

# ***Cornucopia Causality***

## **The basis of Imaginal Visioning**

Oliver Markley, Ph.D.

There are two fundamentally different types of causality through which things change. For convenience, think of them as Billiard Ball Causality and Cornucopia Causality.



Billiard Ball Causality



Cornucopia Causality

Conventional or *Billiard Ball Causality* is easy to visualize as the action of physical force of one object on another. In the competitive sphere of the “body politic,” this type of causality can be visualized as *power over*. *Cornucopia Causality*, on the other hand, is *power from within*—power to mobilize the manifestation of things in the physical world from a trans-physical origin. Although the cornucopia is traditionally a symbol used in connection with American Thanksgiving Day celebrations, it is also an essential icon symbolizing this phenomenon in many cultures, both ancient and contemporary.

At a superficial level, the cornucopia obviously symbolizes a plentiful harvest, for which we naturally feel gratitude. But at a deeper level, it also symbolizes an expanding spiral vortex of manifestation, which quite literally out-flows from the “no-thing-ness” of the sub-quantum akashic field<sup>1</sup> into the “this-here-ness” of matter, energy, space and time making up what we conventionally call physical reality, including bio-socio-psycho-spiritual phenomena such as thoughts, minds, emotions and motivations. This is the type of causality employed by the life force enlivening all of ecology, and which empowers prayer and other phenomena given names such as Holy Spirit (Christian), Schechinah (Jewish), or Alayavijnana (Nondual Buddhist). Esoteric teachers from various traditions have used the term *imaginal* to distinguish this subtle phenomenon and its relevance for citizen activists.<sup>2</sup>

The integration of both Billiard Ball Causality and Cornucopia Causality in social change work is the essence of what I call integrative, or *Integral* Activism, in which imaginal visioning and meditation are central. The distinctions in the table below help both clarify the meaning of the phrase, *imaginal visioning*, and make clear why the cornucopia imagery is so relevant for creative meditation, visioning, and intentional manifestation.

Imagination / Imaginary	Intuition / <b><i>Imaginal</i></b>
Visualizing	<b><i>Visioning</i></b>
Expressive	Receptive
Active Volition / Willful / Yang	Passive Volition / Willing / Yin
Billiard Ball Causality	Cornucopia Causality

<sup>1</sup> Ervin Laszlo, *Science and the Akashic Field* (2004).

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., *Accessing the Imaginal Realm to Heal our Planet*, by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi with Raqib Ickovits; also the writings of Neville Goddard (who frequently spoke of imaginal prayer), Henri Corbin, Gerald Epstein and others you can easily find online.