

Synchronicity

Amazing coincidences happen all the time — but are they simply the product of random chance, or do they convey some hidden meaning? The answer may depend on whether you believe in synchronicity. The term synchronicity was coined by Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung (1875-1961). Jung's concept of synchronicity is complicated and poorly defined, but can be boiled down to describing "meaningful coincidences." Jung became convinced that everything in the universe is intimately connected, and that suggested to him that there must exist a collective unconscious of humankind. This implied to him that events happening all over the world at the same time must be connected in some unknown way. (Excerpt from LiveScience.com)

There are many such coincidences that we all experience at unsuspecting times and here a few of mine:

(i) During a time of my conversion I awoke one night to see a spherical light shining in the midair darkness of my bedroom which then faded away. I was jolted into awakedness and moved to another place in my house. A short while later as I began to fall asleep my eyes again opened to see three such lights. Several years later a priest friend invited me to his 50th ordination anniversary which I attended in Nazianz, Wisconsin and upon returning I came upon the writings of St. Gregory of Nazianzen which said:

"When I speak of God, you should feel yourselves bathed in a single light and in three lights....there is undivided division, differentiated unity. One only in the Three: such is the godhead. The Three as One only: they are the three in whom is the godhead, or to, speak more precisely, the three who are the godhead." (Gregory Nazianzen, Oration, 39,11. 4th Century.) (See my poem "Light")

(ii) On retreat at the Abbey of the Genesee I was meditating in my room and looking out of the window at the sky when I noticed the fast changing clouds, one of them in the shape of a cross changing into the shape of a dove. Of course, looking at the clouds with a little imagination you can just about see any shape. However, a year later on retreat again I came across the writings of the 10th century theologian St. Symeon who put a strong emphasis on Baptism in the Holy Spirit. He made a point of saying this Baptism often came by way of carrying our daily crosses, i.e., the cross leading to the dove. (See my article "The Energy of Symbols")





(iii) I find the birds really enjoy the stale rye bread with caraway seeds I put on my back deck daily. It doesn't take them long to peck away at the two slices, especially in the morning, as they continue to consume what is left until all is gone.

The other day I was enjoying them as usual and happened to be contemplating the beautiful sky above wondering whether there is extra-terrestrial life in the universe. Then glancing over onto the remains of the bread I noticed:



[El \(deity\) - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_(deity))

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Ēl is a Northwest Semitic word meaning "god" or "deity"

In the Bible El is a prefix meaning power or might for various names of God:

El-Chuwl: The God who gave You Birth.

El-Deah: God of Knowledge

El-Elyon: The God Most High

El-Gibhor: God of Might

El-Olam: The Everlasting God

El-Roi: The God Who Sees

El-Shaddai: God Almighty

Elohim: The Creator God

(iv) Mathematics and Spirituality. My background in mathematics is unusual and without getting into specifics, let it suffice for the present moment, to say that I flunked math in first term 9th grade, passed it with a 66 in second term, and never took a math or science course in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. I spent a number of years working as a laborer in a steel plant, and two years in the armed services, and eventually received a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Purdue University. While teaching at Rutgers University in Camden N.J., I was experiencing my conversion and began teaching a religious education course one evening a week at St. Joseph's Elementary School in Medford, N.J. Arriving early one evening I was walking down the hallway to my classroom when I was encompassed by a force (kind of

felt like electromagnetic) that stopped me in my tracks, turned me into a room I normally would have bypassed, turned me to face a chart on the wall entitled “Mathematical Symbolism”. This experience may partly explain my using mathematical metaphors in my spiritual writings. (See some articles in the section MetaMathematics on my website.)



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