

LOS ANGELES INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS

~~B203~~
B203 - Metapsychology (Introduction)

Winter Trimester 1962

Dr. Sperting

Assignment 1:

S. Freud: The Interpretation of Dreams, S.E. Vol. V
Footnote on p. 506-507; Introduction to Chapter VII and
Section A, p. 509-532.

1. What is the goal Freud sets himself for this chapter, and its methodological implications?
2. What is the difference between dream content and dream as a thought form?
3. On what postulate is Freud's assumption that all dreams are interpretable?
4. Are dream forgetting and everyday forgetting comparable? State and interpret the evidence Freud gives, particularly on the work of the censorship.
5. The criticism of the method of dream interpretation (free association) and the arguments against the criticism.

Assignment 2:

S. Freud: The Interpretation of Dreams, S.E., Vol. V, Chap. VII
(Section B, p. 533-549); A Note upon the 'Mystic Writing
Pad', S.E. Vol. XIX, p. 227 - 232; also C.P. Vol. V,
p. 175 - 180.

1. What are the five general conditions the dream "meets", and what postulates and assumptions tie them to the psychoanalytic conception of the psyche?
2. What are the dream's two obvious characteristics, and to what other phenomena are they related?
3. How are we to understand the term "psychical locality", and what is it supposed to explain?
4. What is the model of the psychic apparatus Freud presents? What are its major characteristics?
5. What is Freud's conception of memory, perception, and consciousness? (In: Rapaport, D., Organization and Pathology of Thought, New York, Columbia Univ. Press, 1951). What bearing does this conception have on dream formation?

6. What is dream regression? How does it come about (structurally and economically)? What does it do to catexes on the one hand and to thought relations on the other? What is its relation to hallucinations, to infantile memories, and to other varieties of regression?

Assignment 3:

S. Freud: The Interpretation of Dreams, S. E. Vol. V, Chapter VII, Section C, p. 550 - 572.

1. What is the definition and what are the origins and kinds of the wish? What is the psychological model implied here?
2. What are day residues? What is the relationship between the dream wish and the day residue?
3. What is the relation between the dream wish and the wish to sleep? How do dream consciousness (and its varieties) and waking consciousness resemble each other, and how do they differ?
4. If dreaming is the sleeping state equivalent of the thinking of daytime, is it -- and how can it be -- nothing but wish fulfillment?
5. How is the wish disguised and revealed in the manifest dream? What is the relationship of these wish indicators to the theory of repression?
6. What are the first definitions of the primary and of the secondary process? What is the first definition of thinking?
7. What is the relationship among dream, neurosis, and psychosis?

Assignment 4:

S. Freud: The Interpretation of Dreams, S.E., Vol. V, Chapter VII, Section D, p. 573 - 587.

1. What are the usual cathectic conditions of sleep, day residue, and dream?
2. What is the first definition of consciousness? What are the two sources of conscious qualities? What are the usual and what are the sleep characteristics of "the sensory surfaces of consciousness"?
3. What is the economic explanation of secondary elaboration?
4. What is the actual course of dream work assumed to be?
5. In what sense is the dream a preserver and in what sense a disturber of sleep?
6. In what sense does the dream bind excitatory processes?

Assignment 5:

S. Freud: The Interpretation of Dreams, S.E. Vol. V, Chapter VII,
Section E, p. 588 - 609.

1. What is the second definition of consciousness? What are its dynamic and economic implications? What is its relation to the first definition?
2. What is the bearing of this theory of consciousness on dream formation? What are the mechanisms of thought observed in the dream state of consciousness? What is the explanation for the use of these mechanisms by the dream work?
3. What is the model of mental processes proposed here by Freud? What is the second definition of the primary and secondary processes? What is the relation between this and the first definition?
4. How are we to define the implied concepts of "binding" (dormant or quiescent cathexes) and "raising of potential"?
5. How is repression defined here?
6. What is the third definition of primary and secondary processes? What are the implied concepts of delay, detour, signal, and hypercathexes?
7. Is there a contradiction between the conception "distortion by censorship" and the conceptions "modes of activity of the psychical apparatus that have been freed from an inhibition" and "the psychical mechanism employed by the neuroses is . . . present already in the normal structure"?

Assignment 6:

S. Freud: The Interpretation of Dreams, S.E., Vol. V, Chapter VII,
Section F, p. 610 - 621. (Cf., The Ego and the Id, London,
Hogarth, 1927, esp. pp. 19 - 26.)

1. The relationship between the topographic terminology of repression and consciousness and the cathectic economics ("innervation") involved.
2. The unconscious as a subject of scientific inquiry as compared with external reality as a subject of it.
3. What is the difference between the phenomenologically unconscious and the dynamically unconscious?
4. What is the third definition of consciousness, and how does it relate to the other two? What is the role of verbal traces in the process of becoming conscious?

ASSIGNMENT 7

Formulations on the Two Principles of Mental Functioning, Standard Edition, Volume XII.
Pp. 218-226.

- 1) What is the reality principle and how is it systematically related to the pleasure principle? How are they practically related?
- 2) What is reality testing? What are its means, and how do they come about? What are its limits?
- 3) What are the definitions of ideation, of thinking, and of their relation?
- 4) What is the relation of ego instincts and sexual instincts to the principles?
- 5) What early ego-psychological and psychosocial conceptions do we encounter here?

ASSIGNMENT 8

On Narcissism: An Introduction, Standard Edition, Volume XIV.
Pp. 73-102.

- 1) What are the basic phenomena to which the term narcissism refers and what are the first two definitions of it?
- 2) What is the conception of the ego and ego instincts (interest) here discussed?
- 3) What is the relation between narcissism, health, pathology, and object love?
- 4) What is the difference between anaclitic and narcissistic object choices?
- 5) How are the ego, ego ideal, self-respect, sublimation, idealization, conscience, self-observation, and censorship defined? What are their origins and functions?
- 6) What are the relations between ego development, love, and narcissism?

ASSIGNMENT 9

Instincts and Their Vicissitudes, Standard Edition, Volume XIV.
Pp. 117-140.

1) *What is Freud's attitude to Basic Concepts?*

- 2) 1) What is the difference between external and internal stimulations? What is the first method by which they are distinguished by the organism?
- 3) 2) What is the definition of instincts? What is the regulative principle of their function? What are its objects, aims, sources, pressure?
- ~~3) What instincts do we distinguish, and what do we know about them?~~
- 4) What are the vicissitudes of instinct, and how does Freud characterize them?
- 5) What are "reversal" and "turning around," and how are they related to each other? In particular: what are the relationships between sadism and masochism, scopophilia-exhibitionism?

ASSIGNMENT 10

Repression, Standard Edition, Volume XIV.
Pp. 146-158.

add - to 176

See text of book

- 1) What are the various definitions of repression, and what is its relation to the pleasure-principle regulation of instinctual drives?
- 2) What are the historical predecessors, prerequisites, and steps in the development of repression? What is the "attraction" of the repressed?
- 3) What are the relations between censorship, resistance, consciousness, distance from drive, distortion, cathectic intensity?
- 4) What are the two mechanisms of repression? What are the two components of the drive representations, and what are their fates in repression?
- 5) What are the relationships of substitute formation and symptom in the various psychoneuroses?

ASSIGNMENT 11

The Unconscious, Standard Edition, Volume XIV,
Pp. 166-204.

- 1) What are the conceptions, relations, and defining characteristics of latent states, unconscious, preconscious, consciousness, repression? What are the phenomena which necessitate introducing them? What is the course of the mental process?
- 2) What is the topography of drives, affects, ideas, consciousness, and repression?
- 3) What are the dynamics of drives, affects, ideas, consciousness, and repression?
- 4) What is the economics of drives, affects, ideas, consciousness, and repression?

ASSIGNMENT 12

Metapsychological Supplement to the Theory of Dreams, Standard Edition, Volume XIV.
Pp. 222-235.

(Supplementary reading: Freud, Negation, Collected Papers, Volume V, pp. 181-185.)

- 1) In what sense is this an attempt to introduce the concept of narcissism into the theory of dreams?
- 2) What is the cathexis-withdrawal theory? What limitations of it does Freud point out?
- 3) How is this theory tied to the topographic point of view, and how does it consequently clash with the beginnings of the structural point of view (in The Unconscious) which invalidate the topographic point of view?
- 4) What is the "belief in reality," and how is it related to reality testing?
- 5) What general comments concerning metapsychology do we find here, and what are their implications?

*Critic -
The unconscious should
be taught earlier in course -
esp. before colloquium I*

Bibliography:

Required Reading:

- Freud: The Interpretation of Dreams, S. E., Vol. V., Chap. VII, pp. 506-621.
- Formulations on the Two Principles of Mental Functioning, S. E., Vol. XII,
 pp. 218-226.
- On Narcissism: An Introduction, S. E., Vol. XIV, pp. 73-102.
- Instincts and Their Vicissitudes, S. E., Vol. XIV, pp. 117-140.
- Repression, S. E., Vol. XIV, pp. 146-158.
- The Unconscious, S. E., Vol. XIV, pp. 166-204.
- Metapsychological Supplement to the Theory of Dreams, S. E., Vol. XIV,
 pp. 222-235.

Supplementary Reading:

- Freud: Negation, C. P. Vol. V, pp. 181-185.
- The Ego and The Id, London: Hogarth, 1927, pp. 19-26.
- Rapaport: The Conceptual Model of Psychoanalysis, Psychanalytic Psychiatry and
 Psychology, Ed., Knight, Friedman, pp. 221-247.