

## On Nothing

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“Nothing is more real than nothing”  
*Samuel Beckett, Malone Dies*

If I ask you to define the word *nothing*, what would you say? Apart from thinking that I have got a lot of free time, first you will try to think what *nothing* means instead of what *nothing* is. Following this structure, nothing means *the absence of anything*. But —I ask you again —is not *the absence of anything* actually *something*?

To understand this, let us see it from another point of view. Nothing is an *abstract* noun and, as it, it refers to an *abstract* object which can be an idea or a concept. So when I ask you to define the word *nothing*, the first thing that should come to your mind is that: nothing is an abstract noun which refers to the absence of anything.

As I said at the very beginning, the word nothing seems to be actually something. Asking you to think of nothing is the same as asking you to create a new color. We tend to visualize concepts in order to understand them. Try to imagine a single teddy bear on a table. If you tell me that it is just the figures of the teddy bear and the table that came to your mind, you are a liar. I am sure that the way we may think about those objects could be totally different, but there is no chance that those concepts appeared isolated in our minds. You probably thought about your teddy bear and/or the table that is on your dining room, but I just asked you to imagine those items. You probably saw behind them, some kind of background (perhaps a white background or, for example, your grandmother's house), but —again — I did not ask you to imagine a background, only the bear and the table.

The background of the mind is the nothing I am talking about. The curtain that falls behind all our daily thoughts. The staging in our everyday thought recollection. The absence of anything that turns into a wonderful — and also annoying — reason to forget where you have to get off the bus. A white, black —or color at leisure — background, that drowns you into a dumb minimalistic world; leaving you not only with the warm feeling that you get after performing a good deed but also, in the eyes of common people, as a dreamer.

This background is where everything in our life is created; our decisions, conceptions, thoughts, feelings and dreams. It provides us with an alternative, an escape, a refuge and, above all, power. It provides meaning, because there is where we actually create the references and significance for our lives. The background does not exist but, without it, there is no possible way for what we call reality to exist.

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