

## A New Reading of Mulla Sadra's Causation

Saeed Masoumi\*

DOI: 10.22096/EK.2022.540646.1401

[Received Date: 23/01/2021 Acceptance Date: 05/08/2021]

### Abstract

In this article, the concept of causality in Mulla Sadra's philosophy is considered. Having explained some crucial ingredients of his philosophy, such as genuineness of being, gradation of being, kinds of being, contingency of poverty and motion, an amended definition is represented, which is based on the concept of gradation. In this vein, then, we construct a model of the gradation in Mulla Sadra's philosophy that seems a suitable apparatus for scrutiny and analysis in his philosophy. Eventually, by the natural, efficient cause and the motion concepts, a reading of adjuvant cause is put, which supplies a unitary approach to causation in both the abstract and the material realms. In this approach, motion is in the weakest order of the hierarchy of being. This is in contrast to approaches that merely consider existence to be existing in the present, so the notion of existence is not limited to the present.

**Keywords:** Causation; Genuineness of Being; Gradation of Being; Natural, Efficient Cause; Motion; Adjuvant Cause.

---

\* Assistant Professor at The Institute for Research in Science and Technology Studies, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran.  
Email: masoumisaeed@yahoo.com



## Bibliography

### A) Books & Articles

- Dinani, Ibrahim. *The Being of Capula and Being in Itself*. Second Edition. Tehran: Iranian Institute of Philosophy, 2004. [In Persian]
- Enderton, Herbert Bruce. *Elements of Set Theory*, New York: Academic Press, 1977.
- Ha'iri Yazdi, Mehdi. *The Pyramid of Existence*. Third Edition. Tehran: Iranian Institute of Philosophy, 2006. [In Persian]
- Hinchliff, Mark. "The Puzzle of Change." *Philosophical Perspectives* 10 (1996): 119–136. doi: 10.2307/2216239.
- Markosian, Ned. "A Defense of Presentism." In *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics*, vol. 1, Edited by Zimmerman, Dean, W., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- Motahari, Morteza, Introduction and Footnotes, In *Principles of Philosophy and Method of Rrealism*. Seyed Muhammad Hossein Tabatabai, Tehran: Sadra, 2001. [In Persian]
- . *Collection of works: Detailed Explanation of Manzoumeh 1*. Volume 9, Tehran: Sadra, 2005. [In Persian]
- . *Collection of works: Detailed Explanation of Manzoumeh 2*. Volume 10. Tehran: Sadra, 2005. [In Persian]
- . *Motion and Time in Islamic Philosophy*. Volume 1. Fifth Edition. Tehran: Hekmat Publishing Institute, 2000. [In Persian]
- Obodiat, Abd al-Rasool. *An Introduction to Mulla Sadra Theosophical System*. Volume 1. Tehran: Samat, 2006. [In Persian]
- . *Sadra's System of Wisdom 2, Gradation of Existence*. Second Edition. Qom: Imam Khomeini Educational Institute, 2008. [In Persian]
- Richard, Mark. "Temporalism and Eternalism." *Philosophical Studies*, 39 (1981): 1–13. doi:10.1007/BF00354808.
- Richardson, Kara. "Avicenna's Conception of the Efficient Cause." *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, no. 21 (Jul 2012): 220-239.
- Shirazi, Sadr al-Din Muhammad. *Al-Hikmat al-muta' aliyah fi'l-Asfar al-arba'a al-aqliyyah (Transcendent Philosophy in Four Intellectual Journeys)*. Volume 1. Edited by Gholamreza Aavani, Tehran: SIPRn, 2004. [In Arabic]

- . *Al-Hikmat al-muta' aliyah fi'l-Asfar al-arba'a al-aqliyyah (Transcendent Philosophy in Four Intellectual Journeys)*. Volume 2. Edited by Maqsood Mohammadi. Tehran: SIPRn, 2001. [In Arabic]
- . *Al-Hikmat al-muta' aliyah fi'l-Asfar al-arba'a al-aqliyyah (Transcendent Philosophy in Four Intellectual Journeys)*. Volume 3. Edited by Maqsood Mohammadi. Tehran: SIPRn, 2004. [In Arabic]
- The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, s.v. "Counterfactual Theories of Causation," 2019, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/causation-counterfactual>.
- , s.v. "Presentism," (2022), <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/presentism>.
- , s.v. "Time," (2020), <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/time>.
- Yaghmaie, Aboutorab, "Ibn Sina's Theory of Efficient Causality and Special Divine Action." *Hekmate Sinavi*, no. 54 (2015): 79-93. [In Persian]
- , "Non-interventionist divine action and Neo-Sadaraian causation." *Journal of Religious Thought of Shiraz University*, no. 4 (Winter 2014): 131-144. [In Persian]
- Yasrebi, Seyed Yahya. *Transcendent Wisdom (Review and Critique of the Wisdom of Sadr al-Muti' allihin)*. Tehran: Amir Kabir Publishing Institute, 2010. [In Persian]
- Zakavi, Ali Asghar. *Monadology from view point of Molla Sadra and Leibniz*. Qom: Qom Bustan-e Ketab, 2005. [In Persian]
- Zandieh, Mehdi. *Substantial Motion and Fixity of Knowledge*. Qom: Bustan-e Ketab, 2012. [In Persian]

**B) Websites:**

- Shirvani, Ali, "Motion in the Views of Mulla Sadra and Bergson." Sadra Islamic Philosophy Foundation. <https://mullasadra.org/paper/%D8%AD%D8%B1%DA%A9%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D9%86%DA%AF%D8%A7%D9%87-%D9%85%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B5%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%A7-%D9%88-%D8%A8%D8%B1%DA%AF%D8%B3%D9%86>. [In Persian]