

DREAMS AND THE NUN'S PRIEST'S TALE

It is clear that the chickens of this story are better educated than typical barnyard fowls. Why should a reader of this tale know less than a chicken? Below, you will find a synopsis of the dream-lore conveyed through the most famous and influential of medieval treatises on dreams and dream interpretation. What kind of dream does the noble cock of this tale insist that he has experienced? What kind of dream does his favorite wife think that he has had?

DREAM TYPES DISCUSSED IN MACROBIUS'S COMMENTARY ON THE DREAM OF SCIPIO.

VALID DREAMS (spiritual in origin)

1. **SOMNIUM**--a symbolic or allegorical dream experience requiring interpretation.
2. **VISIO**--an exact, realistically portrayed vision of the future
3. **ORACULUM**--a description of the future or a revelation provided by a spirit, a relative, or an authority figure who appears in a dream

INVALID DREAMS (of mundane origin)

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4. **INSOMNIUM**--a distorted vision resulting from emotional distress or digestive disorder
 5. **PHANTASMA**--a delusion or hallucination resulting from mental disorder