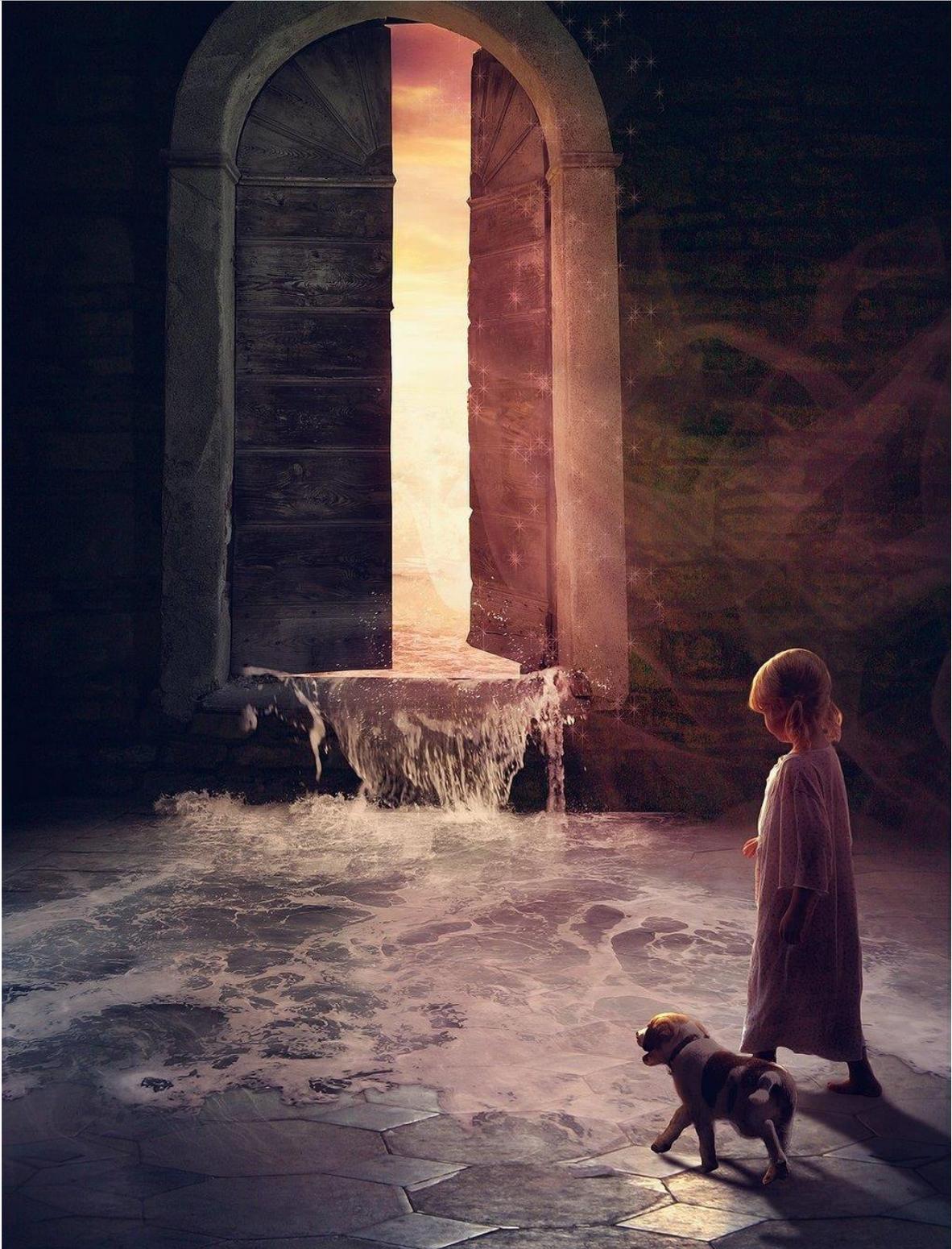


*Man's first initiation
comes in dreams*



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Is it possible by a strong desire before sleep to receive from the Higher Self in dream an answer to questions respecting right thought and conduct?

This question is one of deep importance to those who are in earnest. My answer to it would be “yes.” Bulwer Lytton says in *A Strange Story*,² that man’s first initiation comes in dreams. In the *Book of Job* it is written:

Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof. In thoughts from the visions of the night, when *deep sleep falleth on men*.³

And:

For God speaketh once, yea twice, *yet man perceiveth it not*. In a dream, in a vision of the night, *when deep sleep falleth upon men*, in slumberings upon the bed.⁴

The state spoken of in *Job* is the same as that called *Sushupti* by the Hindus. Man has three principal states or conditions — waking, dreaming, and dreamless or deep slumber. In the last it is held that communion is enjoyed with the Spirit, and that the inner man returning or changing from that condition goes into a dream, short or long, from which he changes into the waking state. The influences of *Sushupti* are highly spiritual. They are common to all men. The greatest villain on the earth, as well as the most virtuous man, goes into *Sushupti* and receives benefit from it. If it were not so, wickedness would triumph in the earth through the overpowering influence of the body and its constant downward tendency. Now, if this is believed and

¹ [This magazine was distributed free of charge to members-at-large of the Theosophical Society in America, who were invited to “send questions, answers to questions, opinions and notes upon Theosophical subjects.” Usually they were handled by the editor, Alexander Fullerton, with the assistance of Mr. Judge. Though some of the editor’s answers (signed Ans.) may have been by Judge, we include only those contributed under his own name, initials, or pen-names. — *Dara Eklund*.]

² [Full text in our Black versus White Magic Series. — ED. PHIL.]

³ [iv, 12-13]

⁴ [xxxiii, 14-15]

the reality of the Higher Self admitted, it follows from what is called *the mysterious power of meditation* that a sincerely devoted man who earnestly calls upon the Higher Self for aid in right conduct will receive in the dream state that succeeds the condition of *Sushupti* the aid asked for. In other words, one can make the dream impressions received out of the highest — or *Sushupti* — state more clear and valuable than is usual with those who think nothing about it. But the questions asked and impressions desired must be high and altruistic, because the Higher Self has no concern with material things nor with any temporal affairs. This power will of course vary with each man according to his nature and the various combinations between his physical, astral, and psychical planes.

