

1. "This is nothing but...." "This is...." "This probably is...." "This may be...." We recognize this series of generic stems as a progression into modesty, hermeneutic humility, interpretive openness. Each sentence has its appropriate contexts. This thinksheet tries to consciousness-raise about that, and especially about the hubristic tendency to move, for ego and professional satisfaction, leftward in the series: only God can say "nothing but" with assurance that nothing's been left out, so "nothing but" gives us the godlike feeling of uncontradictability, incontrovertibility--in short, being right. That being-right feeling was one of the satisfactions of "modern man" with his materialistic epistemology, but it is denied post-moderns, who are too sophisticated to be unaware that that old certainty was purchased at the cost of reductionism and epistemic imperialism. [On this sophistication, see Borges' spoof of the map-makers who kept making the map bigger till it came full size and covered the country, confusing the citizenry between reality and cartography: "Subsequent Generations, less Addicted to the Study of Cartography, found this vast Map Useless, and not without Impiety abandoned it to the Inclemencies of Sun and Winter."--P.136, Jorge Luis Borges, HISTORIA UNIVERSAL DA LA INFAMIA (Madrid: Editorial Alianza, 1971).]

2. The chart [map?!] below lays out some possibilities for interpreting an instance of "mental illness" or "dream" or "difficult relationship" or....

EVENT/CONDITION

In an event/condition, all three may obtain, and more. How could I say otherwise without being a hypocrite to the principle?

viewed/treated REDUCTIVELY

= "SIGN"--Something is "indicated" [in the diagnostic-medical sense].  
Assumption: the two ends are mutually exhausting, without transcendence though not necessarily without reverberations.

viewed/treated KERYGMATICALLY

= "SYMBOL"--Something is being announced that is "normally" unpresent to "daily" consciousness.

viewed/treated MAIEUTICALLY

= "SACRAMENT"--Something is struggling to be born.