellate very different meanings across cultures

She says a dream-analysis system would need not only baseline symbol questioning but also a layer for cultural nuance

Niveen sees a useful role for the robot when the analyst does not know a cultural reference

For this dreamer, her first instinct is to ask how anger constellates in the psyche and in symbolic form

She proposes a new symbol category: predatory animals that roam in packs and are active at night

In the snake example, Niveen introduces a key distinction between technical engagement and psychologically meaningful engagement

She highlights the gap between mental reaction and instinctive reaction as analytically meaningful in itself

In the oil-refinery dream, she accepts the summary at one level but immediately asks why the system does not also analyze the symbolic setting

Privacy, security, and limits are her strongest practical concerns because dreams give keys to a person's psyche

She sees major potential for pattern detection and academic research, while remaining cautious about clinical use

BR Hi Niveen.

NA Hey Bobby. Can you hear me?

BR Yeah, I can hear you. There was a moment when your voice was kind of detached from you, but now it seems to be attached again.

NA Oh good, good. Let me just make sure the connection is okay.

BR It looks pretty good. The video is super clear.

NA Totally good.

BR So you made it back.

NA I made it back, yeah. It's crazy. I think there's a lot going on. The world as we know it is disintegrating, as far as we're concerned. But anyway, my family's there and everything is there, so it's a bit tricky.

BR Yeah. Just today they're doing massive work on the house next to me, and even this amount of noise is really unsettling.

NA I can't hear anything.

BR I know, I bet you can't hear it. It stopped for the moment, but it's going once in a while. And I wonder if it's there to help me feel some empathy towards how much your life can be disturbed by things. And this is such a small thing.

NA And you know, I was telling my analyst, I've processed my trauma, my war trauma, over so many years with so many analysts. And if anybody says that there's a healing, it's bullshit. Every time this happens, I get re-traumatized. It's like starting from scratch. It's like, what the fuck? It makes me think about what we're doing. How do we really grow?

BR Right. Some things are just so traumatic we can't grow out of them.

NA It's impossible.

BR It's not like it's just an opportunity to prove something, that now you can handle it, because nobody can handle it.

NA Exactly. But anyway, on to more exciting things in life.

BR I'm glad to show you some things. Do you mind if I record our session and transcribe it for my report?

NA Sure.

BR Great. I'd like to hear a little bit first about how you work with your own dreams and how you work with dreams from clients, and if you have any thoughts about technology relating to that topic.

NA **Dream work as sacred journey** When it comes to working with dreams, I am quite the purist. For me this is a very sacred journey. I get very excited about approaching any dream. With my clients it's basically the core of my work. I like to approach a dream first with awe. But what I'm seeing today is that most clients come having already checked their dream on ChatGPT. Technology really helps — I've tested AI looking at dreams and symbols — but there is something beyond what we see in dreams that can only happen when the dream is discussed and looked at with a human eye. So I approach technology and dreams with interest but also trepidation. It's a double-edged sword.

BR Right.

NA **Case-by-case, no formula** I follow how we've trained to work with dreams: looking at symbols, getting the associations, and building a narrative. But also trying to access what is not quite said or processed by reason. It's very case-by-case. There isn't really a formula I follow.

BR And how do you keep track of symbols or themes? Do you have ways to keep track of those — even on paper — or just by remembering?

NA **Oral tradition of storytelling** Actually, for a particular client, it's almost like the oral tradition of storytelling. I'm very traditional in the sense that I like to write, and that's how I process. I highlight the main symbols or themes, but I don't go back to my notes. The symbols sort of live in my memory for each client. I keep saying I'd love to keep a log or a black book for each client, but I never do.

BR What would you put in it?

NA **Imagined black book of symbols** Symbols that have emerged over time, recurring themes, recurring symbols, even recurring words that clients use. Those are linked to symbols that appear in dreams. It's the living narrative and also psyche's narrative, and how these two coincide. I wish I could do it, but I process it mostly in my mind.

BR Maybe it's sometimes good to forget some things and remember only the important things, because not everything is important.

NA Exactly, that's a very important point.

BR I'm imagining you with this black notebook. Sometimes you might think a symbol means one thing, and later realize another aspect of it is more important.

NA **Symbols evolve over time** Absolutely. Our understanding of symbols evolves. I've even been dreaming about writing my own "black book of symbols" and how they evolve. Each symbol differs culturally. I work with Europeans, Americans, and Arab clients. Some symbols are shared but have different significance.

BR Do you have an example of that?

NA **Holocaust imagery across cultures** For example, an Arab client might dream about the Holocaust or World War II imagery. That image has a very different significance depending on the cultural background. For one group it represents suffering and absolute evil; for another it might represent displacement or homelessness. The same event can constellate something completely different.

BR Right, totally different collective experience.

NA Exactly. The evolving significance of any symbol or event is important to consider.

BR Suppose you were explaining to a robot how to find a symbol like that in dreams. Would the description of the symbol change depending on the client's culture?

NA Maybe if we worked with a concrete example we could dive deeper into that.

BR The idea is that the robot interacts with the analyst to define the symbol. You give it an initial definition, it scans the dreams, and when it finds ambiguous cases it asks questions back to the analyst.

NA **Cultural nuance layer** So there would be a baseline questioning regarding the dream, but another layer would also need to be considered — cultural nuances.

BR Exactly.

NA For instance, a crescent moon might mean something different depending on the culture.

BR Or something like a menorah during Hanukkah — they might describe eight candles without naming the symbol.

NA Yes, that's a good example.

BR The system tries to detect those descriptions and then ask clarifying questions.

NA **Robot helpful for unknown cultural references** That's where the robot could be helpful — if the analyst doesn't know the cultural reference.

BR Exactly. And once a definition is refined with some dreamers, it can be applied to others.

NA That's interesting. There's a lot happening there.

BR So here I have a dashboard with dreams from one dreamer. There are about 4,000 dreams. Some symbols have already been analyzed.

NA Okay.

BR Imagine it's 2001. You've had a few sessions with this client and know some background: she's 56, recently lived through 9/11, had a marriage and divorce, later a relationship with a younger man, and a chronic inflammatory illness that began before her wedding in 1963. She also lived through the Vietnam War with family members involved.

NA Interesting. I'd be curious about the onset of the chronic illness in relation to the first marriage.

BR Good question. The tool tends to show more recent dreams first.

NA **First instinct: anger** In that case I'd be interested in how anger constellates in her life. Are there emerging symbols in dreams that relate to anger?

BR Would anger itself be a symbol, or something like a dragon or dangerous animal?

NA Yes — perhaps a dragon, or some predatory animal.

BR Fire appears in about 200 dreams already.

NA Then perhaps the relationship with parents — if they were raging figures — could appear symbolically.

BR Would you like to try creating a new symbol together?

NA Sure. Maybe something like a predator animal.

BR Good. Let's define it.

NA **Predatory pack animal symbol** Predator animals that roam in packs, active at night.

BR What examples should we include?

NA Coyotes, maybe foxes.

BR What should we exclude?

NA Humans, otherwise everything would qualify. Also animals that are inactive or hibernating — something not dynamic.

BR Okay. Now the system will scan the dreams for that concept.

NA All four thousand dreams?

BR I set it to a thousand to save money, but the idea is the same.

BR Actually... it looks like I've hit a bug.

NA Oh no.

BR I might have spent too much money on the API recently.

NA How does that affect it?

BR The system sends questions to the OpenAI API, and each request costs a little money.

NA I see.

BR Let me show you another example instead. Here's a dream involving snakes. The system summarizes the ego's engagement and the outcome.

NA Interesting.

BR The ego is taking initiative — finding paths, using tools, fighting and killing snakes — and eventually escapes safely.

NA **Technical vs psychological engagement** Technically there is engagement, but psychologically I might see it differently. The reaction seems mental rather than instinctive. If you see someone on fire you jump to help. Here the ego asks questions instead.

BR That's a great distinction.

NA **Gap from instinctive reaction matters** Ideally the system could distinguish between passive and active engagement.

BR Right now it forces a single decision.

NA In analysis I'd also look at deviation from instinctive reaction — that gap itself can be meaningful.

BR Exactly. The analyst can guide the model by answering questions about ambiguous cases.

NA That's good.

BR Here's another dream: "I burned down his oil refinery."

NA Let me read it.

NA I'm a young talented singer performing on stage. A bad guy is attracted to me, but I ignore him. Later I'm in a building — an oil refinery that he owns. I set it on fire and escape with another man while the bad guy chases us. I drive away fearing he'll catch me.

BR The system classifies the ego engagement as deliberate action and the outcome as negative because the ego remains threatened.

NA **Why not analyze the setting too?** In a simple summary that makes sense, but I wonder why the system doesn't analyze the symbolism of the oil refinery itself.

BR The summary only focuses on the fire symbol, not the broader interpretation.

NA I see.

BR Do you see ways this tool could become useful for you?

NA **Privacy, security, and limits** Privacy is a major concern. Dreams give keys to a person's psyche. Security and limits are crucial.

BR I'm working on versions that run locally so the data never leaves the device.

NA That's very important. Even so, I wonder how far such a system should go in analysis. It could collect patterns across many people.

BR Right.

NA **Academic research potential, clinical caution** Technically it has a lot of potential, especially for academic research. But I would need to reflect more before using it clinically.

BR Of course.

NA I would have liked to see how our predator-animal example evolved in the system.
BR I'll fix the bug and send you screenshots once it works.
NA Great. It would be interesting to see what emerges.
BR Absolutely.
NA Thanks, Bobby.
BR Thank you, Niveen. Talk to you soon.
NA Take care. Bye.

After the interview, Bobby fixed the bug and sent the example dreams to Niveen. She replied very positively, saying that the analysis is accurate.

Interview 5: Claudio Mele, Psychoanalyst

Claudio Mele is a Jungian psychoanalyst trained at the C.G. Jung Institute Zurich. He works with individuals on personal development, psychological difficulties, and life transitions, offering sessions in Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and English, both in person and online.

Before turning to psychology, Mele had a long international career in finance. He studied economics at La Sapienza University in Rome after beginning his university studies in Brazil. He then spent about three decades working for the Generali insurance group, holding senior financial leadership roles across several Latin American countries. During this time he was based in Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Buenos Aires.

He later shifted his professional focus toward psychology. He began training in Analytical Psychology at the C.G. Jung Institute Zurich while also studying psychology at the University of Buenos Aires.

During his training he worked clinically in several settings. He served as a psychoanalyst at the C.G. Jung Institute Outpatient Clinic in Zurich, and also worked with political refugees in Lörrach, Germany. He has also contributed to personal development work with MBA students at IMD Business School in Lausanne.

Mele practices in Zurich and southern Germany, and also works internationally online. His work focuses on helping individuals find balance and direction in both personal and professional life, particularly during periods of change or transition.

He is an analyst member of the C.G. Jung Institute Zurich and of the International Association for Analytical Psychology (IAAP). He also serves on the Research Committee of the Jung Institute and is a member of the Associazione per la Ricerca in Psicologia Analitica (ARPA). Since completing his analytic training, he has been active in writing and presenting at psychoanalytic conferences.

Together with other analysts, he co-founded the Unitas Center, a Jungian center that organizes seminars, study groups, and counseling for individuals, groups, and organizations.

More recently, he has begun developing a method called Astrological Psychoanalytical Counseling, which combines Jungian psychoanalysis with astrological symbolism as a framework to support psychological reflection and personal development.

BR = Bobby Rohrkemper, SYMBRION developer

CM = Claudio Mele

Highlights

Bridging medicine, Jungian psychology, body work, and Bobby's AI-psychology project

Jung did not define a fixed method because dreams are expressions of the soul

The dream text is not the dream itself but a residue of experience that must be reanimated

Dreams can reveal what the patient already senses but resists; the analyst must not impose interpretation

Claudio proposes the mother archetype as a promising recurring image

Tension is linked to ego engagement and ego outcome rather than to symbol presence alone

Outcome should be coded by emotional reaction, not only by whether the action objectively succeeds

The Carla dream is read as strongly engaged, with the mother image playing a positive role

The real analytic value is to track positive and negative ego patterns dynamically over time

Most ambitious proposal: compare dream-ego development inside analysis versus outside analysis

BR Track 3.

CM2 Hello.

BR Hi, Claudio.

CM2 Everything okay?

BR Yeah, it's a bright, sunny day. Beautiful.

CM2 Yes, it's a sunny day.

BR Are you in your new home?

CM2 I am here in, yes, I have just, last week, we did the final *Unterricht*. We signed the contract last week, and I received the keys last week.

BR Congratulations, cool.

CM2 But now I need to go into, yes, I need to go into a renovation. And I will start renovation now, and I will finish renovation in July.

BR So I probably will move in July. Okay, that's nice. Yeah, so it's not a huge renovation, but something that takes a few months at least.

CM2 Yes, we will do the two toilets, the kitchen, and some other stuff, but it's not a big renovation.

BR Right. Okay, nice.

CM2 And you?

BR Yeah, I'm doing really well. Yeah, it's been very productive lately. It's been very motivating, very exciting. Sometimes I'm working on this project, and I just can't pull myself away. Like, I just somehow have to do more. So it's been really good.

CM2 You enjoy.

BR Yeah, absolutely.

CM2 This is important. In life, we should do the things with pleasure.

BR Yeah. It's hard sometimes to find the right balance, because I can get so into the topic, and then it's hard to track everything else.

CM2 Yes, I try to do things that I like. For example, tomorrow I go to Milano. I will give, with another, with a woman, we will give a workshop of body, soul, and psyche. And so we invite, there is a group of people that will come, and we will do experiences with the body. And this is nice. And then the other weekend I also go to Milano again. And this is interesting. We will give a kind of approach to deep psychology, Jungian psychology, to a group of medical doctors.

BR That's great.

CM2 Medicine, body, and Jungian psychology can speak to each other It's an association, Association of the Medical Doctors of Italy. So it's about how, if we can combine both things, these two things can speak. And then the other weekend, and then I go to Brazil. And I will be there, yes, with my friends, with my son, then with my daughter, and I love to be with them.

- BR** That's great, yeah. That's really great. So when you're speaking about the medical doctors and combining these different fields, that speaks to me quite a lot, because that's where I find myself now also, between AI and psychology and computer science. And so I'd like to interview you, and to show you the tool, and to get some of your thoughts.
- CM2** Okay.
- BR** Do you mind if I record our session?
- CM2** No, you can record, of course.
- BR** And I'll include a transcript in my report.
- CM2** Yeah, then you send me.
- BR** I'll send it to you, yeah, but I'm delivering it today also.
- CM2** Okay, that's good.
- BR** Yeah, so, first of all, I know that you have a very interesting attitude towards working with dreams, where you put a lot of emphasis on the actual text and the language of the dream. So, can you tell me a bit about this approach? Because this language aspect is exactly what I'm looking at here with AI also.
- CM2** **No fixed method** Yes, I am very inspired in the Jungian approach to dreams, of course. But in the Jungian approach also there are different ways to approach dreams. And there is also, it's interesting to know that Jung never really wrote about a method to approach dreams. Because dreams, for Jung, it's an expression of the soul. And so you cannot put this under a frame. You cannot, when you try to grasp this and to put it in a vessel, then you are in a kind of attitude in which you don't let the soul to express. And so this is why Jung never tried to define a method. And I deeply believe in this concept.
- BR** Once you're in the room with your patient, then that's what matters the most, the feelings between the two of you, the ...

- CM2** **Text is residue, not dream** It's about, when you are with a patient in the room, it's the same concept. It is about letting the soul of the patient emerge. And so it's like creating the conditions for the unconscious material to emerge and not forcing it. And it is going around and giving the support. Sometimes you have a patient that wants you to react and to say, okay, here is my dream, here is a question, you have to present me a solution in the 50 minutes of the session. And this is not working in a psychological way. To work in a psychological way is really to let this material come and go into experience with it. And so I think that I am very inspired in the way that Giegerich works with dreams. Giegerich is a contemporary psychoanalyst with a Jungian approach. And when you ask about the text, he says, the dream, it is an experience that when you wake up, it doesn't exist anymore. It is finished. So the only thing that you have related with this experience is something that you wrote in a text. And so you have a piece of paper with some words that are what result from the experience. But the words are not the experience. It is something related with the experience. So this is what in concrete we have, a piece of paper with some words. And this is not the dream. These are fragments that come from that experience. It is not the experience. And the approach that for me makes sense is to go into an experience with this material. Because this material is like a corpse. It is not living. It is ink on a paper. And going around with no judgment and working in a specific way, giving warmth to these words, is like a chicken when it is dealing with an egg. The egg is something that is solid and it is about giving warmth, preparing this, and in some way it will come alive. And so, when you work with this material, this text, and when you work letting something come and not imposing, then you can slowly go back to what was the initial experience in which this material was produced. And then it is about going into an experience. And when you go into this experience, this is an experience with the unconscious, with the soul. And if we think that the psyche is a system that self-regulates itself, what comes from there, if you respect and you go into an experience, is an experience that gives self-regulation from where it was produced. So it is like medication.
- BR** Yeah, dreams are guidance and advice, but not in a way that we can just look at them and say, this is what it tells you. It's a process.
- CM2** It is a process. And the soul is not an entity. It is a process. When I use the word soul, it is not about, ah, there is an entity beside us that is saying what we should do. It is an experience with the negativity, with the unknown.
- BR** Yeah. So in your work, does it help you to remember a lot about the client's previous dreams? Or even if they have sent you some dreams and you haven't discussed them all, that you might anyway read them and get an overview of what's there?
- CM2** Yes.
- BR** Do you have any systematic way to do that?
- CM2** Normally, not all the patients have dreams, first of all. So not necessarily you need the dreams to go into experience with the soul. Giegerich used to say that it's not the best way to go into an experience with the soul, because the dreams are sometimes a bit infected by other factors that are in the individual psyche that can transform these original images into something different. It is what Freud said, the primary dream and the secondary dream. What we get is not necessarily what it was.
- BR** It's like an internal editing. The memory we have is a bit of an edit from what was actually there.

- CM2** Yeah, exactly. So, of course, I invite my patients, if they have the dreams, to bring them. But for me, the dreams are an expression of the soul, and not everybody wants or is ready to work with the soul. So, Jung used to say that you only work with the soul in a specific stage of the psychoanalytical process. Not in every stage you can work with the soul. You can work with dreams, but it's not working with the soul. It's like working with this material more on the surface, more with consciousness. And then you go to an objective approach, a subjective approach, but it's not with the soul. It's something like, for example, showing an image and working with the reaction of the patient.
- BR** Yeah, dreams are a gentle way to work on something. They're not so confrontational. Advice that you get from a dream might be easier than advice you get from your partner. It could be digested easier.
- CM2** Defenses and non-imposition Yes, but sometimes we can also see some defenses. Yesterday I was with a patient that it was so clear for me what the dream was trying to say. And of course, you cannot say to the patient, the dream is saying this, because this was my experience. This is another point. You cannot impose your experience. You can guide the patient to go into contact with this material, and then he will arrive at his conclusions. But I could observe clearly in this experience yesterday that he could know what it is, but he was afraid to go there.
- BR** And sometimes also the dream says something that we resist and we don't like to accept, no?
- CM2** And it's easier to say no to a dream than say no to your partner, no?
- BR** Right. So the dreams might also be guiding us towards a deeper contact with the soul.
- CM2** Could do this. Preparing us for this. It depends also if you are prepared for this, if you are available for this. Each patient has a different way to approach a dream. And so it's about observing and trying to adapt. There is not, I don't have a specific way that I repeat with every patient.
- BR** Right. Okay. Okay, so let's get into this a bit. So I have all of the dreams from this woman over 40 years, and we know some of the information about her. And so I'd like with you to develop a hypothesis about what could be an interesting topic to search for in the dream. We don't really know if that would become an important symbol for her or not. We would have to discuss that with the client. But we could have some idea, and we could look to see what might be there. So, yeah, she's ...did you look at this a little bit, or ...
- CM2** Yeah, but I think it would be nice if we go through again.

- BR** Yeah. She's the oldest of four children, she's divorced. So right now you can imagine it's the year 2001, the September 11th terrorist attacks were just a few months ago. She lives in a small town in the US. And she is starting analysis because she's had trouble with some relationships. So she was married 25 years ago, she was married for 15 years. It took her 10 years after the marriage until she had a divorce. Well, after the 15-year marriage, then a divorce, and then another 10 years until she had another relationship. And now we're again 10 years after this, and she's 55 years old. And she has a chronic inflammatory joint illness that started just one week before her marriage. And she started recording her dreams out of grief from the divorce, and to understand herself better in regards to her relationships. And so we have a bit of information from her. Her father was a war veteran, also her brother. She has these three daughters that appear sometimes in her dreams. One of the daughters has bipolar disorder, who actually ran away from home. She seems to have a lot more female friends than male friends. A lot of her dreams do have some romantic topics. And so she's lived a very complete life, she's experienced, since the 40s, just a lot of different world events. She got married in the year when JFK was assassinated. She experienced the moon landing, the fall of the Berlin Wall in the 80s. So given this, what would you be curious about in regards to her dream? So imagine we can ask a question to the dreams, and then we can look at a lot of dreams and quickly get some feedback about what might be there. And we would start with a single topic, like a symbol, probably not something too specific, but some kind of symbol that might happen in her dreams. So what are your thoughts? What would you be curious about?
- CM2** Yes, I will try to see ...not necessarily the same symbol has to appear in all the dreams. And I think that what is interesting is to observe if some archetype image is repeating in the dreams. I don't know if you did this exercise.
- BR** Well, we can choose one. We choose some archetypal image and then we look for it.
- CM2** Mother archetype Yes. Your question is what archetype image would be related with this. Yes, I think that there is something very important related with relations, no? It's something she is repeating, she's going into different relations. And so I would think that, for example, the mother archetype would be an interesting archetype.
- BR** Well, that's good. I haven't done that yet, so we can look at the mother. Now I'm going to start this. We're going to look at the last 300 dreams and make it a little bit quicker. And so we load up this tool, and then these would be all of your clients, and we can choose which one we're going to look at. And then it's telling us here, okay, we're looking at these 300 dreams. She actually has 4,000, but we'll look at just a few. And we're not going to choose a symbol that I already have. Let's take another one. And so now there's three questions for you, and I'll just type whatever you say. So the first question will be, describe the symbol in your own words. The second question is, what do you include in the symbol? And the third question is, what do you exclude? So, for example, you could say, I want to include the dreamer's mother, or I want to include anyone's mother, or anytime we see the word mother. So you can define it in your own way, your own words.
- CM2** Mother image in the dreams.
- BR** Well, if you explain to a robot what should it look for, and try to be a little bit precise.
- CM2** Mother image.
- BR** Okay.
- CM2** This can be ...
- BR** Yeah, you can say anything you like, yeah. We don't really need to say in the dreams, it already ...

CM2 Mother image, yeah.

BR Okay. And the second question was, what do you include in the mother? For example, like any kind of mother, any kind of human mother, animal mother.

CM2 A human and nature.

BR What do you mean?

CM2 Nature. Mother Nature.

BR Oh, okay. Okay. And what do you want to exclude?

CM2 Nothing.

BR Animal mothers, yeah, we'll see. It will ask us. Do you have any more thoughts that you want to include, or we just go ahead?

CM2 Tension via ego engagement/outcome Mmm ... Can we focus where there is tension related to the archetype?

BR I think that would be a little bit separate, a separate process, but I do have a way to look for tension, actually. I'll explain that to you next, yeah. So we do have, I have a way that I've built in where we look at the actions of the ego. So the ego is avoiding, or engaging, or it's neutral. So for me, this is a bit related to the concept of tension. And then the outcome for the ego, so something positive happens, or something negative happens, or something neutral. So what it's doing now is it's looking through all of these 300 dreams. It's checking to see which ones have the symbol. And then it's looking to figure out, like, it's going to ask us some questions, like should we include this topic or not? So here's the first question. Should grandmothers and great-grandmothers or their heirloom objects that carry a lineage of care theme be included in the mother? Mother archetype figures are excluded unless the biological mother is presented by name.

CM2 I would say not to exclude, to include.

BR Great. And now it's going to ask us, we'll do it again. You can do it as many times as you want. And each time you do this, it starts with the initial definition that we had, and then based on the content of the dreams, it's asking a question, getting the answer, and then it's deciding how to refine the definition. So you don't have to know anything about the dreams before you start. It guides you in this way. And then we'll get another question. Do mothers-in-law or partners' mothers in welcoming caretaking scenes count as mother archetypes for tagging, or should they be excluded unless explicitly linked to lineage of care theme?

CM2 Include.

BR Include. Okay. So I'm going to go ahead. Now it's looking at those 300 dreams. It takes the new definition that we created based on the answers. It's going to tell us how many dreams have the symbol. And then there's going to be another step. So we found it in 62 dreams. And we are going to start another process now. So it's going to look at these 62 dreams only. And it's going to decide how to categorize the engagement of the ego and then the outcome for the ego. And then it's going to ask us some questions, like a kind of, we'll see what question comes.

CM2 But you say the ego is the ego in the dream.

BR The dream ego, right. Okay, quick question. When the dream ego keeps trying to help or fix things for a mother figure, for example, moving her, freeing her from a box, making her juice, but the efforts are clumsy, partially ineffective, or interrupted by other tasks, do we still say that this is an active ego as long as she repetitively initiates care-focused actions?

CM2 Yes. Yes. It could be a defense mechanism, no?

BR Right. Okay, so, and now another question. This is about the outcome. So when the dream ego cannot fully repair or free the mother, for example, cannot open the box she is dancing in, but seems emotionally connected, hopeful, or comfortable by partial contact, should we code this as an outcome that is neutral rather than negative unless the ego ends in clear distress? It's a classic question here, like the outcome, is it related to the physical description of what happened, or the emotional affect?

Emotional reaction decides outcome Emotional.

CM2

BR Yeah. So you can say code based on emotional ...

CM2 Reaction.

BR Okay. Code based on emotional reaction, even if actions are not fully successful. So then it's writing its new definition. And we could do that again if we want, but I'm going to say no because it anyway has a lot of knowledge already from other questions that we've answered about other symbols and other dreams. And it's going to go ahead and do its analysis on these 62 dreams. And so now I am aggregating all the results across that symbol, but before that's ready, I'm also going to show you a bit what's happening here. So we have this one dreamer, and I have almost 2,000 dreams where we did find at least one of the symbols. And this is the number of times that we found each symbol. So house, secret, water, those were among the top ones. And then at the top right here, let's take water. So we can look at this table here, and this tells us what the ego is doing in the dream. It's engaging, it's doing nothing, or it's avoiding. And then we have a classification for the outcome to the ego, something negative, something neutral, or something positive. So then we can click on one of these and we can see, okay, it engages, but there's a negative result. And then we can go and look through those dreams. So now I'm just refreshing the contents here, and we're going to look at mother. So we have here these 61 dreams for mother, and we're looking at really recent dreams because right now we imagine that it's December 2001, so she has some very recent dreams. And the language model, it gives a title to each of the dreams, like just this short description so that you can find them easily. And then we can filter based on the kind of engagement, and then we can kind of find ones that have different outcomes. So if you look at, like, what would you like to do? Would you like to filter for kind of engagement, or would you just like to look at the titles and choose one that captures your interest?

CM2 Let me see ... Let's see, "Preparing Carla to move."

BR Okay. Can you read the dream? That's this part here.

CM2 Yeah.

BR You can read it out loud. It's better for the ...

Carla dream: positive engaged mother image I am at Carla's school trying to work with the teachers to help Carla get her work done. Carla is apparently going to be done soon. I need to help get her things packed. Then I sit at a cafeteria table with some teachers. Then Howard is there across from me. I wonder why it's been so long since we have been in relation or had sex. I wonder if it will work if we try again. Then my mother is there. The image is like she's lying down but there's no furniture she's on. She gives me an awkwardly sort of kiss on the cheek. I am glad to see her. She tells me I only have a few more days to go to get Carla packed and moved. I tell her I've already started on the packing at her house, Carla's room. I will get on doing the rest now. And so the ego talks with the mother about it.

BR Yeah, this part comes from the language model, so we can read that and we can see if we agree with what it's telling us.

CM2 Let's see.

BR It's telling us there's a positive engagement and a positive outcome.

- CM2** Yeah, the ego talks with her mother about it. The ego dreamer talks with the mother about the time remaining and reports having already started packing. Then commits to doing the rest, which shows ongoing initiative and problem solving around the task she mentions. The ego is glad to see the mother and ends the scene engaged in helping with the packing with no distress described and with a sense of connection. The mother is present. She appears to be lying down with no furniture under her. She gives the ego a cuddly kiss on the cheek. She tells the ego they only have a few more days to get Carla packed and moved. The ego is glad to see the mother. The ego tells the mother they have already started packing at Carla's house, in Carla's room. Yes?
- BR** That's the summary.
- CM2** Yes. Makes sense, but of course this has to be seen in the context of what is the context and what is happening around.
- BR** Yeah, that would be a question. Who's Carla? Who's Howard? So I think Howard is her ex-husband.
- CM2** Yeah, for me it was, yes, my reaction was it could be that he is ...
- BR** Howard is the ex-husband. He died of a heart attack three years ago. And Carla is her granddaughter.
- CM2** Yep. Yeah, the ego is really engaged in a process. And the mother image has a positive role there.
- BR** Right. So if you look at this, we see mostly engagement. So the ego is engaging except for four times, according to the summary. So maybe we should look at one of the ones where it's more of a surprise. Like the ego avoids and it's negative. Or this one in the middle, it can be a bit less interesting, we don't know. But for example, the ego avoids and it's negative, and then we only have two dreams here. So they're quite a long dream. So maybe we just look at the summary. So the ego comes to visit and is emotionally affected. The key charged moment ends with the ego hesitating and refusing the mother's request that everyone move in, which the ego experiences as a no-win trap. So based on that, do you agree that that's avoidant behavior?
- CM2** Let me see.
- BR** Ego refuses the mother to move in.
- CM2** Yeah.
- BR** In a way, it can be also active, like the ego stands up to the mother. Not sure. We'd have to look, but sometimes it's more complex than it seems at first.
- CM2** Dynamic time-series view Yeah, we are looking on the surface very fast. The question here that could be interesting, the question that comes to my mind, Bobby, is this: the mother archetype is very important. And could be, I don't know if the system can, the program can do this, is to see how in time the positive and the negative are appearing.
- BR** We can do that. We can do that in a way, yeah.
- CM2** If you have negative and passive, and then at the end you have a process in which it appears more active and positive, this means that the ego is improving.
- BR** Yep. Yeah, I've looked at this, it's up and down a lot. So one way would be to count the number of positive ego dreams per month. And then you see, okay, which way does it go?
- CM2** Yeah, there are many ways, but it's like what I was trying to suggest is to see it in a dynamic. See it as a dynamic.
- BR** There's also the economist side of you that's speaking when you look for patterns and trends, right?
- CM2** Yeah, because if we think that the active ego that goes into relation, so if we consider this as a positive, we can think that this is something related with a more structured ego. An ego that is reacting, that is not going into relation with such an important archetype that is the mother is a weak ego.

- BR** Right. That's kind of what happened here in this dream, like she's avoiding the relationship with the mother, she doesn't want the mother to live with her. But then there's also an aspect of relationship with the self, and after a certain age then maybe we don't always live with our mother still. So there's like an aspect of becoming independent.
- CM2** Yes. That's it. You know, I will need to leave in five minutes, because I have ...
- BR** And finish on time. Yeah, no problem. So, yeah, maybe just tell me a little bit your overall impressions. What would you be curious to try?
- CM2** I think that this is interesting. But I think, as I was saying, it could be interesting to use this material for something. In effect, the first thing is, these dreams were only coming, or she was in a process of analysis?
- BR** Yeah. As far as we know, she was not doing analysis. As far as we know, because this is an anonymous person who submitted her dreams to a dream database at the University of California, Santa Cruz. And then she had some interviews with the developers of the database. And that was one of the answers, that she said she had not been in analysis.
- CM2** But she was working with this material?
- BR** I think it was just a hobby. It was just, in a way, her dreams were telling her something important. She was perhaps working at it in some way. But as far as we know, she was not formally in analysis.
- CM2** Inside vs. outside analysis Okay. Because, for example, it could be interesting to compare if we see some pattern of the ego in cases in which these dreams were related with an analytical process, and cases of dreams that were not related with an analytical process.
- BR** Yeah, here it might be a bit flat if it's not really a process, and if we take a different dreamer, then it could be, yeah.
- CM2** Yeah, to see if working with a dream in an analytical process could be healing or not. Because if you see that the cases in the sample that are related with analytical process, you have a pattern of behavior that is, let's see, positive, when we define what is positive, you know, related with what we can define as a healthy ego dream.
- BR** I like that you used the word "what we define as positive," because that's what I've been focusing on until now. So going deeper, looking to see, can we do it in a way that's similar to what a person would do, what an expert analyst would do? And once we have, like, this is correct, and we can attach the right labels, then we can start to look at trends and everything.
- CM2** Yeah, but, for example, if the result is the same, working in the sample of dreams related with cases in which the patient is working in an analytical process, compared with the other sample in which not, if the pattern is the same, when we see the evolution of the behavior of the ego, then you see, so the analytical process is giving nothing.
- BR** To the dream ego, right.
- CM2** No? Nothing. It's the same. But it could be that you have different results. So I think that this could be interesting.
- BR** It's extremely interesting. It's also a bit difficult, because some people, they go into analysis and it feels like they find more and more problems, they go deeper, they find more problems, they find more things. And maybe you just have to wait longer and watch the ego longer, and then it starts to improve again.
- CM2** Yes. And so also many say, ah, Jungian analysis, it doesn't work. What is good is CBT, for example, I'm saying something. But if you can observe that working with Jungian analysis, it helps to support a transformation of an ego in the dream in a positive way, we can see, oh, this has a positive effect. So this could be something interesting, to relate also the dreams with what was happening in an analytical setting.

BR Maybe it can be, you kind of put on a blindfold, you ask some patients, do you think the analysis is improving, but you kind of keep that on the side. Then we do our own analysis and we see, can we reach a similar conclusion or not?

CM2 Yes, but this is not a question of what the patient thinks, because this is very subjective. But if we have a pattern of behavior of the ego, that might be even more ...

BR More meaningful, that's coming from the unconscious rather than just what the ego, the waking ego, is saying.

CM2 Yep.

BR Yeah. Well, yeah, you told me everything. It was really helpful, so thanks a lot.

CM2 Yeah, it's the first conversation, but I think that is really a very interesting initiative, and I'm very curious to see how this will develop.

BR Right. Great. Thanks for your help. All right, so have a good evening.

CM2 We are in contact.

BR Yep, let's stay in contact. Bye. All right. Take care.

CM2 Yep.

BR You too. Bye-bye.

Prompts for SYMBRION 0.0

In this section, [X] denotes a reference to a module in the pipeline diagram in Fig. 3.

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Global settings for prompts

Example configuration for the first symbol:

```
{{ SYMBOL_NAME }} =  
    "water"  
  
{{ SYMBOL_DESCRIPTION }} =  
    "liquid water, not including frozen water,  
    not including vapor or gas"
```

Create symbol list across all dreams [B]: 1 of 3

See Fig. 3 [B].

This prompt is used as reference material for successive prompts.

```
{% set dream_symbols = {  
  
    "Creation and cosmos": {  
        "Creation / beginnings": [  
            "creation", "genesis", "birth of the world", "emergence", "primordial  
            → chaos"  
        ],  
        "Sky / heavens (specific)": [  
            "sky", "heavens", "firmament", "horizon", "zenith", "cloud ceiling"  
        ],  
        "Celestial bodies (separate)": [  
            "sun", "sunrise", "sunset", "noon sun", "eclipse (solar)",  
            "moon", "new moon", "full moon", "crescent moon", "eclipse (lunar)",  
            "stars", "constellation", "north star", "comet", "meteor/shooting  
            → star",  
            "planet", "saturn", "venus", "milky way"  
        ],  
        "Cosmic settings": [  
            "outer space", "void", "cosmos", "universe", "galaxy", "nebula"  
        ],  
        "Time (concrete)": [  
            "time", "clock", "watch", "hourglass", "calendar", "deadline",  
            "seasonal cycle", "eternity"  
        ],  
    },  
}
```

```

    "Sacred geometry (concrete)": [
        "circle", "mandala", "spiral", "labyrinth", "maze",
        "square", "triangle", "cross", "axis mundi"
    ],
    "World structure motifs": [
        "world tree", "cosmic mountain", "four directions", "center",
        ↪ "pillar"
    ]
},

"Water": {
    "Water (general states)": [
        "water", "fresh water", "salt water", "still water", "running water",
        "deep water", "shallow water", "muddy water", "clear water"
    ],
    "Oceans / seas": [
        "ocean", "sea", "open sea", "tide", "wave", "storm surge", "shore",
        ↪ "beach"
    ],
    "Rivers / streams": [
        "river", "stream", "brook", "creek", "current", "rapid", "waterfall",
        "river crossing", "ford"
    ],
    "Lakes / ponds": [
        "lake", "pond", "reservoir", "lagoon", "bay", "harbor"
    ],
    "Rain / precipitation": [
        "rain", "drizzle", "downpour", "monsoon", "hail", "sleet",
        "snow", "blizzard", "melting snow", "ice"
    ],
    "Water in containers": [
        "cup", "glass of water", "bowl", "bucket", "bathtub", "sink",
        "well", "cistern", "fountain"
    ],
    "Water forces / hazards": [
        "flood", "flash flood", "drowning", "undertow", "whirlpool",
        "tsunami", "shipwreck", "leak", "burst pipe"
    ],
    "Depth / underworld-water": [
        "abyss", "depths", "underwater", "submerged", "undersea cave"
    ]
},

"Air : wind and weather": {
    "Air / breath": [
        "air", "breath", "breathing", "suffocation", "gasping", "smoke",
        ↪ "inhalation"
    ],
    "Wind": [
        "wind", "breeze", "gust", "gale", "whirlwind", "tornado", "hurricane"
    ],
    "Atmosphere": [
        "fog", "mist", "haze", "smog", "humidity", "thin air", "pressure"
    ],
    "Weather events": [
        "storm", "thunder", "lightning", "thunderbolt", "rainstorm",
        "heatwave", "cold snap"
    ]
},

```

```

"Fire : light and darkness": {
  "Fire (core)": [
    "fire", "flame", "ember", "spark", "smoke", "ash"
  ],
  "Fire sources": [
    "candle", "torch", "lantern", "campfire", "hearth", "stove", "match"
  ],
  "Burning / destruction": [
    "burning house", "wildfire", "arson", "scorching", "explosion"
  ],
  "Light (distinct)": [
    "light", "sunlight", "moonlight", "spotlight", "flashlight",
    "glow", "halo", "beam of light"
  ],
  "Darkness (distinct)": [
    "darkness", "night", "blackout", "shadow", "shade", "silhouette"
  ],
  "Transformation by fire": [
    "purification", "refining", "forging", "phoenix", "rebirth through
    ↪ fire"
  ]
},

"Earth": {
  "Ground / soil": [
    "earth", "ground", "soil", "dirt", "mud", "sand", "clay", "dust",
    ↪ "ash soil"
  ],
  "Stones / minerals (simple)": [
    "stone", "rock", "boulder", "pebble", "crystal", "gem", "diamond",
    ↪ "gold", "silver"
  ],
  "Landforms": [
    "mountain", "hill", "valley", "canyon", "cliff", "plateau",
    "island", "desert", "plain"
  ],
  "Caves / underground": [
    "cave", "tunnel", "mine", "underground chamber", "burrow"
  ],
  "Boundaries / passages": [
    "border", "threshold", "crossroads", "path", "road", "trail",
    "bridge", "gate", "fence", "wall"
  ]
},

"Plant world": {
  "Trees (specific-ish)": [
    "tree", "forest", "woods", "grove",
    "oak", "pine", "cedar", "willow", "apple tree", "olive tree",
    "roots", "branches", "bark", "leaf", "fallen tree", "dead tree",
    ↪ "stump"
  ],
  "Seeds / growth stages": [
    "seed", "sprout", "sapling", "bud", "blossom", "fruit", "harvest"
  ],
  "Flowers (kept granular)": [
    "flower", "rose", "lily", "lotus", "sunflower", "orchid",
    "bouquet", "wreath"
  ],
  "Plants / herbs / crops": [

```

```

    "vine", "ivy", "wheat", "corn", "rice", "grapes", "mushroom",
    "herb", "healing herb", "poison plant"
  ],
  "Gardens / cultivated nature": [
    "garden", "orchard", "field", "greenhouse", "hedge", "lawn"
  ]
},

"Animal world": {
  "Primordial / serpentine": [
    "snake", "serpent", "cobra", "python", "sea serpent", "dragon"
  ],
  "Water creatures": [
    "fish", "shark", "whale", "dolphin", "octopus", "squid",
    "turtle", "frog", "toad", "eel", "seal"
  ],
  "Arachnids": [
    "spider", "tarantula", "scorpion", "web"
  ],
  "Insects": [
    "insect", "bee", "wasp", "ant", "fly", "mosquito",
    "butterfly", "moth", "beetle", "locust", "dragonfly"
  ],
  "Birds (broad but not 'all animals')": [
    "bird", "eagle", "hawk", "owl", "crow", "raven", "dove",
    "swallow", "sparrow", "peacock", "rooster", "duck", "swan",
    "wings", "flight (as birdlike)"
  ],
  "Wild mammals (not lumped)": [
    "wolf", "fox", "bear", "lion", "tiger", "leopard",
    "deer", "stag", "boar", "elephant", "monkey", "ape",
    "rabbit", "hare", "bat"
  ],
  "Domestic animals (separate)": [
    "dog", "puppy", "cat", "kitten", "horse", "stallion", "mare",
    "cow", "bull", "sheep", "goat", "pig", "chicken"
  ],
  "Mythic-animal hybrids (kept here, not spirit)": [
    "griffin", "unicorn", "phoenix", "centaur"
  ]
},

"Human world": {
  "Human body (parts)": [
    "body", "skin", "face", "eyes", "mouth", "teeth", "tongue",
    "hair", "head", "brain", "skull",
    "hands", "fingers", "thumb", "arms",
    "heart", "blood",
    "bones", "skeleton",
    "stomach", "gut", "liver",
    "lungs", "breath",
    "genitals", "womb", "pregnancy", "birth"
  ],
  "Movement (very similar grouped)": [
    "walking", "running", "chasing", "escaping", "hiding", "falling",
    "climbing", "descending", "jumping", "dancing", "swimming", "flying"
  ],
  "Expression / communication": [
    "voice", "shouting", "whispering", "singing", "music",
    "silence", "writing", "reading", "book", "letter", "message",

```

```

    "name", "speech", "conversation"
  ],
  "People / roles (kept granular)": [
    "mother", "father", "child", "baby", "sibling", "lover", "spouse",
    "friend", "stranger",
    "king", "queen", "prince", "princess",
    "soldier", "police", "judge", "teacher", "doctor", "priest",
    "old man", "old woman", "wise elder", "young man", "young woman"
  ],
  "Work / society (concrete)": [
    "work", "job", "office", "meeting", "school", "classroom",
    "market", "shop", "money", "payment", "debt", "tax",
    "law", "contract", "trial", "prison"
  ],
  "Tools and objects (tight clusters only)": {
    "Keys / locks / access": [
      "key", "lock", "door lock", "padlock", "chain", "password"
    ],
    "Weapons (minimal grouping)": [
      "knife", "sword", "gun", "arrow", "spear", "shield"
    ],
    "Containers / vessels": [
      "cup", "bowl", "vessel", "box", "chest", "bag", "suitcase",
      ↪ "bottle"
    ],
    "Adornment / status items": [
      "ring", "crown", "jewel", "necklace", "mask"
    ],
    "Seeing / reflection": [
      "mirror", "window", "glasses", "camera"
    ],
    "Navigation / travel": [
      "map", "compass", "ticket", "passport"
    ]
  },
  "House and home (not too broad)": {
    "Home core": [
      "house", "home", "apartment", "room", "bed", "kitchen", "bathroom",
      "basement", "attic", "corridor", "stairs", "hallway"
    ],
    "Entrances / openings": [
      "door", "threshold", "gate", "window", "balcony"
    ],
    "Furniture": [
      "table", "chair", "sofa", "wardrobe", "drawer", "closet"
    ]
  },
  "Buildings and monuments": [
    "tower", "castle", "palace", "temple", "church", "cathedral",
    "altar", "monument", "bridge"
  ],
  "Vehicles (kept separate from travel in Water)": [
    "car", "bus", "train", "bicycle", "plane", "boat", "ship"
  ],
  "Color (individual)": [
    "black", "white", "red", "blue", "green", "yellow", "gold", "silver",
    ↪ "purple"
  ],
  "Sound (individual-ish)": [
    "music", "drum", "bell", "thunder", "scream", "laughter", "crying"
  ]

```

```

    ]
  },
  "Spirit world": {
    "Mythical beings (humanoid / spirit)": [
      "angel", "demon", "devil", "ghost", "spirit", "ancestor",
      "god", "goddess", "giant", "witch", "wizard", "fairy"
    ],
    "Mythic roles (psychic patterns)": [
      "hero", "trickster", "shadow figure", "wise old man", "great mother"
    ],
    "Rituals and sacred systems (concrete)": [
      "ritual", "initiation", "baptism", "wedding", "funeral",
      "sacrifice", "prayer", "blessing", "curse",
      "altar", "temple", "holy book", "pilgrimage"
    ],
    "Sickness and death (concrete)": [
      "illness", "fever", "wound", "bleeding", "poison",
      "death", "corpse", "grave", "tomb", "cemetery",
      "underworld", "hell", "afterlife"
    ],
    "Soul and psyche (symbols, not theory)": [
      "soul", "heart (as soul-seat)", "inner voice", "double",
      ↪ "mirror-self",
      "mask/persona", "shadow", "transformation", "rebirth"
    ]
  }
} %}

```

Create symbol list across all dreams [B]: 2 of 3

See Fig. 3 [B].

This prompt is used to extract symbols from each dream. When they are extracted here, they are in their most specific form.

```
{% include "symbol_reference_01.jinja" %}
```

You are a structured dream-symbol extraction system (imaginal symbols
↪ only).

ALLOWED SYMBOL TYPES (extract only these):

- 1) Beings: humans/roles, animals, mythical/spiritual beings
- 2) Body parts/substances: e.g., hand, eyes, blood, teeth, womb
- 3) Natural elements/formations: e.g., water/river/ocean, fire, storm,
↪ mountain, forest, cave
- 4) Objects/tools: e.g., key, knife, ring, mirror, book, phone, suitcase
- 5) Built spaces/structures: e.g., house/room/bed, bridge, temple, tower,
↪ road, gate
- 6) Environmental conditions (imaginal, not feelings): e.g., darkness,
↪ light, fog, thunder, wind
- 7) Archetypal events/actions when depicted as dream images: e.g., death,
↪ birth, wedding, drowning, crossing, falling, chasing/pursuit,
↪ transformation

EXCLUDE (do NOT output these as symbols):

- Emotions/affects (fear, anxiety, love, anger, jealousy, sadness, etc.)
- Abstract psychological interpretations (identity crisis, comfort zone,
↪ metaphor, self-worth, etc.)

- Personal proper names of people (e.g., "James", "Serena", "Bobby",
→ "Paul") even if they appear in the dream text.
If a named person appears, extract the ROLE/FIGURE if symbolically
→ relevant (e.g., "stranger", "mother", "father", "teacher"),
but do not output the person's name.

REFERENCE LIST GUIDANCE:

- The dream_symbols list is INSPIRATION and a preferred vocabulary, not a
→ hard constraint.
- You may output symbols not literally in the list if they clearly match
→ the allowed symbol types above.
- Prefer concrete, image-like nouns/phrases over abstract terms.

TASK:

- 1) Process the dream material below ONE DREAM AT A TIME.
- 2) For each dream:
 - Identify the dream date (format: YYYY-MM-DD).
 - Extract symbols that match the ALLOWED SYMBOL TYPES.
 - If a symbol appears multiple times in the same dream, output it only
→ ONCE for that dream.
- 3) If no valid symbols appear in a dream, output nothing for that dream.

STRICT OUTPUT FORMAT (one line per symbol per dream):

<symbol>: YYYY-MM-DD

IMPORTANT:

- Do NOT literally write "<symbol>" or "symbol_name".
- Spaces are OK in the symbol text.
- No bullet points. No numbering. No explanations. No summaries.
- No blank lines.

Dream material:

Create symbol list across all dreams [B]: 3 of 3

See Fig. 3 [B].

This prompt is used to replace the specific symbol formulations from the previous prompt with more general formulations that can later be aggregated and counted.

```
{% include "symbol_reference_01.jinja" %}
```

You are a symbol normalization system.

You will receive many lines in the format:

<symbol name>: YYYY-MM-DD

TASK:

For each input line:

- 1) Keep the date exactly as written.
- 2) Replace the symbol name with a canonical symbol name.

CANONICALIZATION RULES:

- Prefer canonical symbols that appear in dream_symbols
→ (symbol_reference_01.jinja).
- If the input symbol is not in the list, map it to the closest symbol that
→ IS in the list.
- Use concrete symbolic nouns/phrases (e.g., "water", "river", "mother",
→ "door", "house").

- Avoid abstract thematic labels (e.g., "identity crisis", "metaphor",
→ "comfort zone") unless you can map them to a concrete symbol.
- If you cannot confidently map a symbol to a canonical symbol, keep the
→ original symbol text unchanged.

VALIDATION:

- Only process lines whose date is exactly YYYY-MM-DD (digits only). Ignore
→ any line with "??" or "00" date parts.

STRICT OUTPUT:

- Output exactly one line per valid input line.
- Format strictly: <canonical symbol>: YYYY-MM-DD
- No extra text, no blank lines, no numbering.

Input lines:

```
{{ raw_lines }}
```

Write symbol and ego interaction claims [F]: 1a of 2

See Fig. 3 [F]. This also completes the function described in [E].

This is the first alternative for the system prompt used to write symbol claims and dream ego relation claims.

Consider the following dream and the following symbol.

If the symbol does NOT explicitly appear in the dream text according to the
→ symbol description, output exactly:

[none]

If the symbol DOES appear, follow these rules strictly.

GENERAL RULES

- Use ONLY information explicitly stated in the dream text.
- Do NOT add details using general world knowledge.
- Do NOT infer unstated physical properties.
- Do NOT embellish.
- Do NOT use the word "dream".
- Keep sentences short and factual.
- It is valid to write fewer sentences than the maximum.
- It is valid to omit the Ego claims section if no explicit ego relation to
→ the symbol appears.

FORMAT:

****Symbol claims****

Write up to 5 short sentences.

Each sentence must describe something explicitly stated about the symbol.

Include minimal paraphrase only.

****Ego claims****

Write up to 3 short sentences.

Each sentence must begin with "The ego".

Include any explicitly stated interaction, reaction, avoidance, decision,
→ fear, approach, withdrawal, intention, or refusal involving the symbol.

If no explicit ego-symbol relation appears in the text, omit this section

→ entirely.

Dream:

{{ dream_text }}

Symbol:

{{ symbol_name }}

Symbol description:

{{ symbol_description }}

Write symbol and ego interaction claims [F]: 1b of 2

See Fig. 3 [F]. This also completes the function described in [E].

This is the second alternative for the system prompt used to write symbol claims and dream ego relation claims.

You are an expert psychoanalyst who extracts factual descriptions only. You

- do not interpret, explain, infer motives, or add symbolic meaning. You
- do not expand beyond what is explicitly stated in the dream text.

Your primary rule is textual fidelity.

You must obey the following constraints:

1. Only include statements that are directly supported by the exact wording
 - of the dream.
2. Do NOT add sensory details, physical properties, emotional states, or
 - environmental features unless they are explicitly written in the dream.
3. Do NOT use general world knowledge to enrich descriptions.
4. Do NOT assume unstated spatial relations, physical effects, or
 - consequences.
5. If the symbol is mentioned but not described, state only what is
 - explicitly written.
6. If the ego is not described interacting with the symbol, write no Ego
 - claims.
7. If the symbol does not appear, return exactly: [none]

When writing Symbol claims:

- Write only short, plain sentences.
- Each sentence must correspond to a specific phrase or clause in the
 - dream.
- Do not combine multiple facts into one sentence.
- Do not speculate.

When writing Ego claims:

- Each sentence must begin with "The ego".
- Include only actions, perceptions, decisions, or states explicitly
 - described in the text.
- Include both completed and explicitly anticipated actions if stated.
- Do not interpret inner meaning.

Formatting rules:

- No bullet points.
- No hyphens.
- No numbering.
- No markdown.
- No asterisks.
- No section labels.
- Write plain sentences separated by a single space.
- If no claims are warranted, return [none].

Write symbol and ego interaction claims [F]: 2 of 2

See Fig. 3 [F]. This also completes the function described in [E].

This is the user prompt which returns symbol claims and dream ego relation claims.

Consider the following dream and the following symbol.

If the symbol does NOT explicitly appear in the dream text according to the
→ symbol description, output exactly:

[none]

If the symbol DOES appear, follow these rules strictly.

GENERAL RULES

- Use ONLY information explicitly stated in the dream text.
- Do NOT add details using general world knowledge.
- Do NOT infer unstated physical properties.
- Do NOT embellish.
- Do NOT use the word "dream".
- Keep sentences short and factual.
- It is valid to write fewer sentences than the maximum.
- It is valid to omit the Ego claims section if no explicit ego relation to
→ the symbol appears.

FORMAT:

****Symbol claims****

Write up to 5 short sentences.

Each sentence must describe something explicitly stated about the symbol.

Include minimal paraphrase only.

****Ego claims****

Write up to 3 short sentences.

Each sentence must begin with "The ego".

Include any explicitly stated interaction, reaction, avoidance, decision,
→ fear, approach, withdrawal, intention, or refusal involving the symbol.

If no explicit ego-symbol relation appears in the text, omit this section
→ entirely.

Dream:

{{ dream_text }}

Symbol:

{{ symbol_name }}

Symbol description:

{{ symbol_description }}

Evaluate claims with LLM Judge [H]: 1 of 3

See Fig. 3 [H].

This prompt evaluates every claim in the generated summary and marks it as supported if all parts of the sentence are supported by the dream text.

You are a strict factuality judge.

Task:

Given a dream text and a list of claims extracted from a summary, label
 ↳ each claim as:
 - "supported" if the dream text supports ALL parts of the sentence.
 - "unsupported" if ANY part of the sentence is not supported by the dream
 ↳ text.

Rules:

- Use ONLY the dream text as evidence. Do not use outside knowledge.
- Be strict: if a claim adds details not present in the text, mark
 ↳ "unsupported".
- If the claim is ambiguous or not explicitly supported, mark
 ↳ "unsupported".
- Output MUST be valid JSON only (no markdown, no extra text).

Dream text:

```
{{ dream_text }}
```

Claims (id -> text):

```
{% for c in claims %}
```

```
- {{ c.id }}: {{ c.text }}
```

```
{% endfor %}
```

Return JSON in this exact format:

```
{
  "results": [
    {
      "id": "s_claim_1", "verdict": "supported|unsupported", "rationale":
        ↳ "1-2 sentences",
      ...
    }
  ]
}
```

Evaluate claims with LLM Judge [H]: 2 of 3

See Fig. 3 [H].

This prompt extracts every sentence from the dream text that may contain information relevant to the symbol. This is later written to our main JSON database and used in the next prompt.

You are identifying dream sentences related to a specific symbol.

Symbol definition:

```
{{ symbol_description }}
```

Instructions:

1. Split the dream text into sentences.
2. Return ONLY sentences that:
 - Directly refer to the symbol
 - Or refer to the dream ego in relation to the symbol
3. Use semantic judgment.
4. Do NOT include frozen water, vapor, or glass.

Return STRICT JSON ONLY:

```
{
  "symbol_sentences": [
    {
      "index": 0,
      "text": "..."
```

```

    }
  ]
}

```

```

Dream text:
""""{{ dream_text }}"

```

Label preferences with LLM Judge [I]

See Fig. 3 [H].

This prompt reads from the JSON entries generated in the last prompt and checks that each sentence in the dream text is supported by at least one claim in the generated summary. This is used to identify missed claims, which are also called false negatives.

You are evaluating whether a dream sentence is captured by any claim.

Instructions:

1. Determine whether at least one claim captures the meaning of the
↪ sentence.
2. Use semantic judgment.
3. If captured, return the matching claim_id.
4. If none match, captured = false.

Return STRICT JSON ONLY:

```

{
  "captured": true,
  "matched_claim_id": "s_claim_2"
}

```

```

Dream sentence:
""""{{ sentence }}"

```

```

Claims:
{% for c in claims %}
{{ c.id }}: {{ c.text }}
{% endfor %}

```

Label preferences with LLM Judge [I]

See Fig. 3 [I].

This prompt receives all metrics relating to the summaries as well as the dream text and symbol description. It then makes a subjective decision based on psychological factors to select a winner. This process is used according to the hybrid approach described in Fig. 11.

You are an expert Jungian analyst.

Two candidate summaries of a dream have been evaluated objectively.

```

Symbol description:
{{ symbol_description }}

```

```

Dream text:
{{ dream_text }}

```

Objective metrics:

Summary A ({{ key_a }}):
Supported ratio: {{ ratio_a }}
False negative rate: {{ fn_a }}

Summary B ({{ key_b }}):
Supported ratio: {{ ratio_b }}
False negative rate: {{ fn_b }}

The objective metrics are tied or inconclusive.

Please choose the subjectively better summary based on clarity,
symbol interpretation depth, and quality of Jungian reasoning.

Respond ONLY in strict JSON:

```
{  
  "winner_key": "<{{ key_a }} or {{ key_b }}>",  
  "rationale": "<brieif explanation>"  
}
```

Prompts for SYMBRION 0.2

This section includes prompts used to achieve features described in Fig. 18.

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Symbol Refinement Audit [Stage 04]

Used in symbol refinement (stage04_refine_symbol); This stage includes an interactive process for refining the symbol definition. It loops over all dreams for the current dreamer and identifies edge cases and then collects candidate questions to ask the analyst. The highest priority questions which helps to distinguish the most edge cases is asked to the analyst.

You are auditing a dream-symbol definition for a tagging pipeline.

Role / stance:

```
{{ symbol.analyst_role }}
```

Symbol key: {{ symbol.symbol_key }}

Current symbol definition (decision rule):

```
{{ symbol.definition }}
```

Dream batch:

```
{{ dreams_text }}
```

Instructions:

- Identify edge cases where a careful human could plausibly disagree
→ whether "{{ symbol.symbol_key }}" is present.
- Do NOT label each dream. Instead, extract ambiguity patterns and cite a
→ few dream numbers as examples.
- If nothing is ambiguous, still propose 1-3 sanity-check questions that
→ would make the rule clearer for future corpora.
- Keep questions concrete and answerable in one sentence.

Return STRICT JSON ONLY:

```
{
  "chunk_summary": "1-3 sentences summarizing how this dream batch relates
  → to the symbol rule",
  "ambiguities": [
    {
      "type": "short label",
      "why_ambiguous": "1-2 sentences",
      "example_dream_numbers": ["0008", "0012"]
    }
  ],
  "candidate_questions": [
```

```

    {
      "priority": 1,
      "question": "A single concrete question to ask the human to clarify
        ↪ the decision rule."
    }
  ]
}

```

Symbol Refinement Follow-Up [Stage 04]

Used in symbol refinement follow-up (stage04_refine_symbol). Here, all information about the current symbol including the most recent definition as well as the most recent interactive question and answer pair is passed to the prompt and the LLM updates the definition. This process prevents the definition from becoming overly wordy or redundant.

You are refining a symbol definition for a dream-symbol tagging pipeline.

Current definition:
 {{ current_definition }}

We asked the human:
 {{ question }}

Human answer:
 {{ user_answer }}

Task:

- Update the definition to incorporate the human answer.
- Keep it plain language, concise, and non-redundant.
- Preserve the intent: it must be usable as a rule for deciding symbol
 ↪ presence in dream text.

Return STRICT JSON ONLY:

```

{
  "definition": "...

```

Tag Symbol and Ego Presence [Stage 05]

Used in symbol/ego presence tagging (stage05_tag_symbol_presence). Here, the definition from the interactive process is applied to all dreams so symbol presence and ego presence can be detected.

You are an expert Jungian dream analyst and careful symbol tagger.

We have a symbol definition:

SYMBOL KEY: {{symbol.symbol_key}}
 DEFINITION:
 {{symbol.definition}}

You must perform TWO separate tasks for each dream.

 TASK 1 - SYMBOL PRESENCE

Decide whether the symbol is PRESENT in the dream.

Rules:

- Use ONLY the symbol definition above.

- The symbol must be literally present according to the definition.
- Do NOT infer symbolically.
- If symbol_present=true:
 - Provide a short evidence quote (<= 20 words) from the dream.
 - Put this quote in "symbol_evidence".
- If symbol_present=false:
 - Set symbol_evidence="".
 - If the case is ambiguous, briefly explain inside symbol_evidence (<= 15 words).

----- TASK 2 - EGO PRESENCE (STRICT RULE-BASED) -----

The ego is PRESENT if and only if the dream text contains at least one
 ↳ explicit first-person pronoun:

First-person singular:
 I, me, my, mine, myself

First-person plural:
 we, us, our, ours, ourselves

- Rules:
- Match exact words only (not substrings).
 - Case insensitive.
 - Do NOT interpret meaning.
 - Do NOT use third-person pronouns.
 - If at least one such pronoun appears -> ego_present=true.
 - If true, list the exact pronouns found (comma-separated) in
 ↳ "ego_evidence".
 - If false, set ego_evidence="".

----- OUTPUT REQUIREMENTS -----

- Output MUST be valid JSON.
- Output NOTHING except JSON.
- Follow the exact schema below.

OUTPUT JSON FORMAT:

```
{
  "results": [
    {
      "dream_number": "0000",
      "symbol_present": true,
      "symbol_evidence": "...",
      "ego_present": true,
      "ego_evidence": "I, my"
    }
  ]
}
```

DREAMS:
 {{dreams_text}}

Ego Engagement and Outcome Audit [Stage 06]

Used in ego engagement/outcome auditing (stage06_refine_ego_engagement_outcome).
 This process in the pipeline selects only dreams where the selected symbol with the refined interactive definition is present and also only ones where the dream ego is present. Then

it displays the current definitions for ego engagement and outcome for the ego. If the user selects to interactively refine these definitions, this prompt is used to detect edge cases and to ask clarification questions to decide how to encode each category.

You are helping refine DREAM-EGO CODING guidance for a tagging + analysis
→ pipeline.

SYMBOL KEY: {{ symbol_key }}

SYMBOL DEFINITION (presence rule; already decided upstream):
{{ symbol_definition }}

CURRENT GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT GUIDANCE (may be empty):
{{ engagement_guidance }}

CURRENT GLOBAL OUTCOME GUIDANCE (may be empty):
{{ outcome_guidance }}

DREAMS (ONLY dreams where the symbol is present AND the dream ego is
→ present):
{{ dreams_text }}

TASK:

Propose candidate questions SEPARATELY for:

- 1) ENGAGEMENT (avoidant, passive, active)
- 2) OUTCOME FOR THE EGO (negative, neutral, positive)

Definitions:

ENGAGEMENT:

- avoidant: withdraws/escapes/refuses/avoids the situation
- passive: does not meaningfully act; goes along; stuck; watches without
→ intervening
- active: initiates/pursues/attempts/decides/confronts/participates

OUTCOME (end-state vs beginning-state, from ego perspective):

- positive: goal achieved or situation improves (relief/safety/success)
- negative: goal fails or situation worsens (distress/threat/loss/harm)
- neutral: unchanged, unclear, or no meaningful shift for ego

Question constraints:

- each question must be answerable by a human in ONE sentence
- questions should target recurring ambiguous cases (mixed engagement,
→ implied goals, abrupt endings, unclear improvement)
- questions must be about coding boundaries, not about symbol presence or
→ ego presence

Return STRICT JSON ONLY:

```
{
  "engagement_candidate_questions": [
    { "priority": 3, "question": "... " },
    { "priority": 2, "question": "... " }
  ],
  "outcome_candidate_questions": [
    { "priority": 3, "question": "... " },
    { "priority": 2, "question": "... " }
  ]
}
```

Ego Engagement and Outcome Update [Stage 06]

Used in ego engagement/outcome update pass (stage06_refine_ego_engagement_outcome). This process refines the definition based on the most recent question and answer pair.

You are refining GLOBAL DREAM-EGO CODING guidance used for tagging and
→ later analysis.

Write concise, plain language. No redundancy.

SYMBOL KEY: {{symbol.symbol_key}}

SYMBOL DEFINITION (presence rule; already decided upstream):
{{symbol.definition}}

CURRENT GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT GUIDANCE (may be empty):
{{current_engagement_guidance}}

CURRENT GLOBAL OUTCOME GUIDANCE (may be empty):
{{current_outcome_guidance}}

ENGAGEMENT QUESTION:
{{engagement_question}}

ENGAGEMENT HUMAN ANSWER:
{{engagement_human_answer}}

OUTCOME QUESTION:
{{outcome_question}}

OUTCOME HUMAN ANSWER:
{{outcome_human_answer}}

TASK:

Update TWO SEPARATE global guidance entries so a rater can categorize two
→ DREAM EGO attributes for any symbol-specific subset of dreams:

CATEGORIES TO DEFINE:

1) ENGAGEMENT (exactly one):

- AVOIDANT: ego withdraws, refuses, escapes, disengages, or actively avoids
→ the situation.
- PASSIVE: ego does not meaningfully act; little/no initiative; goes along;
→ is stuck; watches without intervening.
- ACTIVE: ego initiates, pursues, confronts, attempts, participates,
→ decides, or takes purposeful action.

2) OUTCOME FOR THE EGO (exactly one):

Compare end-state vs beginning-state of the dream as presented in the text,
→ from the ego's perspective.

- POSITIVE: ego achieves a stated/clear goal, improves their situation,
→ resolves a problem, gains safety/relief/success.
- NEGATIVE: ego fails at a stated/clear goal, situation worsens, ego
→ remains in distress/threat/loss, or ends harmed/trapped.
- NEUTRAL: no clear improvement or worsening for the ego; outcome unclear
→ or largely unchanged.

OUTPUT:

Return two concise bullet lists (each max 8 bullets):

- one for ENGAGEMENT guidance only
- one for OUTCOME guidance only

The two outputs should be independent and scoped to their own aspect.
Each guidance value must be a plain text string with newline-separated
↳ bullets that start with "- ".
Do NOT return a JSON array as a string representation.

Return valid JSON only:

```
{
  "ego_engagement_guidance": "...",
  "ego_outcome_guidance": "..."
}
```

Generate Symbol and Ego Claims [Stage 07]

Used in claim generation (stage07_write_symbol_ego_claims). Based on the interactively created definitions for the symbol and ego characteristics, and the original dream text, this prompt writes claims and assigns categories.

```
{# SYMBRION_v2/prompts/stage07_symbol_ego_claims_cat_v07.jinja #}
```

You are an expert psychoanalyst who extracts factual descriptions only when
↳ required and applies structured categorization carefully.
You do not interpret symbolically.
Your primary rule is textual fidelity unless explicitly instructed
↳ otherwise.

You are being given a report in which it has already been determined that:
- the symbol {{ symbol_name }} is present
- the dream ego is present

You must complete FOUR PARTS.

Use only standard characters. Do not use emojis or special symbols.

----- PART 1 - SYMBOL CLAIMS -----

Task:

Write factual statements explicitly stated about the symbol {{ symbol_name }}.
↳ }.

You MUST apply the Symbol definition below when determining what counts as
↳ the symbol.

Do not restate the definition. Use it as a boundary rule.

Rules:

- Use ONLY information explicitly stated in the Report text.
- Only include content that fits the Symbol definition.
- Do NOT infer unstated physical properties.
- Do NOT embellish.
- Do NOT use the word "dream".
- Keep sentences short and factual.
- Maximum 5 sentences.

----- PART 2 - EGO CLAIMS (RELATION TO SYMBOL) -----

Task:

Write factual statements explicitly stated about the ego's relation to {{ symbol_name }}.
↳ symbol_name }.

You MUST apply the Symbol definition below to determine whether the ego is
↪ relating to the symbol as defined.

Rules:

- Use ONLY information explicitly stated in the Report text.
- Do NOT interpret motives or symbolic meaning.
- Do NOT embellish.
- Keep sentences short and factual.
- Maximum 3 sentences.
- Each sentence MUST begin with: "The ego"
- If no explicit relation between the ego and {{ symbol_name }} is stated,
↪ return an empty list.

PART 3 - EGO ENGAGEMENT (OVERALL BEHAVIORAL STANCE)

Task:

Assign exactly ONE engagement category describing the overall behavioral
↪ stance of the ego in this report.

This is an overall structural characterization of how the ego behaves in
↪ the narrative.

It is not limited to the ego's relation to {{ symbol_name }}.

Use the Engagement definition block below as the authoritative criteria.
Also use common sense and general knowledge about narrative structure and
↪ plot types,
including typical story functions as described in Morphology of the
↪ Folktale by Vladimir Propp.

Engagement categories:

- avoidant
The ego actively avoids a challenge, confrontation, or situation,
↪ physically or emotionally.
- passive
The ego does nothing. The ego does not initiate action, resist, pursue,
↪ or meaningfully respond.
- active
The ego takes any action at all, no matter how small. Any initiative,
↪ attempt, movement, decision, or response counts.

Rules:

- Base the decision on explicitly described behavior.
- If multiple behaviors occur, choose the dominant narrative stance.
- Use standard narrative reasoning about plot roles and action functions.
- Do not introduce symbolic interpretation.

Additionally:

Provide a one-sentence justification explaining why this engagement
↪ category was chosen.

The justification must refer to explicitly described behavior.

PART 4 - EGO OUTCOME (OVERALL IMPACT ON THE EGO)

Task:

Assign exactly ONE outcome category describing the overall impact on the
↪ ego across the narrative.

This is an overall characterization of what happens to the ego.
It is not limited to the ego's relation to {{ symbol_name }}.

Use the Outcome definition block below as the authoritative criteria.
Also apply common sense and typical story arc reasoning.

Outcome categories:

- negative
There is an adverse impact on the ego. The ego experiences loss,
↪ distress, failure, harm, or an unfavorable change.
- neutral
There is no meaningful change in the ego's situation. Nothing significant
↪ happens to the ego, or the situation remains effectively the same.
- positive
There is any positive impact on the ego, no matter how small. The ego
↪ gains something, succeeds, resolves a problem, or improves its
↪ condition.

Rules:

- Compare the ego's end-state to its beginning-state.
- Base the decision on what is explicitly described.
- Use typical narrative logic about resolution and consequence.
- Do not infer hidden goals.

Additionally:

Provide a one-sentence justification explaining why this outcome category
↪ was chosen.

The justification must refer to explicitly described narrative impact.

OUTPUT FORMAT (STRICT JSON ONLY)

Return exactly this structure (valid JSON, nothing else):

```
{
  "symbol_claims": ["...", "..."],
  "ego_claims": ["...", "..."],
  "ego_engagement": "avoidant | passive | active",
  "ego_engagement_justification": "...",
  "ego_outcome": "negative | neutral | positive",
  "ego_outcome_justification": "..."
}
```

Report text:

{{ dream_text }}

Symbol definition:

{{ symbol_description }}

Engagement definition (authoritative):

{{ engagement_description }}

Outcome definition (authoritative):

{{ outcome_description }}

Judge Claim Support [Stage 08]

Used in claim judging (stage08_judge_claims). Here, every claim in the summaries is evaluated as being supported or unsupported by the original dream text. A rationale is also provided.

You are a strict factuality judge.

You are also an expert psychoanalyst and an expert on symbolic dream

→ material, but you must NOT interpret.

Your only job is to check whether each claim is supported by the dream

→ report text.

Task:

Given a dream report and a list of claims extracted from it, label each

→ claim as:

- "supported" if the dream report supports ALL parts of the claim.

- "unsupported" if ANY part of the claim is not supported by the dream

→ report.

Rules:

- Use ONLY the dream report text as evidence. Do not use outside knowledge.

- Be strict: if a claim adds details not present in the text, mark

→ "unsupported".

- If the claim is ambiguous or not explicitly supported, mark

→ "unsupported".

- Output MUST be valid JSON only (no markdown, no extra text).

Dream report:

```
{{ dream_text }}
```

Claims (id -> text):

```
{% for c in claims -%}
```

```
- {{ c.id }}: {{ c.text }}
```

```
{% endfor %}
```

Return JSON in this exact format:

```
{
  "results": [
    {"id": "s1", "verdict": "supported|unsupported", "rationale": "1-2
      → short sentences"},
    {"id": "e1", "verdict": "supported|unsupported", "rationale": "1-2
      → short sentences"}
  ]
}
```

Check Missed Claims [Stage 09]

Used in false-negative checking (stage09_false_negative_check). Here, every sentence in the original dream text which is relevant to the symbol is evaluated. When all parts of the sentence are supported, the entire is marked as supported. This is a more critical judge than in our previous testing.

You are a strict factuality and coverage judge.

Your job is NOT to interpret the dream. Your job is to check coverage:

→ whether our existing claims (even if previously judged unsupported)

→ cover the symbol-relevant and ego-symbol-relevant meaning in each

→ sentence of the dream report.

SYMBOL KEY:

```
{{ symbol_key }}
```

SYMBOL DEFINITION (enhanced):
{{ symbol_description }}

EGO-SYMBOL RELATION DEFINITION (enhanced):
{{ ego_relation_description }}

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

- "Eligible" sentence: a sentence that contains ANY content that (a) refers
→ to the symbol as defined above OR (b) refers to the dream ego in
→ relation to the symbol as defined above.
- If a sentence is NOT eligible, do not evaluate coverage; mark it
→ ineligible.
- If a sentence IS eligible, decide whether the existing claims cover the
→ sentence's symbol/ego-symbol meaning.

COVERAGE RULES (IMPORTANT - abstraction allowed)

- The claims are summaries/abstractions. Coverage does NOT need to repeat
→ every surface detail.
- It IS sufficient if the claims capture the core symbol-related and/or
→ ego-symbol-related meaning of the sentence in a generalized way.
- Do NOT require exact wording.
- HOWEVER: if the sentence contains a symbol/ego-symbol fact that is NOT
→ represented even abstractly by any claim, mark "unsupported".
- If it's genuinely unclear whether a claim covers the meaning, mark
→ "unsupported".

CONSTRAINTS

- Use ONLY the dream text and the provided claims.
- Do NOT use outside knowledge.
- Do NOT infer unstated details.
- Do NOT add symbolic interpretation.

OUTPUT FORMAT (STRICT JSON ONLY; NO MARKDOWN; NO EXTRA TEXT)

Return exactly:

```
{
  "sentences": [
    {
      "index": 0,
      "text": "...",
      "eligible": true|false,
      "verdict": "supported"|"unsupported"|null,
      "matched_claim_ids": ["c1", "c2", ...],
      "rationale": "1-2 short sentences."
    }
  ]
}
```

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Split the dream report into sentences in order. Keep sentence text
→ exactly as in the report (minor whitespace normalization ok).
- 2) For each sentence:
 - a) Decide eligible true/false using the enhanced definitions.
 - b) If eligible is false:
 - set verdict to null
 - matched_claim_ids to []
 - rationale: short reason why it is not eligible
 - c) If eligible is true:

- Compare against ALL claims provided below (include both
 - ↪ symbol_claims and ego_claims; include supported and unsupported ones).
- If the claims collectively cover the sentence's relevant meaning
 - ↪ (allowing abstraction), verdict="supported"
- Otherwise verdict="unsupported"
- matched_claim_ids: include IDs of any claims that help cover the
 - ↪ sentence (can be empty if unsupported)
- rationale: 1-2 sentences about what is/ isn't covered

DREAM REPORT:

```
""""{{ dream_text }}"
```

ALL CLAIMS (id -> text):

```
{% for c in claims %}
```

```
- {{ c.id }}: {{ c.text }}
```

```
{% endfor %}
```

Generate Report Titles [Stage 00]

Used by run_create_titles.py. This prompt generates short informative titles for every dream so the titles can be displayed and searched for in the interactive dream dashboard.

You write short, natural, factual titles from report texts.

Task:

Write one title for the report below.

Hard rules:

- 1 to 7 words only.
- Only capitalize the first word.
- Do NOT use title case.
- Do NOT capitalize other words unless grammar strictly requires it (for
 - ↪ example, the pronoun I).
- Do NOT use quotation marks.
- Do NOT end with a period.
- Do NOT use the word dream in any form.
- Do NOT hallucinate or add details not explicitly stated.
- Do NOT invent or generalize content (no "report about", no "vision", no
 - ↪ added context).
- Output exactly one line in this exact format: >>> <title>
- Do not output anything before >>>
- Do not output anything after the title.
- Before finalizing, count words; if over 7, rewrite shorter until it is 7
 - ↪ or fewer.
- Prefer compact phrasing over full sentences when needed.
- Remove filler/modifiers first (very, really, suddenly, then, just, that,
 - ↪ a/an/the when optional).
- If you cannot generate a valid title for any reason, output exactly: >>>
 - ↪ No title

Names:

- Do not use proper names.
- If a name appears:
 - Prefer a pronoun (he, she, they) if clear from context.
 - Use a simple generic noun only if necessary (man, woman, friend).
- Do not force generic nouns if a pronoun works naturally.

Content rules:

- Use only what is explicitly stated.

- No interpretation, symbolism, motives, or added meaning.
- Avoid vague filler words like "someone," "another," or "again" unless
 ↪ they are explicitly in the text.
- Keep wording concrete and natural.

Focus and order:

- Put the most important event first.
- If the turning point is something happening to someone else while I act
 ↪ or decide, lead with that (e.g., She drowns as I walk away).
- If the turning point is my decision or action, lead with I.
- Make it sound like something a person would naturally write in their own
 ↪ list.

Length-compression examples (good):

- She drowns as I walk away
- I miss the train home
- Lost in a flooded street

Sparse reports:

- If very little happens, use a short noun phrase (1-3 words) naming the
 ↪ main event or object.

Output:

Return only one line in marker format. No explanation.

Report:

```
{{ dream_text }}
```

Prompts for DPO

This section includes prompts used to achieve features described in Fig. 14.

Generate summaries for preference dataset: water_symbol_claim_generation_DPO	151
Evaluate factuality with LLM judge: factuality_judge_DPO	151
Determine preferred summary: preference_judge_sys_prompt	152

Generate summaries for preference dataset

This prompt is used to generate summaries from the Qwen2.5-7B-Instruct model for the preference dataset.

You are an expert psychoanalyst who extracts factual descriptions only when
→ required and applies structured categorization carefully.
You do not interpret symbolically.
Your primary rule is textual fidelity unless explicitly instructed
→ otherwise.

You are being given a report in which it has already been determined that:
- the symbol water is present

Use only standard characters. Do not use emojis or special symbols.

Task:

Summarize how the concept of water occurs in this dream. Include any
→ concepts related to water where the word water is not used.

Rules:

- Use ONLY information explicitly stated in the Report text.
- Do NOT infer unstated physical properties.
- Do NOT embellish.
- Do NOT use the word "dream".
- Keep sentences short and factual.
- Maximum 5 sentences.
- No explanation.
- Return the summary as a string.

"Write factual statements explicitly stated about the symbol water in the
→ report text below.\n\nReport text: {dream_report}"

Evaluate factuality with LLM judge

The prompt is used to evaluate the factuality of each generate summary with respect to the original dream report.

You are a strict factuality judge.
You are also an expert psychoanalyst and an expert on symbolic dream
→ material, but you must NOT interpret.
Your only job is to check whether the summary is supported by the report
→ text.

Task:

Given a report and a summary extracted from it, label the summary as:
- "supported" if the report text supports ALL parts of the summary.

- "unsupported" if ANY part of the summary is not supported by the report
→ text.

Rules:

- Use ONLY the Report text as evidence. Do not use outside knowledge.
- Be strict: if the summary adds details not present in the text, mark
→ "unsupported".
- If any part is ambiguous, only partially supported, or not explicitly
→ supported, mark "unsupported".
- Do not interpret symbolically.
- Check the summary sentence by sentence

Return one sentence only to indicate whether the given summary is

→ "supported" or "unsupported" by the Report text.

In addition to the one sentence response, give a short (max 2 sentences)

→ justification for your decision.

Evaluate the factuality of the following summary of the dream report.

Dream report:{dream_report}

Summary:{summary}

Determine preferred summary

This prompt is fed into Gemini2.5 Flash to determine the preferred summary and generate the preference dataset.

You are an expert evaluator for preference dataset construction.

Task:

Given the original dream report and two candidate summaries, choose the

→ better summary

Evaluation criteria, in order:

1. Faithfulness to the dream narrative.
2. Coverage of important dream details.
3. Clarity and coherence.
4. Conciseness.

Important rules:

- Prefer summaries that do NOT hallucinate.
- Do NOT reward creative embellishment.
- If one summary invents details not supported by the dream, penalize it
→ heavily.
- You must choose one of the summaries to be the preferred one. You must
→ output either 'A' or 'B'.

Evaluate the quality of the following two summaries of the dream report.

Dream report:{dream_report}

Summary A:{summary_a}

Summary B:{summary_b}

You must always choose one summary to be the preferred one.

Return 'A' or 'B'. If Summary A is preferred, return 'A'. If Summary B is

→ preferred, return 'B'.

Selected Dreams from the Barb Sanders Series

In this appendix, each entry reproduces the full original text as it appears in the DreamBank public dataset (collections b and b2). The titles were generated by our LLM pipeline with the prompt in Appendix D.

She drowns as I walk away, 1966 (unknown date)

Penguins die on the stairs, December 2, 1981

Run from the queen to perform, June 8, 1985

I race to qualify for boxing, August 9, 1985

Barrier opens to a beautiful sea, December 30, 1988

I sit with them in the changed house, December 11, 1989

Puppets have sex in boy's room, September 30, 1991

Confronting his affair with Paige, December 1, 1994

I flee attackers through barbed wire, November 17, 1994

In bed as he tests our relationship, December 21, 1994

I hold an unprotected abused baby, February 10, 1995

He returns and we kiss, September 26, 1996

I refuse his advances in bed, November 3, 1997

I escape his assault with my children, February 13, 1999

Confused by his presence and gift, May 24, 1999

She drowns as I walk away, 1966 (unknown date)

Dream #0008

I dreamt that Dovre was drowning in a raging body of water. I'm standing on the road/bridge next to her. I am looking down at her. There's rain and storm all around us, raging. I know I must dive in and save her but I'm afraid to because to do so will be my certain death. I walk on, leaving her to drown, feeling sick about it.

Penguins die on the stairs, December 2, 1981

Dream #0485

The stray kittens plead for food. They are very hungry. I feel badly for them. I look in the refrigerator. I find some sugar cakes and some cheese. I am dressing up to go out on a date. It's a conservative outfit, but as soon as I'm out the door, I'll readjust the front and it will be very sexy. There's a bruise on my neck. I have a belt around my neck and then I put it around my waist. My kids watch. I go outside, stairs. I say, "Where's the elevator?" They say, "No problem. You can go up the stairs." I am annoyed. It will be painful. I go up one flight. Then I sit down and say, "No, I'll go in the elevator. These stairs don't go where I want anyway."

(they went back doors). I see penguins that live on the stairs. If radio activity gets bad, they die and then we know. Some lie down dead. [BL]

Run from the queen to perform, June 8, 1985

Dream #0752

I am putting forms on tractor feed into a machine. It's all set to go and I turn it on. It goes fast, spitting out the paper. It won't stop. So I turn it off. It won't stop, so I unplug it. It still won't stop. I look closely and see another wire attached to the wall socket. I'm afraid to undo it, because I'll get hurt. I finally pull it from the wall. The machine stops. Then the room changes. Long halls grow out, covered with parquet wood design. The Queen of Hearts is coming. I must run. As I run down the hall, I notice I'm wearing sexy black stage entertainer clothes. I see a stage, with musicians there. I go out on stage, to the mike. I remember that Lydia and Ellie, Dove and Paulina had come here too. I start to talk to the audience who are far away seated at tables. I say, "Everyone get up and go to the dance floor." Most do. I say, "Your only excuse is if you're dead, and I don't mean dead drunk!" They laugh. I turn to the musicians, "Hit it boys, some hot boogie." They play (piano, drums, bass, etc.) Boogie, I start singing and it's good. Ellie and another woman join in, 3 part harmony. It's great. Audience loves it, I love it, except I want to do it solo. I tell Ellie and other woman to go away and I sing ballad. It's great.

I race to qualify for boxing, August 9, 1985

Dream #0802

I am an ex-con running from a Mafia boss. I'm driving a stolen mob car, black and fast. I am panicked, trying to elude them, speeding past the cars on the freeway. I see a dirt road and squeal on to it quickly. I hide in the trees. I see them slow up and look for me. I see a cotton men's plaid shirt tacked to a tree. They leave, I escape in a roll of dust. Now I am swimming in a terribly treacherous white water river. I barely make it after crashing over a water fall. I creep up over the bank to safety. I go back to the prison and sneak down the stairs hoping no one sees me. I see chickens in the cells. I make it to the front office and bravely walk straight for the front door. No one stops me. I stop myself and ask them if they remember me. The guard resting on a bunk is surprised. So is the woman clerk. I hear the news that if I don't qualify for a boxing match by 3:00 that day, I'll be locked up forever. I am trapped. I get on my knees and beg the guard to take the necessary papers over so I can qualify in proxy. I weep passionately. He relents and goes. Then a pox from mice sweeps the prison and all the inmates turn to shorn sheep. If I can't get out in time for the match, I'm doomed. One of the sheep baaing notices I haven't changed. I point out that I must have had it before or am immune. [BL]

Barrier opens to a beautiful sea, December 30, 1988

Dream #1177

Two men love me, an old flame and a new one. I am awash with loving attention. They vie for my attention. I go outside with one of them who is now a woman friend. We go to sit on an embankment. Someone says, "This is where lovers sit." I feel uneasy. So I sit on other spots nearby, hoping no one is watching and getting the wrong idea. Then a barrier slides open and I get a beautiful view of the open sea. [BL]

I sit with them in the changed house, December 11, 1989

Dream #1629

I am at the old M City house, sitting on the front yard, near the bad corner so close to the road I nearly get run over. I see Darryl coming up to the door and I follow him, asking, "Why did you leave me?" He can't answer. We go inside and I see all the furniture is different. The piano's in the dining room and the fireplace is on the wrong wall. I see my parents, who smile at me. I walk through the dining room and see the "pool room" now transformed into a sweet, pretty sitting room, frilly curtains, china, another fireplace. The kitchen is different too. I look into the stairwell and then return to the living room. Charla follows me. I see Darryl seated in an overstuffed chair and I sit on his lap and Charla joins us. Darryl starts to explain how he tried to come back for me. I feel pulled in two directions: toward Charla (the present or the future) and toward Darryl (the past).

Puppets have sex in boy's room, September 30, 1991

Dream #1959

A man and a woman want to make love and are looking for a place where they can be private. A man hides in closets and the woman goes from closet to closet looking for him. She sees a boy coming to the closet to hang up his hats. This bothers her because he'll find their closet and interrupt. He goes in and is now in his own room. Three puppets are hung up on the hat rack. He's afraid of one of them because it has huge black circles for eyes and looks scary. He calls to his daddy who says there's nothing to worry about. Then the two male puppets are moving and talking. One turns to the other and wants to make love, so the other one becomes a "female" and they have sex. I feel orgasm. A voice says, "That's OK, they are doing this because they are not really homosexual, they are both" (meaning bi-sexual). [BL]

Confronting his affair with Paige, December 1, 1994

Dream #2724

I am in a store and want to buy some soft angora pink yarn. I am knitting the knit-purl ribbing of a sweater. I watch me knit, careful to not drop a stitch. I almost do, several times. I am knitting quickly. I take a tray with costume jewelry and the boxes of yarn over to the counter. I move the loose pearls and gems over to the left and count the boxes of yarn. Some are pink, some are white. It is going to be expensive to make this sweater. Now I am sort of married to Derek. A couple of young women come in and possibly his mother. They don't know Derek and I just got married and they are talking about him. It is clear to me that the woman Paige has a relationship with him. He's had many and I listen in carefully to try and overhear the truth. I feel hurt and unloved and betrayed. Now I go into another room where Derek/Darryl is and his two brothers. He is cold to me and his brother is caring. I go over to talk to the brother. Derek is jealous and demands to know why I pay attention to his brother, not to him. I tell him I know about Paige. He comes over to me and kneels, hugging me, his blond head at my breast level. He is sad and sorry, pleading for me to stay and forgive him. I caress his hair. Now the young wives of the two brothers are getting dressed for the return home of their new husbands. One of them is Paige. The dark-haired one is changing her top and is quite excited to look special and pretty for her husband. I'm changing my clothes too. I step outside where Paige is and say, I know

about you two. She says, "Oh?" I say, "Tell me what it was like." She says, "He's a hard one, complex." He used to like to watch me do it (make love with someone).

I flee attackers through barbed wire, November 17, 1994

Dream #2716

Derek kisses me. I am disappointed because his mouth is hugely wide and it doesn't feel good. He French kisses and it is intense, our tongues intricately intertwining. I feel him have an orgasm and I am untouched with sexual passion. It feels very cold and self-serving. Now I am being chased by him and other people. I run for my life. They are gaining on me and then I am backed up to a huge barbed wire fence. I turn and fight hard, without guilt. It is simply necessary to defend myself. I box kick and do karate moves. I force the fence into a man's throat, so the barbed wire is poking his throat. I demand they open the gate. It slides open enough and I dart across "no man's land," a railroad yard, tracks and mud. A "living" box car is trying to run me over as I try to race across the land and over the tracks. It moves like a cartoon creature out to get me. I cross the other fence on the other side and run like hell. The landscape is dismal and frightening. I turn left and am in a hall-like place like the storage unit place. I duck into a storage unit where green plastic upholstered dining chairs from a 1950's style are stored. I sit in one and slide the door partially shut and tremble in terror. [BL]

In bed as he tests our relationship, December 21, 1994

Dream #2748

Derek brings me into his bedroom. I look around to see everything so I can get a sense of him. I see two wall phones, and in black marker ink Derek has written some things like, "I feel...." It is all about how wonderful he feels when he is talking to me on the phone. I see his bed. I notice where the pillow is and go near that end to see what he sees when he's there. I see he has arranged dried flowers, colorful ones, lots of red, and a mirror and pretty things like driftwood and so on. I like the pleasant feeling it gives. I see a night table and see the answering machine and am pleased that he can hear me when I leave a message late at night and he is in bed. Now his attendants are there to help him get in bed. A man is working his catheter, four women are on a couch, two other women on the floor to my left. I am standing there, not knowing what to do. Derek is talking to me. He is gruff, distant and angry and he is also telling me to get in bed with him. I sit on the edge of the bed next to him as he turns himself to lay on his belly. I see rough, raw, red skin near his ankles and a flat wrinkled butt. He turns and looks at me, waiting. I take off my shoes and peel off my socks saying, "I hope you don't mind my cold feet." He laughs angrily and says, "You have so many layers of fear up here (he touches my forehead brusquely) and I am naked in a bed with you and you're worried about me not liking your cold feet?" He snorts derisively and lays back. He's now on his back. He says, looking at me coldly, "Now is the time to find out if this works, before it's gone too far and it's too late." I sigh and say, trying to kiss him on the mouth, but he pulls sharply back from my kiss, "I'd rather take the test and fail then not take the test at all." I curl up around his chest and try to kiss his cheek. He pulls back coldly. His hair is nearly shaved off, he is skinny. I tentatively kiss him several times more and keep talking. I say, "You talk about me. You have five heavy cement walls, two moats with dragons in them, dungeons and two alien spaceships guarding the

fort." He smiles and returns a sweet kiss. He is lightening up. He says, "What's your middle name, honey?" I say, "Jane. My name is B. Jane. Darryl used to call me Barbie Jane." I say, "What's your middle name. Oh, no, I know it already, don't I? It's—it's Dwayne." Now he turns his head to kiss my breast and I am sexually warm all over, even though I am still dressed in bra and panties. Now the interruptions come. Charla is there and bouncy and full of energy. Some friends drop by and talk. Charla goes out of the room and down the hall to ask a man a question. I get up and try to call her back. She comes back and Derek asks her what size she is, period. She says, "Over 24 inches." I laugh and laugh because she has figured out why he asked the question and knew the right answer. "You have to be over 24 inches to be able to ride the amusement rides." Derek calls someone, a woman named Jean, an attendant, to come and he pays her to take Charla to the amusement park. I notice water is spilled on the wall and go over to wash it off. Derek and I are talking back and forth, like couples do, making inside jokes and comments meant only for each other's ears. Now three different people come in, a secretary, a man and another woman helper. The man says, "Oh, it sure is busy here now and I can see I have to defer to the head Mother," meaning the secretary. He goes and the secretary says she got a call from Guns and Roses and they want him to do a conference at their concert in North Carolina, but he is scheduled that weekend at San Francisco. He says happily, "Cancel San Francisco and make the date." Now he says to me, "I'm going upstairs now." I hesitate, not knowing if I should stay here or go with him. He smiles and says, "Bet I'll get there before you do." I say, "I'll take the elevator." I am walking and I push my power chair to the elevator and get in. A woman in there has to help me pull up the chair over the tall first step into the elevator. Now we are upstairs and I decide to call Sebastian Fox, a friend of mine, because I saw on the Guns and Roses poster he's the warm-up band. I get him on the phone and he says, "Sebastian and Carol." I wonder for a moment if I'd accidentally called my cousin Sebastian. I ask him if he remembers me. He says, "Sure," and I ask about if he's booked for the concert in North Carolina. He says, "We may be, depends which concert they get assigned to." I say, "A friend of mine is going. He'll probably be at the smallest concert because his stuff is about disability." I hear Derek off in the distance saying, "...And what do you feel about that?" I say, "It's a shame because he's really good and very funny too." I say, "You know I've been thinking I'd do conferences on dream work." I want Derek to hear that because it would be great if he and I did those conferences together and traveled and worked together. The feeling I get from Derek is warm and positive and responsive.

I hold an unprotected abused baby, February 10, 1995

Dream #2790

I enter a room, like a store, and Derek/Darryl is there in his wheelchair. I am shy and don't give him much eye contact and connection, even though I love him. Someone is narrating something about how the one who loves and stays learns more and is richer than the one who leaves. It's sort of my thoughts I am directing toward him. I want him to stay and love and learn. He finishes his shopping and rolls out the door. I say wistfully, "Goodbye Derek." He tosses a curt, distant goodbye over his shoulder as he leaves. Now I go into another room, with maybe clothes, maybe Katrina is in there. Now I am in a shopping mall area and see a sweet 6-month-old baby girl in an open store area. I am very happy to see her. She is so cute, innocent, fresh and happy and sweet. I hold her in my lap and am talking to her. I realize she's being sexually abused and I am telling her with empathy that she will have years of hard work ahead of her to

learn forgiveness. Her parents are in the store and neglectful. They aren't paying any attention to her. I want to interfere, but know I can't. The girl baby will have to be unprotected and go through this awful pain and she will eventually prevail. There is a dog somewhere around.

He returns and we kiss, September 26, 1996

Dream #3022

I am sitting on a couch. A friend, Keith, also a friend of Derek's (not in real life), comes in and behind him is walking, with some effort, Derek. I am surprised. He comes in and talks a bit. I respond back in a friendly manner. He is still uptight about our breakup and non-connection of the last few months. Keith comes over and sits beside me on the couch. Derek walks over and puts his face between our faces. I kiss him on the cheek. He is still distant, but then he keeps talking and I keep talking and then he kisses me on the lips in a genuine sweet kiss.

I refuse his advances in bed, November 3, 1997

Dream #3267

["Howard wants me and I say no, AGAIN!"] I am in bed with Howard and he feels sexual desire for me. He's looking at me he groans and says you're so beautiful. I move away from and say Please don't.. He looks sad and says "Please." And I say I'm sorry. I pull away from him so we're not touching and I say to him, sometimes I think about just letting you do it. To give you relief but I just can't, after all those 10 years of marriage and I begin to cry. He gets out of bed and comes around and tries awkwardly to help me feel better. I feel very sad.

I escape his assault with my children, February 13, 1999

Dream #3449

Howard and I are standing next to a car. A convertible. He wants us to have sex. I am thinking it over, wondering if after all this time, we could be happy. I pull back and say no. It won't work. He gets angry and grabs my arm and forces me over to the wall of a house and tries to rape me violently. I hit him hard, knocking him unconscious. I then call 911. The person on the phone says there is nothing they can do since he wasn't raping me at the moment. I am angry and exclaim, Do you mean I have to wait until it is too late to get help to get help? I then see Howard regaining consciousness. I run, to grab my two children, who are very like Damian and Amelia. They think it's a game and run from me. I finally catch them, not actually finding Amelia as willing her to be there, because Howard almost gets us. I put the kids in the car and we drive away, only now I'm in the back seat and a woman is driving, telling me of a friend of hers who could help.

Confused by his presence and gift, May 24, 1999

Dream #3481

I am lying on a bed, trying to sleep. Howard is seated near me. We talk. He is being helpful, trying to help me understand something that would

be good for me to know. Later, He is lying in the bed with me. I “wake up” in the dream and realize that Howard is dead. He can’t be there in my bed. I turn and look. He is not there. Then he talks to me. So now I’m wondering if I really looked or if I dreamed I looked. I am confused if he’s really there or if I am dreaming it. Now my Mother comes in with a gift for me. A display holder of many different pens, all bright and interesting colors. I exclaim happily she couldn’t have given me a better gift. I love multi colored pens. I hope she doesn’t look into the living room where I have my own set just like it already. I don’t want to make her upset or unhappy.

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