

GOTHIC BOURNES

**SOME SURPRISING AND
WONDERFUL DREAMS
(c. 1775)**

TRANSCRIPTION BY

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Nº 13

THE
HISTORY
OF
WITCHES, GHOSTS,
AND
HIGHLAND SEERS:
CONTAINING

Many wonderful well-attested Relations
OF

SUPERNATURAL APPEARANCES,
Not Published before in any similar Collection.

DESIGNED

For the Conviction of the UNBELIEVER, and the Amusement of the
CURIOUS.

*Somnia, terrors Magicos, miracula, Sagas,
Nocturnos Lemures, portentaque, Thessala rides?*

Say, can you laugh indignant at the schemes
Of magick terrours, visionary dreams,
Portentous wonders, witching imps of Hell,
The nightly goblin and enchanting spell?

BERWICK:
PRINTED FOR R. TAYLOR.
[PRICE THREE SHILLINGS]

Surprising Dream of an Arcadian.

AS two Arcadians, intimate companions, were travelling together, when they came to Megara, one of them went to an inn, and the other to a friend's house. Both had supped at their respective places, and were gone to bed; when he, who was at his friend's house, dreamt that his companion came to him, and begged for heaven's sake to assist him, for the inn-keeper had contrived a way to murder him. Frightened at first out of his sleep, he rose up, but coming a little to himself, he thought, upon recollection, no heed was to be given to the vision, and went quietly to bed again. But he was no sooner got into his second sleep, but the same vision repeated its visit, but the form of its petition was quite altered. He besought him that, since he had not come to his assistance, while he was among the living, he would not suffer his death to go unrevenged: told him, that as soon as he was murdered, he was tossed by the inn-keeper into a waggon, and had a little straw thrown over his corpse. He intreated him to be ready very early at the door before the waggon went out of town. This dream it seems disturbed him very much, and made him get up very early. He nicked the time, and met with the waggoner just at the door, and asked him what he had in his cart. The fellow run away frightened and confounded. The dead body was pulled out of it, and the whole matter [151] coming plainly to light, the inn-keeper suffered for the crime. What is there one can call more divine than a dream like this?

The Dream of Simonides.¹

THIS person, seeing a body thrown dead upon the shore, though a stranger, caused it to be buried. Much about that time he had it in his head to go on ship board, but dreamt that he had warning given him by the man interred, not to go; that if he went, the ship would infallibly be cast away. Upon this, Simonides returned, and every soul of them that went on board was lost.

¹ Possibly Simonides of Ceos, a Greek poet who lived between 556 BC to 468 BC.

A wonderful Dream of Prestantius.²

A CERTAIN gentleman, named Prestantius, had been entreating a philosopher to solve him a doubt, which the philosopher refused to do. The night following, although Prestantius was broad awake, he saw the philosopher standing full before him, who explained his doubts to him, and went away the moment after he had done. When Prestantius met this philosopher next day, he asks him why, since no intreaties³ could prevail with him the day before to answer his question, he came to him unasked, and at an unseasonable time of night, and opened every point to his satisfaction. To [152] whom the philosopher thus replied. Upon my word it was not I that came to you; but in a dream I thought my own self that I was doing you such a service.

Strange Dream of Archbishop Abbot's Mother.⁴

WHEN archbishop Abbot's mother (a poor clothworker's wife in Guildford) was with child of him, she longed for a Jack, and dreamt that if she should eat a Jack, her son in her belly should be a great man. She arose early the next morning and went with her pail to the river side (which runs by the house, now an ale-house) to take up some water, and in the water in the pail, she found a good jack, which she dressed, and eat it all. Several of the best inhabitants of the town were invited to the christening of the child; it was bred up a scholar in the town, and, by degrees, came to be archbishop of Canterbury.

Miraculous Preservation of Dr. Hamey, by a Dream.⁵

WHEN Doctor Hamey, one of the college of physicians in London, being a young man, went to travel towards Padua, and coming to Dover (with several others) he shewed his pass, as the rest did, to the governour⁶ there. The go[153]vernour told him, that he must not go, but he must keep him prisoner. The doctor desired to know for what reason; and how he had transgressed? Well, it was his will to have it so. The packet-boat hoisted sail in the evening (which was very clear) and the doctor's companions in it. There ensued a terrible storm, the packed boat was lost, and all the passengers

² Due to context, the Prestantius mentioned here might be the same Prestantius that Saint Augustine meets in his *City of God*, whose father also talks about a strange dream in which, strangely, he becomes a horse —said shapeshifter being called a “hippanthrope”, similar to a lycanthrope.

³ Entreaties

⁴ Said person was the real Archbishop of Canterbury, who lived between 1562 and 1633.

⁵ Probably Doctor Baldwin Hamey, an English physician who lived between 1600 and 1676. He did visit Padua.

⁶ Governor

drowned. Next day the sad news was brought to Dover. The doctor was unknown to the governour, both by name and face; but the night before, the governour had a perfect vision in a dream, of doctor Hamey who came to pass over to Calais, and that he had a warning to stop him. This the governour told the doctor the next day. The doctor was a pious good man, and has several times related the story.

A Murder wonderfully discovered by a Dream.

IN 1690, one in Ireland dreamt of a brother or near relation of his (who lived at Amesbury in Wiltshire) that he saw him riding on the Downs, and that two thieves robbed and murdered him. The dream awaked him; he fell asleep again, and had the like dream. He wrote to his relation an account of it, and described the complexion, stature, and cloaths⁷ of the thieves, and advised him to take care of himself. Not long after he had received this mo[n]itory⁸ letter, he rodetowards Salisbury, and was robbed and murdered; and the two vil[154]lains were discovered by this letter, tried, executed, and hung in chains on the road to London.

Surprising Dream of Glaphyra⁹

GLAPHYRA, the daughter of king Archilaus, after the death of her two first husbands, (being married to a third, who was brother to her first husband, and so passionately in love with her, that he turned off his former wife, to make room for this marriage) had a very odd kind of dream. She fancied that she saw her first husband coming towards her, and that she embraced him with great tenderness; when, in the midst of the pleasure which she expressed at the sight of him, he reproached her after the following manner; “Glaphyra, says he, thou hast made good the old saying, that women are not to be trusted. Was not I the husband of thy virginity? Have I not children by thee? How couldst¹⁰ thou forget our loves, so far as to enter into a second marriage, and after that into a third; nay, to take for thy husband a man who has so shamelessly crept into the bed of his brother? However, for the sake of our past loves, I shall free thee from thy present reproach, and make thee mine for ever.” Glaphyra told this dream to several women of her acquaintance, and died soon after.

⁷ Clothes

⁸ In the source text, the letter ‘n’ was illegible. My deduction was that it was ‘monitory’ due to the context.

⁹ She was a real princess from Cappadocia, who died c. 7 AD, whose homeland was a Roman client state, and whose lineage can be traced back to Herod.

¹⁰Archaic. Second person singular of *could*.

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Remarkable Vision of King James V.

KING James V. dreamed, that James Hamilton,¹¹ (who was executed for high treason) was running at him with his drawn sword; and that first he cut off his right arm, then his left, and threatned¹² shortly to come and take away his life; and then disappeared. When the king awoke in a fright; and pondering about the event of his dream, word was brought him, that both his sons departed this life, almost at one and the same time.

The Dream of St. Polycarp.¹³

ST. Polycarp bishop of Smyrna, a man eminent for his great piety, learning and sanctity of manners, when the persecution growing hot at Smyrna, the general cry was, away with the impious; let Polycarp be sought for¹⁴. The good man, unmoved at the news, resolved to endure the brunt, until his friends, knowing his importance and usefulness to the church, prevailed with him to turn aside to a neighbouring village, where with a few companions, he continued day and night in prayer, earnestly interceding with heaven for the peace and tranquillity of all the churches in the world: three days before he was seized by those employed^[156] to hunt for him, falling in a trance at night, as he was at prayer, he dreamed, that his pillow was on fire, and was burnt to ashes, which, when he awakened, he told his friends, and was a prophetic presage that he should be burnt alive for the testimony of Christ; in the mean while his friends prevailed further with him, to retire to another village, where he was found out by the hunters, whom he might have avoided, but did not chuse¹⁵ it, saying, the Lord's will be done. He was immediately conducted into the city, at the command of Herod the Trenarcha¹⁶, or justice of the peace in that district, who was his mortal enemy. Being led to the place of execution, a voice was heard from heaven by many, saying, Polycarp, be strong, and quit¹⁷ thyself like a man. Being brought before the publick¹⁸ tribunal, where the proconsul having asked, if he was Polycarp, answered in the affirmative; and,

¹¹ Actually James Hamilton of Finnart, the illegitimate son of James Hamilton, 1st Earl of Arran. He was apparently falsely convicted and executed, though the alleged crime tool was a firearm, not a sword.

¹² Threatened

¹³ He was the Bishop of Smyrna, and lived between 69 and 155 AD. Thus, during the Roman Empire.

¹⁴ He truly was persecuted and executed, as part of the persecution against Christians that happened in the Roman Empire until the conversion of Emperor Constantine in 4th century AD.

¹⁵ choose

¹⁶ Misspelled word "(e)irenarch", an Ancient Greece (and therefore belonging to the Eastern Roman Empire too) officer who had judicial powers. The irenarch who judged St. Polycarp truly was called Herod. See more in *More than a Memory*, p. 55 (shorturl.at/agiDR)

¹⁷ acquit

¹⁸ public

though several deaths and tortures were named, it was agreed at length he should be burnt; towards which the apparatus being prepared, he was tied to a stake, but at his own desire, not nailed; for he said, he was endued with courage enough to abide the fire without nailing. When the pile was lighted, the flames, how violent soever¹⁹, in a most marvellous manner, formed themselves in an arch, so as they did not touch or affect the body of the dying martyr: which the cruel unrelenting persecutors observing, ordered one present to dispatch him with a sword, who having thrust him in the side, such abundance of blood issued from the wound, as extinguished the fire. Those who are curious to have this mournful theme at more length, [157] will find it, in all its circumstances, in Doctor Cave's lives of the primitive fathers, from page 18th, to page 22^d²⁰, folio edition.

¹⁹ howsoever violent

²⁰ 22nd