Sigmund Freud
*Interpretation of Dreams* (1899)
“Leonardo DaVinci” (1910)

Arts One, UBC
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Sigmund Freud, 1856-1939

Circa 1905

1921

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Revealing what is hidden

“Aetiology of Hysteria,” (Lecture from 1896)
Revealing what is hidden

• In dreams we can see past the censor to unconscious wishes (Dreams 159, 168-169)

• Psychoanalysis has “excellent methods that help to bring ... hidden material to light” (“Leonardo” 62)

• Psychoanalysis can “penetrate the most fascinating secrets of human nature” (Ibid. 100)
Seeing what we don’t want to see

“Like Oedipus, we live in ignorance of [Oedipal] wishes, repugnant to morality, … and after their revelation we may all of us well seek to close our eyes to the scenes of our childhood” (*Dreams* 280).

Don’t reject psychoanalysis because seems to reveal “an unpardonable slur on the memory of a great man” (“Leonardo” 62).
Structure of the psyche
 Dreams: two systems

Otto gave her an injection; probably the needle wasn’t clean

I am not responsible for Irma still being unwell

Dream distortion

manifest content

Censor

latent content

Unconscious wish
Distortion in dreams: Condensation

- White patch & turbinal bones
- Otto gave her injection
- Shouldn’t give injections thoughtlessly

- daughter
- F’s use of cocaine
- friend who died from cocaine
- patient’s use of cocaine
- Irma’s friend
- patient’s toxic state from F’s injection
- Otto gave her injection

White patch & turbinal bones

Otto gave her injection

Shouldn’t give injections thoughtlessly

daughter

F’s use of cocaine

friend who died from cocaine

patient’s use of cocaine

Irma’s friend

patient’s toxic state from F’s injection
Dream distortion: Displacement

R was my uncle

A yellow beard stood out clearly

R = simpleton
N = criminal

Religion not why
R & N not profs

Face image by Michael Thompson from Noun Project
Unconscious, Preconscious, Conscious
Freud’s “topographical” model

Censor

Repression

Return of the repressed

Conscious

Preconscious

Unconscious
Dreams as sensory images

From part of *Interp. Dreams* not assigned

- perception
- memory
- unconscious
- preconscious

outside world

Asleep, dreaming

actions
Id, Ego, Super-ego
The space occupied by the unconscious id ought to have been incomparably greater than that of the ego.
Sexual life
Oedipus, castration (boy)
Oedipus, castration (girl)
Sublimation

The sex drive is ... endowed with a capacity for sublimation, an ability to replace its immediate aim with others that may be more highly valued and are not sexual” (“Leonardo” 56)

“Leonardo did not really lack passion .... He had simply transformed his passion into a thirst for knowledge” (53)

- Note sexual image after this quote...
Leonardo, his mother, and a vulture
Leonardo & homosexuality

Narcissism
The vulture & the smile
“Kindly nature has granted the artist the ability to express his most secret psychical impulses, hidden even from himself, by creating works that have a powerful emotive effect on others …” ("Leonardo" 80).