

- F: 'You know how much pleasure your letters give me, but I am far from wishing to burden you with the obligation of a formal correspondence ... Still, I hope you will not be surprised to hear from me as often as my own need prompts me to write' (p. 222).

Soon, however, he was clearly irritated:

- F: 'It probably isn't nice of you to keep me waiting 25 days ... for an answer ... I can't help responding to my own rhythm, and the only compromise-action I am capable of is not to post the letter I am now writing until Sunday' (p. 259).
 J: '*Pater, peccavi* – it is indeed a scandal to have kept you waiting 25 days for an answer' (p. 262).

A second important event was the journey that Freud, Jung, and Ferenczi undertook together to America in 1909. Much has been written about this already, and I won't go into much detail here. But let me please point out that the three men spent practically all their time together, be it on the ship to and from America, be it during their stay there. They spent much of their time analysing each other's dreams, and I sometimes wish I could have been a little bird listening to their conversations.

There is one episode that has gained some notoriety. Edward A. Bennet recounts what Jung later told him (1961, p. 43): '[W]hen their boat was approaching New York with its famous sky-line, Jung saw Freud gazing – as he thought – at the view and spoke to him. He was surprised when Freud said, "Won't they get a surprise when they hear what we have to say to them" – referring to the coming lectures. "How ambitious you are!" exclaimed Jung. "Me?" said Freud. "I'm the most humble of men, and the only man who isn't ambitious." Jung replied: "That's a big thing – to be the only one."

There is another version of this episode that has gained some notoriety and is often quoted in the literature, although most often without giving a reliable source for it, according to which Freud actually said: 'Don't they know that we're bringing them the plague?' (e.g., Noll 1994, p. 47). According to Elisabeth Roudinesco (1993, p. 398), this anecdote goes back to what Jacques Lacan claimed Jung had told him. Lacan had visited Jung in 1954 to ask him about his relationship with Freud. In a seminar given in Vienna the following year, in German (!), Lacan then declared publicly that Jung had allegedly told him about that statement of Freud's. Roudinesco notes that Lacan's word is the only evidence we have that this might actually have happened. All other sources I consulted (Jones, Schur, Ellenberger, Brome, Oberndorf, Roazen, Hale, Gay, or the above quoted Bennet) only report that Freud said something like: 'They will be quite surprised at what we will have to say to them!' In his interview with Eissler, Jung has the following to say: 'When we entered the harbor of New York, we were standing on the bridge, and Freud said to me: "If they only knew what we

are bringing them!" I thought: Well, we will soon see what the Americans will do, won't we?! (laughs)' (Library of Congress, Freud Archives).

In New York City there also occurred one scene, which Jung later described as a turning point in his relationship with Freud. There exists one short reference to it in Ferenczi's *Clinical Diary* (1985), and two more detailed accounts of it, the latter both going back to Jung himself. One is an interview he gave to Saul Rosenzweig in 1951, who then wrote about it in his book on the psychoanalysts' expedition to America (1992). The other is the account Jung gave Kurt Eissler, when the latter interviewed him for the Freud Archives in 1953.⁶

Ferenczi – obviously an eyewitness – simply mentions Freud's 'hysterical symptom' of 'incontinence on Riverside Drive', a 'weakness, which he could not hide from us and himself' (1985, p. 184). Rosenzweig tells the story as follows:

[In the interview, Jung] described one aspect of the American journey in detail. ... [T]here was a visit ... to the Columbia University Psychiatric Clinic ... While looking at the Palisades⁷ Freud suffered a personal mishap. He accidentally urinated in his trousers and Jung helped him out of this embarrassment. ... Freud entertained a fear of similar accidents during the time of the lectures at Clark University. So Jung offered to help Freud overcome this fear if Freud would consent to some analytic intervention. Freud agreed and Jung began the 'treatment.'

(Rosenzweig 1992, pp. 64-65)

It was then that the following famous incident occurred: Jung asked Freud to give him some intimate personal details, and Freud refused on the grounds that he could not 'risk his authority.' It was precisely at that moment, as Jung later said and wrote various times, that Freud lost his authority altogether (e.g., Jung 1962, p. 182).

In his interview with Eissler, Jung also mentions that there was no public toilet in the vicinity and that Freud was suddenly afraid he wouldn't be able to hold his water, upon which he promptly wet his pants, and they had to get a cab to go back to the hotel. Freud was extremely embarrassed, but also feared that this was a sign of approaching senility, a symptom of a

⁶ Jung also alluded to this incident in a talk with E. A. Bennet: 'In New York Freud spoke to Jung of personal difficulties – Jung did not talk of these – and asked his help in clearing them up' (1961, p. 42).

⁷ Rosenzweig comments that this reference to the Palisades was at first puzzling to him, but he then concluded that the mishap must have happened 'on the occasion of the group's visit to Columbia University ... The group were on Riverside Drive ... and could see the distant Palisades on the other side of the Hudson river' (1992, p. 292). Rosenzweig's conclusion that this happened on Riverside Drive is substantiated by Ferenczi's remark quoted above (first published seven years before Rosenzweig's book, but obviously overlooked by the latter).

paralysis, to which Jung replied, nonsense, that would simply be a neurotic symptom. But of what?, Freud said. Everybody can see that you are extremely ambitious, Jung retorted, which Freud vehemently denied.⁸ Still, he told Jung, that he would be immensely relieved if this were 'only' a neurotic symptom. So Jung offered to analyse him and asked him to tell him some dreams. He analysed them up to the point, at which – and here Jung again tells the story quoted above – Freud refused to give him further details of a very intimate nature. When pressed by Eissler, Jung then hinted at family affairs, with a thinly veiled reference to Martha Freud and Minna Bernays. Still, Jung maintained, the little analytic work they had done was enough to make Freud's symptom disappear for the duration of their trip.

If this scene and Freud's refusal were so important to Jung, and robbed Freud of his authority, it is surprising that no trace of this can be found after their trip in their correspondence. On the contrary:

- J: 'I feel in top form and have become much more reasonable than you might suppose. ... On the journey back to Switzerland I never stopped analysing dreams and discovered some priceless jokes' (p. 247).
- F: 'The day after we separated an incredible number of people looked amazingly like you; wherever I went in Hamburg, your light hat with the dark band kept turning up. And the same in Berlin' (p. 248). '[Thanks to] your companionship during the trip ... I never felt that I was among strangers' (p. 250).
- J: 'Occasionally a spasm of homesickness for you comes over me, but only occasionally ... The analysis on the voyage home has done me a lot of good' (p. 250).

Still, the reverberations of this extremely intense encounter over a period of 40 days, including analyses with each other, probably mostly of dreams and probably in the presence of the third member of the party, must have been immense. Let us not forget that both Jung and Ferenczi could have realistic hopes to succeed Freud as the leader of the psychoanalytic movement.

After the trip to America, Jung wrote even more to Freud about the 'coy new love,' as he called it, which had him in its grip, and which should preoccupy him to the end of his life: mythology. At first, this met with the complete approval of Freud, who obviously hoped and thought that Jung would apply Freud's theories, especially of the so-called nuclear complex, the Oedipus complex, to the vast field of mythology, and thus show that it was not only the *primum movens* in neuroses, as Freud himself had shown, or in psychoses, where Jung and Bleuler had already demonstrated that the symptomatology of the illness followed what Bleuler called 'Freudian mechanisms' (Bleuler 1906). Jung even encouraged Freud to join him in this interest and write himself about it.

⁸ Psychoanalytic theory linked enuresis to excessive (repressed) ambitiousness. On Freud's denial of being ambitious, see also above.