

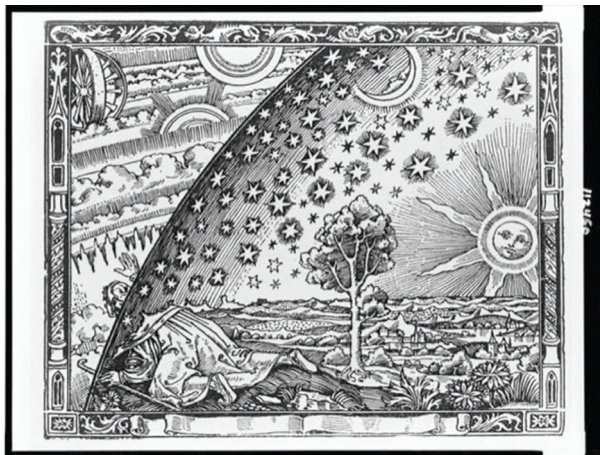
Chasing The Light In Dreams

“The events in our lives happen in a sequence in time, but in their significance to ourselves they find their own order, a timetable not necessarily — perhaps not possibly — chronological.” — Eudora Welty

Dreams never concede to linear time. Our memories of the waking world chronologically follow each other like cascading waters — each wave connects and follows a progression, carving out our corporeal identities. Just as rushing waters eventually dissipate, these memories fade with time’s passage; what happened to us yesterday is clear, but what transpired in days past remain as distant remembrances, glistening faintly on the horizon.

The impression left by a vivid dream, however, remains rooted, and I can recall dreams of my childhood as vividly as if they were last night’s. These long-ago dreams leap back at me, as if wiggling through some kind of time warp, and inform my present feelings and interpretation of the world.

I remember one dream I had as a small child. I was playing in the front yard of my childhood home and happened to look at the sky to see two suns, each shining brightly but



Camille Flammarion’s 19th century print, *L’atmosphère : météorologie populaire*, is a portrait of a young traveler peering through the cosmos. **IMAGE COURTESY CHRISTOPHER BLASDEL**

in stark contradiction to each other. How could there be two suns? I didn’t know what to do with this “vision” and felt a vague sense of foreboding. Which sun is real? Which one will nourish me? Which one will scorch me? This dream confused and frightened me. As a child, I was much disturbed by incongruities in my world, and dual suns signified the epitome of contradiction.

Time experienced through dreams reveals revelatory rather than linear reconstructions of experience. I’ve found that peering into nonlinear segments of memories and dreams reveals the secrets of my desires and actions — and ultimately my fate and reason for being born on this planet — better than any daily journal entries, tied as they are to a strict chronological order.



CHASING THE LIGHT
with Christopher Blasdel

As Albert Einstein said, “The distinction between past, present and future is only a stubbornly persistent illusion.”

And herein lies the ultimate contradiction of our lives: The nonchronological threads of revelation experienced during our “dream time” are what give our chronological lives meaning and continuity.

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Chasing The Light is produced by Lynne Johnson and Robin Stephens Rohr.