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About, 1,100 words

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The TUNNEL

By

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The TUNNEL

Mr. Layne is it?

Yes, doctor.

Well, how can I be of help to you?

I'm having this reoccurring dream.

Tell me, how does it start?

Well, I'm naked.

No clothes on at all?

No.

And then what?

Oh, well, I'm running, quite effortlessly, along a path;
a straight and narrow path that keeps getting wider.

No shoes on you?

No.

Are you feeling any pain on your feet or in your legs?

No.

The path is smooth then?

Yes.

Are you short of breath? Are you getting tired?

No, not at all.

How long does it continue, this running of yours?

Oh, not very long. It seems like it's for about the length of a football field that I'm going over.

You're not wearing a watch to look at? To tell you how much time it's taking you?

No.

Do you see anyone anywhere? Is there someone persuing you?

No.

And there's no one you're chasing, either?

No.

So then, what happens next?

Eventually, I can see a dark funnel ahead of me.

Do you enter it?

No. I go right up to it and stop and, for some reason, I don't go into it.

Why not?

I don't know.

Is there something that prevents you from going into it? A barrier of some sort? A fence? A wall?

No, nothing like that. It's as though I can't move

forward because I'm not supposed to.

Are there any signs forbidding you to enter?

No, it's just a feeling that's stopping me. I want to go into it, but somehow I think it's wrong; morally wrong to do it.

Morally wrong?

I know that sounds kind of odd.

So what do you think your problem is?

I feel frustrated over and over again.

Tell me, how often are you having this dream?

Oh, at least five and sometimes six or seven times in succession.

Always one a night?

Yes.

You're not married, are you, Mr. Layne?

No.

Have you ever been married?

No.

Do you have a girl friend? A fiancée? Anything like that?

No.

Have you ever had sex with a woman?

Oh, yes.

Recently?

No.

Some time ago then?

Ah, yes, a couple of years ago, I guess.

Under what circumstances?

I was in love; I wanted to get married.

And what happened?

She dumped me to marry someone else.

How do you feel about that?

Hurt, at first.

And later?

Disappointed.

Not angry?

No.

Is that the only woman you've had sex with?

Yes.

But not the only one you've wanted to have sex with?

No.

This dream you're having, Mr. Layne, indicates you still have a problem stemming from that relationship of a couple of years ago; from your being rejected for someone else.

But I've accepted what happened to me; I've adapted to it.

Oh, well, except for your dream, you may not be aware you have a problem. It may be submerged in your subconscious.

Well, doctor, is there something that can be done about it?

Yes, I believe so. Now this may sound like a rather unusual suggestion, Mr. Layne, but I'm recommending that you have sex with another woman.

Any woman?

Well, yes, but preferably with someone you are attracted to and we can talk about this again after you've done that.

You mean after I've had the sex?

Yes, of course.

Just how am I supposed to do that?

Oh, well, simply tell her it's doctor's orders. She'll understand, I'm sure.

Doctor's orders?

Oh, I'm only kidding, of course. Just do what you can and, after you've done it, you can call my secretary and make another appointment to see me.

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Mr. Layne, it's good to see you again.

Well, I had my sex.

Oh, good, I hope.

But I'm still having that dream.

Even after the sex?

Yes.

That same dream?

Yes, but now I'm going into the tunnel.

Well, that's good. You're inside the tunnel. No more frustration. That's a step in the right direction.

But there's still a problem.

And what might that be?

Well, once inside, I have one hundred dollar bills

clutched in my hands.

In both of them?

Yes, but then they disappear.

You mean the money you were holding?

Yes, all of it.

How much money are we talking about?

As much I could hold. I didn't count it.

And those are the only changes in your dream?

Yes.

Well, how do you feel about that?

Lost. I feel lost. I had money and then it was all gone. I'm in a dark tunnel and I'm alone and I can't see where it goes.

This woman you had sex with, was she a prostitute?

Yes, she was the only one I could find right away.

You still have no clothes on in your dream?

Yes.

The sex you just had, how was it for you?

It was okay.

Only okay?

Yes.

Is that because you weren't in love with her?

Yes, that's why.

Well, perhaps it would help if you found a woman you were in love with, who also loves you.

Yes, I think it would.

Well, why don't you give that a try, but failing that, my next suggestion might be more difficult to achieve.

And what would that be, doctor?

I'm recommending you give birth to a child.

You mean making a woman pregnant and having a baby with her?

Yes.

What good would that do?

It would, I'm sure, give you a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment, but only so long as you're absolutely positive the baby is yours.

Will, will it get me through the tunnel? Will that stop my dreaming?

Mr. Layne, you should know by now there are no

guarantees.

Find a woman I love who loves me. Or have a baby I'm sure is mine. Or wow! Maybe both! Even if I get hurt trying?

Yes, you're on the right path now, Mr. Layne. Good luck!

(end)