

Nocturnal ciphers - the allusive language of dreams in the ancient Near East

American Oriental Society - Boekbespreking [Review of: S.B. Noegel (2007) Nocturnal Ciphers: The... (2008)

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Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. 281-346)

This edition was published in 2007

Table 1. Summary of studies in support and against the REM sleep scoring hypothesis	
Aggregating hypothesis	Supporting hypothesis
Mechanical properties of REM	
In rat, bursts of REMs are observed only in REM sleep and have no similarity with the eye movements of the animal observing a target in the awake state (Jennings et al., 1965)	Isolated and grouped REMs have a similar pattern and speed during REM sleep and during the awake state (Jennings et al., 1965)
Some binocular REMs are not conjugated they lack a fixation point (arguing against the idea that REMs actually "look" dream images unless each eye is watching its own dream (Zhou and Ling, 1997)	
Neurophysiological properties of REM	
PGO waves (stimulating the visual brain areas) and REMs are simultaneously generated (if possible, not in series) (Davies-Reed and Gaddy, 1968)	
Light and REMs	
Porters and neocodes have REMs although they have no light. Porters cats and cats without a visual cortex have REMs (Jouvet, 1962; Jouvet et al., 1965)	
Completely blind people have REMs although they have no "visual" dreams (Rat et al., 1982)	Completely blind people have "visual" dreams (Berlitz et al., 2003)
Visual dreams are also reported in non-REM sleep (Fosse et al., 2001)	
The absence of fixation point argues against the idea that REMs actually "look" dream images unless each eye is watching its own dream (Zhou and Ling, 1997)	
Retrospective correlation (after awakening the subject) between REMs direction and direction of gaze in the dream	
Positive in 94% of awakenings (no higher than random) (Moss and Sargent, 1969; Jacobs et al., 1972)	Positive in 76.8% of awakenings (Dement and Kleiman, 1957; Solvay et al., 1962; Hermon et al., 1964)
Direct correlation between REMs direction and direction of limb action during REM	
REMs are absent during 84% of goal oriented actions that would require visual control if performed awake (Jacobs/Korenson et al., 2003)	When present (84%) of goal oriented actions, REMs or REMs are directed in the same and side of the limb action (Jacobs/Korenson et al., 2003)



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Nevertheless, temple iconography consistently depicts Pharaoh performing the duties, for all such rites were performed in his name.

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Expressions of thanks or praise should be sent directly to the reviewer, using the email address in the review. Targum Pseudo-Jonathan נפיק הוה נהרא Behold, he comes forth to observe divinations at the water as a magician lit. These are minor bumps along an otherwise exceptionally pleasant journey.

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