To Sleep, Perchance To Scream

September 28th 1926

Today I begin what is to be my single most important contribution to mankind, the result of my years of research and most assuredly the catapult to which my career will launch from mediocrity to infamy. I was given the grant today to being in earnest my dream research. My hard work and dedication has paid off and now I have only to produce the results which I know will inevitably be produced. In addition to operating money I have been given a small lab on campus with which to preform my tests. It is not quite as large as I would have hoped and the accouterments are lacking but I can make due. The important thing is that I have gained the ear of the Dean and others, my research has been elevated from fanciful to legitimate and testable. I great day indeed, I must now acquire the necessary equipment for the endeavor and begin to interview volunteers and subjects for the study.

As I see it, I will need two or three volunteers, students of psychology, to help with the subject interviews as well as day to day maintenance. I have my eye on a few students already who I believe have a certain proclivity for the type of research we will be conducting. It should not be difficult to procure those I have in mind as they have already expressed interest in the area of study we will be breaking ground on. The subject of dreams has such a tendency to attract the mystical minded, but I am emphatically barring from consideration those who would see this research as a probe into the metaphysical. We are doing real science here, not some parlor tricks to shock and amaze the patrons of a circus tent. We will attempt to prove that our subconscious mind has the power to effect the physical world and that our dreams have the real possibility of being altered in a way that will lessen and in some cases cure certain mental illness. This will be a huge step forward in the science of psychology and a great benefit to mankind.

September 30th 1926

I have managed to convince two of my star students to come on board with the research and they both seem very excited at the prospects. I have my eye on a third however it may take a bit more convincing since she is an even more staunch skeptic than I, in regards to the connection of dreams to the mystical, which is something I believe we will fight against throughout this endeavor. I believe that given my track record and the research thus far I can convince her that we are doing legitimate research and that if anything we need a skeptic to keep our research balanced.

William Nickels, a graduate student, was the first of the volunteers I was able to have come aboard. He is a student of mine and I have become a bit of a mentor to the lad. He sits at the top of his class in every regard, he has a keen understanding of the subtleties of the mind which so few I have taught have. He will be a great addition to the team and I am even considering co-authoring a paper with him on the subject.

Terence Polanski, an undergrad, who has sings of becoming a exemplary student and a leader in the field of psychology. He has already shown signs of great foresight in regards to the mysteries of the mind, and in particular, the area of dreams. He has also amassed an enormous amount of knowledge regarding the mystical notions of dreaming and dream interpretation. His research in to the history of dreams, has been of a focus on debunking the notions held by scarlatinas, mystics and witchdoctors. It will be good to have that body of knowledge on board to keep us from heading into the realm of snake oil salesmen ourselves.