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**A translation of Marcio Veloz Maggiolo's
"Interpretación de Sueños" Interpretation of Dreams**

TAYLOR LANE

Patricio Infante awoke that day with a storm in his head: he had dreamt about lottery numbers. Even though it was against his beliefs, he was supposed to buy the ticket that would turn him into a millionaire. He was a Christian man, a high school teacher, and not much given to ambition. This dream had upset him: not only did he need to get the ticket, but he shouldn't pay for it, either; only in this way would the dream be fulfilled, as his ancestor had explained to him in the dream.

His head was spinning and he found no way to escape the confusion. By mid-morning, he had abandoned the idea, but an hour later he had taken it up once more. His major objection to the idea was that he needed to pilfer something from an unfortunate lottery vendor who could scarcely get anything to eat from the sale of his tickets.

He asked his wise wife for advice, and she recommended: "If you steal the ticket and it wins, go and give twenty percent to the same man you took it from and give another twenty percent to our church, and then the damage will be undone."

So he decided to do it her way.

He spent more than four hours searching for the number he would need to get. But that ticket seemed not to exist. Totally relieved, he decided to return home. He was driving his car down an avenue in the city when he had to stop at a traffic light. A lottery vendor drew near and told him: "Here is the number that you're looking for. Buy it, and tonight you will be a millionaire."

Patricio was stunned when he saw the number--the same one he was looking for.

He took it, and at that very moment the light changed; he told the vendor to cross the street so he could pay him.

Patricio crossed the avenue, but he did not stop. He was nervous and filled with such fear that on various occasions he almost had an accident.

While Patricio was heading home, the victim of the theft was cursing his bad luck. However, he took enough care to write down the thief's license plate.

That night Patricio was tense as he waited for the drawing to start. He had stayed glued to the television, until finally they announced the winning number. Ticket number 345562 had won first prize. His was number 225798. But the number 345562 sounded familiar to him...

it reminded him of somewhere.

Sure enough, two days later he saw a lottery ticket vendor in the newspaper who was telling an unlikely story: a man had stolen a ticket from him, and after he wrote down the fleeing man's license plate number, he realized that it was the same number of one of the tickets he hadn't sold. He had kept it out of superstition. It was number 345562.