

Welcome to The Little Garden. We present classes in many formats to help with your study of *A Course in Miracles*. Our goal is to inspire students of *A Course in Miracles* to read and study the Course for themselves, and to practice it as written.

[Previous Section](#)

[Next Section](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

[Search the Course](#)

[We invite you to comment on this section.](#)

[The Little Garden Home](#)

## II. The Basis of the Dream

T-18.II.1. Does not a world that seems quite real arise in dreams? 2 Yet think what this world is. 3 It is clearly not the world you saw before you slept. 4 Rather it is a distortion of the world, planned solely around what you would have preferred. 5 Here, you are "free" to make over whatever seemed to attack you, and change it into a tribute to your ego, which was outraged by the "attack." 6 This would not be your wish unless you saw yourself as one with the ego, which always looks upon itself, and therefore on you, as under attack and highly vulnerable to it.

T-18.II.2. Dreams are chaotic because they are governed by your conflicting wishes, and therefore they have no concern with what is true. 2 They are the best example you could have of how perception can be utilized to substitute illusions for truth. 3 You do not take

them seriously on awaking because the fact that reality is so outrageously violated in them becomes apparent. 4 Yet they are a way of looking at the world, and changing it to suit the ego better. 5 They provide striking examples, both of the ego's inability to tolerate reality, and of your willingness to change reality on its behalf.

T-18.II.3. You do not find the differences between what you see in sleep and on awaking disturbing. 2 You recognize that what you see on waking is blotted out in dreams. 3 Yet on awakening, you do not expect it to be gone. 4 In dreams *you* arrange everything. 5 People become what you would have them be, and what they do you order. 6 No limits on substitution are laid upon you. 7 For a time it seems as if the world were given you, to make it what you wish. 8 You do not realize you are attacking it, trying to triumph over it and make it serve you.

T-18.II.4. Dreams are perceptual temper tantrums, in which you literally scream, "I want it thus!" 2 And thus it seems to be. 3 And yet the dream cannot escape its origin. 4 Anger and fear pervade it, and in an instant the illusion of satisfaction is invaded by the illusion of terror. 5 For the dream of your ability to control reality by substituting a world that you prefer *is* terrifying. 6 Your attempts to blot out reality are very fearful, but this you are not willing to accept. 7 And so you substitute the fantasy that reality is fearful, not what you would do to it. 8 And thus is guilt made real.

T-18.II.5. Dreams show you that you have the power to make a world as you would have it be, and that because you want it you see it. 2 And while you see it you do not doubt that it is real. 3 Yet here is a world, clearly within your mind, that seems to be outside. 4 You do not respond to it as though you made it, nor do you realize that the emotions the dream produces must come from you. 5 It is the figures in the dream and what they do that seem to make the dream. 6 You do not realize that you are making them act out for you, for if you did the guilt would not be theirs, and the illusion of satisfaction would be gone. 7 In dreams these features are not obscure. 8 You seem to waken, and the dream is gone. 9 Yet what you fail to recognize is that what caused the dream has not gone with it. 10 Your wish to make another world that is not real remains with you. 11 And what you seem to waken to is but another form of this same world you see in dreams. 12 All your time is spent in dreaming. 13 Your sleeping and your waking dreams have different forms, and that is all. 14 Their content is the same. 15 They are your protest against reality, and your fixed and insane idea that you can change it. 16 In your waking dreams, the special relationship has a special place. 17 It is the means by which you try to make your sleeping dreams come true. 18 From this, you do not waken. The special relationship is your determination to keep your hold on unreality, and to prevent yourself from waking. And while you see more value in sleeping than in waking, you will not let go of it.

T-18.II.6. The Holy Spirit, ever practical in His wisdom, accepts your dreams and uses them as means for waking. 2 You would have used them to remain asleep. 3 I said before that the first change, before dreams disappear, is that your dreams of fear are changed to happy dreams. 4 That is what the Holy Spirit does in the special relationship. 5 He does not destroy it, nor snatch it away from you. 6 But He does use it differently, as a help to make His purpose real to you. 7 The special relationship will remain, not as a source of

pain and guilt, but as a source of joy and freedom. 8 It will not be for you alone, for therein lay its misery. 9 As its unholiness kept it a thing apart, its holiness will become an offering to everyone.

T-18.II.7. Your special relationship will be a means for undoing guilt in everyone blessed through your holy relationship. 2 It will be a happy dream, and one which you will share with all who come within your sight. 3 Through it, the blessing the Holy Spirit has laid upon it will be extended. 4 Think not that He has forgotten anyone in the purpose He has given you. 5 And think not that He has forgotten you to whom He gave the gift. 6 He uses everyone who calls on Him as means for the salvation of everyone. 7 And He will waken everyone through you who offered your relationship to Him. 8 If you but recognized His gratitude! 9 Or mine through His! 10 For we are joined as in one purpose, being of one mind with Him.

T-18.II.8. Let not the dream take hold to close your eyes. 2 It is not strange that dreams can make a world that is unreal. 3 It is the *wish* to make it that is incredible. 4 Your relationship with your brother has now become one in which the wish has been removed, because its purpose has been changed from one of dreams to one of truth. 5 You are not sure of this because you think it may be this that is the dream. 6 You are so used to choosing among dreams you do not see that you have made, at last, the choice between the truth and *all* illusions.

T-18.II.9. Yet Heaven is sure. 2 This is no dream. 3 Its coming means that you have chosen truth, and it has come because you have been willing to let your special relationship meet its conditions. 4 In your relationship the Holy Spirit has gently laid the real world; the world of happy dreams, from which awaking is so easy and so natural. 5 For as your sleeping and your waking dreams represent the same wishes in your mind, so do the real world and the truth of Heaven join in the Will of God. 6 The dream of waking is easily transferred to its reality. 7 For this dream reflects your will joined with the Will of God. 8 And what this Will would have accomplished has never *not* been done.

[Previous Section](#)

[Next Section](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

[Search the Course](#)

[We invite you to comment on this section.](#)

[The Little Garden Home](#)

>