

sound that we experience illusive dreams, and former sensations, those especially which require not reflection, are renewed. The internal sense being unoccupied by actual sensations from the inaction of the external senses, exercises itself upon its past sensations. Of these the most strong appear the most often ; and the more they are strong, the more the situations are extravagant ; and for this reason it is, that almost all dreams either terrify or charm us.

That the internal material sense may act of itself, it is not necessary that the exterior senses should be absolutely in a state of repose : it is sufficient if they are without exercise. Accustomed regularly to resign ourselves to repose, we do not easily fall asleep : the body and the members, softly extended, are without motion ; the eyes veiled by darkness, the tranquillity of the place, and the silence of the night, render the ear useless ; alike inactive are the other senses ; all is at rest, though nothing is yet lulled to sleep. In this condition, when the mind is also unoccupied with ideas, the internal material sense is the only power that acts. Then is the time for chimerical images and fluttering shadows. We are awake, and yet we experience the effects of sleep. If we are  
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