

First cause versus second cause

Spiritual Wisdom

What if you slept? And what if in your sleep, you dreamed? And what if in your dream you went to heaven and there plucked a strange and beautiful flower? And what if when you awoke, you had the flower in your hand? Ah! What then?

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge

A vase that sits on a table in your dream is made of your very own consciousness. It may take on the appearance of glass, metal, or clay, but the first-cause “substance” of which the vase in your dream is made is consciousness. You could call the other perceived qualities of the vase second-cause.

If you drop a glass vase in your dream, it is likely that the vase will appear to shatter and equally possible that you may cut your dream-finger while picking up the glass fragments. Aha! Physical evidence that the experience is real, right?

Here are observations of the first and second causes in this dream experience:

- **Second-cause:** The shape, color, and sharpness of the glass shards are *second-cause qualities* of the vase.
- **First-cause:** Your own creative consciousness is the *first cause* behind the dream vase as well as your bleeding dream finger. According to the ancient spiritual sages, a higher-level form of the same first-cause consciousness that creates your dreams has also created your waking state and the so-called real world.

Universal first-cause is the mother of this whole creation. First-cause can change anything, create new worlds, and answer any prayer. (See Chapter 15 for more on how this first-cause power manifests in your life.)

With an awareness of the divine nature of this world, you can look at everything as an opportunity to interact with the Divine. Look for God in all the right places, which is everywhere. Touch God, feel God, taste God inside and out. See God in nature, in trees, in birds and other animals, in the sun and the rain, and in the moon and stars that shine at night. See divine Consciousness manifesting in and as your loved ones, your not-so-loved ones, and of course yourself.

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Jesus said, “I am the light that is over all things. I am all: from me all came forth, and to me all attained. Split a piece of wood; I am there. Lift up the stone, and you will find me there.” (Gospel of Thomas v.77)