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THREE CASES OF OSTENSIBLE PRECOGNITION FROM A SINGLE PERCIPIENT:

1. Sadat assassination
2. Reagan assassination attempt
3. S.S. *Achille Lauro* incident

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ABSTRACT

Three seemingly premonitory dreams reported by a female percipient were investigated. Two sisters and a friend provided confirmation of the dream accounts and their occurrence before the actual events. A dream of an assassination in a Middle East country was remarkably similar to the killing of President Sadat of Egypt, three weeks later. Another dream described the shooting of a 'pock-marked actor', while getting out of a car, by a 'German S.S. man'. President Reagan (former actor) was shot by John Hinckley (former member of a neo-Nazi group) three weeks later. In another dream three weeks before the fire on board the liner *Achille Lauro*, the percipient saw two coffins on that ship. Two passengers died in the fire and another was lost overboard. Aspects of the ostensible precognitions are discussed. Personality and background information about the percipient is provided.

THE PERCIPIENT

The percipient, Mrs. Barbara Garwell of Hull, was born on 27 July 1929. She was the seventh child of a seventh child (her father) and certainly considers that she has precognitive abilities. Her childhood was normal, with 'many happy memories'. She reports that her standard at school was average, and that she left school at the age of 14. She has worked mainly as a shop assistant. Barbara married at the age of 20, on 24 March 1950. She had four children, two daughters followed by two sons. Barbara reports that she has not suffered from any major illnesses in her life. She is very energetic yet requires little sleep—perhaps five hours each night. She is pleasant in conversation and is a very considerate person. Barbara is a believer in the Catholic faith and attends church regularly. She has a good memory and has vivid visual imagery. In discussing with her whether any event might have caused her to become 'psychic', Barbara stated that on three separate occasions when young she had fallen and knocked her head in the same place (occiput), each time requiring stitches. Barbara is superstitious about many things, and reports having a strong phobia of water (she fell in a lake as a child). She has a lesser phobia about travelling on buses. Personality tests (see footnote) reveal that she is tough-minded, conservative and somewhat neurotic.

1. ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT

The Ostensible Precognition

Barbara had a very vivid dream, which she sensed was precognitive, three weeks before the assassination of President Sadat. A sort of 'stadium' was seen,

Percipient's scores on personality tests. Cattell's 16PF¹ (form C, 1969 version): Factor A,6; B,5; C,3; E,8; F,3; G,6; H,3; I,1; L,6; M,7; N,9; O,7; Q1,1; Q2,8; Q3,7; Q4,8. The MD score was 8 (factors L, N, O, Q2, Q4 and A, C, H, Q3 modified accordingly). The EPI² scores were: Introversion/Extraversion, 12; Stable/Neurotic, 22; L scale, 4.

with a single row of seated men, all wearing dark pin-striped suits. The men had 'coffee-coloured' skin. The percipient 'knew' that sand was nearby and that the setting was somewhere in the Middle East. Two soldiers (also 'coffee-coloured') were seen to go up to the row of men and spray them with automatic fire.

The Assassination

On Tuesday, 6 October 1981 at 12.40 p.m. local time, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt was assassinated, and several other people killed and injured, at the annual parade commemorating the 1973 Yom Kippur war with Israel. Some soldiers dressed in olive-drab uniform ran from a vehicle in the parade to the saluting-stadium where the guests (many in military uniform) filled several rows of seats. President Sadat was wearing a black uniform. The attackers threw grenades and sprayed the dignitaries with automatic fire from Kalashnikov rifles.

Comments

This precognition was strikingly accurate. Although the country and main victim were not specifically identifiable, the circumstances were so similar that in retrospect identification is apparent—despite the slight inconsistencies concerning the number of rows of men and their lack of military uniform in the dream.

2. ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT REAGAN

The Ostensible Precognition

The percipient experienced a vivid dream three weeks before the attempt on President Reagan's life. The dream had a special quality which Barbara associates with precognitions. She was in a squarish old car which she described as being like 'an old Austin'. In the car with her were two Germans in SS uniform. A limousine-type car was approaching. A man got out of the other car. He had a 'pock-marked face' and was identified uncertainly on waking as Trevor Howard—the actor. The two SS men got out of the car and one of them drew a pistol from his leather holster. He fired several shots at the actor, who fell. The SS men dashed back into the car and sped off. A man was left sitting in the other car.

The Assassination Attempt

On Monday, 30 March 1981 at 2.34 p.m. local time, an attempt was made on the life of President Ronald Reagan (former well-known actor) as he was getting into a car near the Hilton Hotel in Washington, U.S.A. Several shots were fired by John Warnock Hinckley, the 25 year old son of a Denver oil tycoon. Reagan was injured, as were his Press Secretary, a Secret Service agent and a police officer. *The Times* newspaper reported two days later that Hinckley had joined the National Socialist party (a neo-Nazi group) in 1978, but was expelled in 1979 because his ideas were too extreme and violent.

Comments

Although the victim in the dream was wrongly identified on waking, the links with Reagan are certainly close. The 'Nazi' classification of the assassin was appropriate.

3. DEATHS RESULTING FROM A FIRE ON BOARD S.S. *ACHILLE LAURO**The Ostensible Precognition*

In a vivid dream, again sensed to be precognitive, three weeks before the *Achille Lauro* incident, Barbara observed a ship at sea. Two coffins were seen to descend slowly over the side of the ship, sliding down a type of 'rope gang-way'. Barbara took the ship to be the one on which two friends were shortly to sail—the *Achille Lauro*.

Further Relevant Information

Barbara's friends occasionally travelled to South Africa to visit relatives, either by air or cruise liner. At the time of the dream Barbara was aware that the couple were due to sail in a fortnight. She did not tell the couple about the dream in case it caused upset, and in any case the deaths did not seem to Barbara to be associated with the couple. The female of the couple had been ill with pneumonia but her husband was in good health.

The Achille Lauro Incident

At 2.40 a.m. on Wednesday, 2 December 1981, a fire broke out in a cocktail bar on the Italian registered liner *Achille Lauro*, 100 miles off the Canary Islands. The ship, displacing 23,629 tons, and captained by Arnaldo Bigiletto, was on a cruise to South Africa. Thick smoke poured through part of the vessel and in the resulting disorder, two people died of heart-attacks. They were Mrs. D. Wyborn (aged 51) and Mr. S. Summers (aged 71). Mr. Summer's wife apparently jumped or fell overboard and was lost. The fire was brought under control and the ship put into Las Palmas for repairs to the electrical system. Barbara's friends were not harmed.

Comments

In fact there were three deaths, including the woman who went overboard, but two bodies were taken ashore down the gang-plank, so to that extent the dream was correct.

STATEMENTS BY WITNESSES

Signed statements were obtained from witnesses confirming the dream accounts and their occurrence before the actual events. The witnesses were: Mrs. Phyllis Scott-Clark (sister) of Brough, N. Humberside; Mrs. Marjorie Cooper (sister) of Scunthorpe, S. Humberside (except *Achille Lauro* incident); Mrs. Betty Porter (friend) of Hull, N. Humberside (*Achille Lauro* only). The statements have been deposited at the offices of the Society for Psychical Research, and are available for inspection.

DISCUSSION

A general Principle of Uncertainty exists concerning premonitions. It can probably never be established that a particular precognition, no matter how accurate, is a genuine 'psi' phenomenon. Chance co-incidence could have linked the ostensible fore-knowledge and the later actual event. However, the explanation of chance co-incidence becomes somewhat strained in cases where a

single percipient appears to experience many such 'fortuitous associations'. The three dreams investigated in this paper are just from the last year. The percipient reports that she has experienced many others in previous years. The odds against these precognitions, when multiplied, must surely demand the attention of the unprejudiced scientist.

An advantage of examining a number of observations is to be able to search for possible consistencies which might lead to a better understanding of the phenomenon. Supposing that these cases were true precognitions, and taking the two 'assassination' dreams, it is noted that in both:

- (a) The general environment was accurate (stadium in an Arab country; near a car).
- (b) The attackers were described accurately in an important respect (soldiers; 'Nazi').
- (c) The weapons were described accurately (machine gun; pistol).
- (d) The victim, although not clearly identifiable, could be ascertained by an intelligent guess (Sadat; Reagan).

Another noticeable factor was that the time period between premonition and fulfilment seemed to be consistent, which in itself enhances the acceptability of the cases.

If the points are consistent elements, hopefully future examples can be 'interpreted' more accurately—perhaps resulting in the avoidance of catastrophes.

Conceivably, the non-specificity concerning the victim might result from a lack of that piece of information 'at source', or a limitation of the dreaming process which can only refer to the victim indirectly, by association. The victims in the *Achille Lauro* dream were not specified, and in the ostensible precognitions of two other percipients investigated by the author^{3,4} individual victims were not named, or named incorrectly.

In summary, these cases lend support to the notion of precognition—or at least telepathy/clairvoyance which might provide enough 'psi' data for an informed guess into the future.

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The percipient has confirmed that she is satisfied with the accuracy of this report.