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## Dreams

Dreams are one of the biggest motifs in the book and hold a lot of significance. The dreams give us a detail that we would have never had. Like the wife and the feelings of the man and boy. Cormac McCarthy shows in this new apocalyptic world, dreams have great importance and give us a view into the past and how dangerous dreams can be.

In the first couple of pages of the book, we see a glimpse of the man's old life through a dream of his. "In dreams his pale bride came to him out of a green and leafy canopy...She wore a dress of gauze..."(pg.18) The man talks about a bride which leads us to conclude that he was once married. It also seems like they were married somewhere that has color, light, and nature. Then we see a scene of her walking out in a dress of gauze, which may mean she was sick because she could have been wrapped in anything but McCarthy chose her to wear gauze which is a type of bandage. We hear of her again when they were near the river " she was sick and he cared for her...He did not take care of her and she died alone somewhere in the dark..."(pg.32)We get to know more about the wife and that she was sick and that she may have died somewhere during the apocalypse. I believe she died during the apocalypse because he talks about dying in the dark. The man talks about the past being light and the present being dark.

Dreams also bring up some truth and maybe some forecasting. While staying in a shed while it was raining the boy went to bed and had a dream and was violently woken up by his

dream and told his father “I was crying. But you didn’t wake up.”(pg.183) The man and boy have to go through many risks to try to survive and have been in great danger. So for the boy to have a dream of the dad dying shouldn’t be out of the blue. It also makes sense that the man was the one to die because the man puts the boy first.

Dreams also show colors and a brighter world than what their current world is. Some of the dreams the man has contradicted the world they live in today. The man talks about how he felt about dreams and says “And the dreams are so rich in color” (pg.21) The man knows the only time color will come up is because of the darkness that they live in. There is a lot of stone imagery but in the dreams we see some color. “In dreams his pale bride came to him out of a green and leafy canopy.”(pg.32) Having nature in this dream is very important because they walk around and see an abundant amount of dead trees burned into ash.

Living in this new world you have to take dreams with a grain of salt. When the boy had another bad dream the man told him “When your dreams are of some world that never was or of some world that never will be and you are happy again then you will have given up. Do you understand? And you can't give up. I won't let you.”(pg.189) The man knows that life is getting harder so if he was to listen to his dream, the man needed the boy to survive. When the man dreamt of his wife he thought to himself “He mistrusted all of that. He said the right dreams for a man in peril were dreams of peril...”(pg.18) He didn't trust his dreams because having dreams of optimism is a danger. Dreams can lead to death in this world.

The dreams of the man and the boy show a difference in the world showing a lighter side with color that was once there but is now just a memory. It also shows the way the man once lived and the fact that he once had a partner. Dreams like that give us some context behind the

man's life and the way things were. Dreams are also a danger in this apocalypse because of the hope that it holds.