



Michael Weixel/DN

Pedantic Man: Dreams not worth worrying

By Mark Baldridge
Staff Reporter
and Bryan Peterson
Senior Editor

Dear Pedant,
Sometimes I dream I'm falling from a great height, often the top of the Chrysler Building. Is it true that if I ever hit the ground I'll wake up dead? Answer this P. Man, I'm terrified.

Signed,
Not Fooling.

Dear Fool,
No.

Pedantic Man.
Oh purveyor of pedestrian knowledge,
I have one for you, one which may frustrate even your near-limitless capacities for edification.
For as long as I can recall, I have had dreams in which I am being endlessly pursued through enormous buildings which have more rooms and passageways within than they could possibly contain in reality.

Sometimes I am involved in rescuing someone, but more often I am alone or with one or two other people. The people chasing me are never the same, but I always recognize them from real life.

They never catch me, but I never seem to permanently escape, either. I have no idea what would happen if they caught me, or even why I am running.

Oh, Pedantic one, what could it mean? Am I doomed to a life of

fruitless evasion and escape? Will I ever be able to settle down in one place? Does it mean anything that last week, all of my pursuers were professors with strange tattoos on their foreheads?

Help me if you can, Pedantic Man.

From your friend, Apogeotropic Fellow

Dear Ape-Man,
Settle down. It's nothing to worry about. We all dream every night, and we all have our own dreams which we may or may not remember. The subjects of those dreams are as varied as every dreamer, and there is no reason to believe that what we dream will shape our lives.

Dreams correspond to brain activity while in the REM stage of sleep. The mind (whether or not it exists separately from the brain) is an incredibly rich and complex thing; any attempt to reduce its products to a compact set of symbols or explanations misses out on that richness.

Books like "1001 Dreams Explained" are not even worth your time — better spend that time trying to systematically recall and record your dreams and ponder your reactions to them. Such reflection should provide you with a wealth of information directly relevant to your life and feelings.

Whether your pursuer is wearing green or wearing a hat or is a

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