

In Between Dreams

Does “in between” mean betwixt and between or in the midst?

A “there”, a site, but where? Or is it here and there, torn in between?

That would indicate a transition period, a “not anymore” and at once a “not yet”.

A dream is also a “nowhere”, not materialized and gone instantly.

Sartre writes about this moment of transit between the waking state and the dream:
the state of Hypnagogia.

I lay down to sleep, but I am not asleep yet.

I command my consciousness, but I also do not.

Sartre, Jean-Paul:
Das Imaginäre, 1940
Knotted consciousness, he calls it in his text
and the dream is a *spell-binding fiction*,
it is merely *belief*.

For Ottessa Moshfegh’s protagonist, too, dreams play a minor role
although she sleeps non-stop for a year.

Moshfegh, Ottessa:
Mein Jahr der Ruhe
und Entspannung, 2018
This was the beauty of sleep—the loss of reality—
but once awake, she recognizes the belief in dreams as the beauty of life.

The nightly dreams and daydreams

are for Freud wishes to be fulfilled.

Freud, Sigmund:
Die Traumdeutung, 1899
Marcus Steinweg’s take on this?

Steinweg, Marcus:
Quantenphilosophie, 2021
Beckett, Samuel:
Ausgeträumt träumen, 1965
Nothing of your dreams is true, except that they are all, without exception, fulfilled!
This has something of Beckett’s *imagination dead imagine*,
or Benjamin’s imagery:

Benjamin, Walter:
Träume, posthum, 2008
The effort of the dreamer who wishes to move his little finger and, in reality, if he ever could, would awaken.
In a dream, I am caught and bound,
which is why Sartre did not like it in there.

In a dream, I am also sort of free,
which is why Benjamin wrote so much about it.

For Steinweg, they are both free and binding

Steinweg, Marcus:
Quantenphilosophie, 2021
since promises are fulfilling dreams.

Are nightmares, then, breaking promises?

A breaking that shatters a whole into two.

As a pair and alone, Schnitzler’s dreamers lay

Schnitzler, Arthur:
Die Traumnovelle, 1926
dreamlessly close to one another in their bed.

Between the two, dreams emerge.

You and me grow into a common dream.

Benjamin, Walter:
Das zweite Ich, ca. 1930
But also between *the second self* and me,
as Benjamin refers to himself while dreaming, as dreamer and narrator.
Which, then, is my true self?

Cahn, Miriam:
überdachte fluchtwege, 2005
Dreaming is self-definition, writes Miriam Cahn
and means all activities, be it *drawing, painting, making music, writing, walking, running,*
or *thinking and breathing*.

Because *when one is dreaming everything is moving is really really true not graspable but portrayable.*

dreaming is taking hold of, is the movement of taking hold.

dreaming is the work of taking hold/evading/running/fleeing,

the work of slipping away, the work of taking flight.

Ocean Vuong takes refuge in dreams too,

Vuong, Ocean:
Night Sky with Exit Wounds, 2017
if I close my eyes
no one can hurt me.

Except for my second self—maybe—

whoever it is,

wherever it lives,

whether purely fiction or real.

Atwood, Margaret:
true stories, 1981
Margaret Atwood says, *don’t ask for the true story*
and simultaneously asks, *why do I need it?*

Fattal, Simone: Interview in
apartamento, 2020
Simone Fattal says, *This is not a dream come true;*
I never imagined this could happen.