

NON-BEING

Darkness, Emptiness, Nothingness, Silence and Space

1. ESSENCE

- 3266 The eternal parent wrapped in her ever invisible robes
had slumbered once again for seven eternities.
Time was not, for it lay asleep in the infinite bosom
of duration.
Universal mind was not, for there were no celestial
beings to contain it.
The seven ways to bliss were not. The great causes of
misery were not, for there was no one to produce and get
ensnared by them.
Darkness alone filled the boundless all, for father,
mother and son were once more one, and the son had not
3266 awakened yet for the new wheel, and his pilgrimage thereon.
Book of Dzyan (B.C. 3000?)
- 3267 In the first age of the gods, existence was born from
non-existence.
Rig Veda (B.C. 1200-900?)
- 3268 All things in the world come from being.
And being comes from non-being.
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 3269 At the dawning of that day all objects in manifestation
stream forth from the Unmanifest, and when evening falls
they are dissolved into It again. In truth, therefore,
there is the Eternal Unmanifest, which is beyond and above
the Unmanifest Spirit of Creation, which is never destroyed
when all these beings perish.
Bhagavad Gita (c. B.C. 400)
- 3270 It began of nothing and in nothing it ends.
Gallus (B.C. 70-26)
- 3271 ...And the still deeper secret of the secret:
The land that is nowhere, that is the true home...
Chang Po-tuan (fl. 1000 A.D.)
- 3272 Silence is the mother of Truth.
Disraeli (1804-1881)
- 3273 ...The limitless ocean of negative light does not proceed
from a centre, for it is centreless, but it concentrates
a centre.
Samuel L. Mathers (1850?-1918)

2. OPPOSITES

- 3274 The causes of existence had been done away with;
the visible that was, and the invisible that is,
rested in eternal non-being - the one being.
Book of Dzyan (B.C. 3000?)
- 3275 Wherefrom do all these worlds come? They come from space.
All beings arise from space, and into space they return:
space is indeed their beginning, and space is their final
end.
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)
- 3276 Wherever there is light, there is shadow; wherever there
is length, there is shortness; wherever there is white,
there is black. Just like these, as the self-nature of
things can not exist alone, they are called non-substantial.
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 3277 That which is not, shall never be;
that which is, shall never cease to be.
To the wise, these truths are self-evident.
Bhagavad Gita (c. B.C. 400)
- 3278 When the Holy One who created the Universe wished to reveal
its hidden aspect, the light within the darkness, He showed
how things were intermingled. Thus out of darkness comes
light and from the concealed comes the revealed. In the
same manner does good emerge from evil and mercy from
justice, since they too are intertwined.
Zohar (120?-1200? A.D.)
- 3279 Silence is one great art of conversation.
Hazlitt (1778-1830)
- 3280 Under all speech that is good for anything
there lies a silence that is better,
Silence is deep as Eternity;
speech is shallow as Time.
Carlyle (1795-1881)

3. INSIGHT

- 3281 He (The Eternal) created a reality out of nothing, called
the nonentity into existence and hewed, as it were,
colossal pillars from intangible air.
Sepher Yezirah (B.C. 2000?-600 A.D.)

- 3282 Cosmic night, the sinking of manifestation into a state of rest, comes about when the forth-rushing expansive force of creation is interlocked and stabilized into equilibrium.
Kabbalah (B.C. 1200?-700? A.D.)
- 3283 The softest things in the world
overcome the hardest things in the world.
Non-being penetrates that in which there is no space.
Through this I know the advantage of taking no action.
Few in the world can understand teaching without words
and the advantage of taking no action.
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 3284 Silence is learned by the many misfortunes of life.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 3285 There is an eloquent silence: it serves sometimes to approve, sometimes to condemn; there is a mocking silence; there is a respectful silence.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 3286 What is called the spirit of the void is where there is nothing. It is not included in man's knowledge. Of course the void is nothingness. By knowing things that exist, you can know that which does not exist. That is the void.
People in this world look at things mistakenly, and think that what they do not understand must be the void. This is not the true void. It is bewilderment...
Polish the twofold spirit heart and mind, and sharpen the twofold perception and sight. When your spirit is not in the least clouded, when the clouds of bewilderment clear away, there is the true void...
- 3286 In the void is virtue, and no evil. Wisdom has existence, principle has existence, the Way has existence, spirit is nothingness.
Miyamoto Musashi (1584-1645)
- 3287 None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing.
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 3288 Our noisy years seem moments in the being of the eternal silence.
Wordsworth (1770-1850)
- 3289 Three things are ever silent:
Thought, Destiny, and the Grave.
Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873)

- 3290 ...In a seed, the tree which may spring from it is hidden;
it is in a condition of potential existence; is there;
but it will not admit definition. How much less, then,
will those seeds which that tree in its turn may yield.
Samuel L. Mathers (1850?-1918)
- 3291 The finest command of language is often shown by saying
nothing.
Roger Babson (1875-1967)
- 3292 When the tree falls
The shadow flies.
Chinese Proverb

4. POSITIVE

- 3293 The sage manages affairs without action
And spreads doctrines without words.
All things arise, and he does not turn away from them.
He produces them, but does not take possession of them.
He acts, but does not rely on his own ability.
He accomplishes his task, but does not claim credit for it.
It is precisely because he does not claim credit
that his accomplishment remains with him.
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 3294 If a word be worth a nickel, silence is worth two.
The Talmud (B.C. 500?-400? A.D.)
- 3295 Nothing is more useful than silence.
Menander (B.C. 342-291)
- 3296 Health is the greatest possession.
Contentment is the greatest treasure.
Confidence is the greatest friend.
Non-being is the greatest joy.
The Dhammapada (c. B.C. 300)
- 3297 Silence at the proper season is wisdom, and better than any
speech.
Plutarch (46-120 A.D.)
- 3298 The world would be happier if men had the same capacity
to be silent that they have to speak.
Spinoza (1632-1677)
- 3299 Silence is the genius of the fool
and one of the virtues of the wise.
Bonnard (1744-1784)

- 3300 There is a silence, the child of love, which expresses everything, and proclaims more loudly than the tongue is able to do.
Vittorio Alfieri (1749-1803)
- 3301 The temple of our purest thoughts is silence.
Sarah J. Hale (1788-1879)
- 3302 Silence is the element in which great things fashion themselves together; that at length they may emerge, full formed and majestic, into the delights of life, which they are thenceforth to rule.
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 3303 Silence provokes no man's envy, and wounds no man's self-love.
Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873)
- 3304 Silence is the universal refuge, the sequel to all dull discourses and all foolish acts, a balm to our every chagrin, as welcome after satiety as after disappointment.
Thoreau (1817-1862)
- 3305 Silence, when nothing need be said, is the eloquence of discretion.
Bovee (1820-1904)
- 3306 But let me silent be:
For silence is the speech of love,
The music of the sphere above.
Richard Stoddard (1825-1903)
- 3307 I have noticed that nothing I never said ever did me any harm.
Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933)

5. NEGATIVE

- 3308 We cannot conceive of matter being formed of nothing, since things require a seed to start from...
Therefore there is not anything which returns to nothing, but all things return dissolved into their elements.
Lucretius (B.C. 99-55)
- 3309 Slight is the merit of keeping silence on a matter, on the other hand serious is the guilt of talking on things whereon we should be silent.
Ovid (B.C. 43-18 A.D.)

- 3310 Nothing can be born of nothing,
nothing can be resolved into nothing.
Persius (34-62 A.D.)
- 3311 Nothing proceeds from nothingness,
as also nothing passes away into non-existence.
Marcus Aurelius (121-180 A.D.)
- 3312 There is no reply so sharp as silent contempt.
Montaigne (1533-1592)
- 3313 An horrid stillness first invades the ear,
And in that silence we the tempest fear.
Dryden (1631-1700)
- 3314 Nothing's new, and nothing's true, and nothing matters.
Sidney Morgan (1789-1859)
- 3315 A life of nothing's nothing worth,
From that first nothing ere his birth,
To that last nothing under earth.
Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892)

6. ADVICE

- 3316 Clay is molded to form a cup,
But it is on its non-being that the utility of the cup
depends.
Doors and windows are cut out to make a room,
But it is on its non-being that the utility of the room
depends.
Therefore turn being into advantage, and turn non-being into
utility.
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 3317 It is better either to be silent, or to say things of more
value than silence. Sooner throw a pearl at hazard than an
idle or useless word; and do not say a little in many
words, but a great deal in a few.
Pythagoras (B.C. 582-507)
- 3318 Choose silence of all virtues, for by it you hear
other men's imperfections, and conceal your own.
Zeno (B.C. 335?-264)
- 3319 The first virtue is to restrain the tongue; he approaches
nearest to the gods who knows how to be silent, even though
he is in the right.
Cato the Younger (B.C. 95-46)

- 3320 Silence is the safest course for any man to adopt who distrusts himself.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 3321 Let us be silent, that we may hear the whispers of the gods.
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 3322 Be silent and safe - silence never betrays you.
John O'Reilly (1844-1890)

7. POTPOURRI

- 3323 Darkness which may be felt.
Exodus (B.C. 1200?)
- 3324 The Eternal is the intensest form of existence, pure being unlimited by form or reaction; but it is existence of another type than that to which we are accustomed, and therefore it appears to us as non-existence because it conforms to none of the requirements we are accustomed to think of as determining existence.
Kabbalah (B.C. 1200?-700? A.D.)
- 3325 The Imperishable - It is not coarse, not fine, not short, not long, not glowing like fire, not adhesive like water, without shadow and without darkness, without air and without space, without stickiness intangible, odorless, tasteless, without eye, without ear, without voice, without wind, without energy, without breath, without mouth, (without personal or family name, unaging, undying, without fear, immortal, stainless, not uncovered, not covered), without measure, without inside and without outside...
The Imperishable is the unseen Seer, the unheard Hearer, the unthought Thinker, the understood Understander. Other than It there is naught that sees...hears...thinks...understands. Across this Imperishable is space woven.
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)
- 3326 Although one perceives non-existent reality,
Who can believe in its non-existence?
How could a painted peacock
Devour real pearls?
Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)
- 3327 When the light is made to move in a circle,
all the energies of heaven and earth, of the light and dark,
are crystallized. That is what is termed seed-like thinking,
or purification of the energy, or purification of the idea.
When one begins to apply this magic it is as if,
in the middle of being, there were non-being.
Lu Yen (fl. 800 A.D.)

- 3328 Where every something, being blent together
Turns to a wild of nothing.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 3329 Dark night that from the eye his function takes,
The ear more quick of apprehension makes,
Wherein it doth impair the seeing sense,
It pays the hearing double recompense.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 3330 How sweetly did they float upon the wings
Of silence, through the empty-vaulted night,
At every fall smoothing the raven-down
Of darkness till it smiled.
Milton (1608-1674)
- 3331 Silence, how dead! and darkness, how profound!
Nor eye, nor list'ning ear, an object finds;
Creation sleeps. 'Tis as the general pulse
Of life stood still, and nature made a pause;
An awful pause! prophetic of her end.
Young (1683-1765)
- 3332 The waves were dead; the tides were in their grave,
The Moon, their Mistress, had expired before;
The winds were wither'd in the stagnant air,
And the clouds perish'd; darkness had no need
Of aid from them - she was the Universe.
Byron (1788-1824)
- 3333 And out of darkness came the hands
That reach thro' nature, moulding men.
Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892)
- 3334 Blessed are they who have nothing to say,
and who cannot be persuaded to say it.
James Lowell (1819-1891)
- 3335 Silence more musical than any song.
Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
- 3336 Why and Wherefore set out one day,
To hunt for a wild Negation.
They agreed to meet at a cool retreat
On the Point of Interrogation.
Oliver Herford (1863-1935)
- 3337 I have known the silence of the stars and of the sea,
And the silence of the city when it pauses,
And the silence of a man and a maid,
And the silence for which music alone finds the word.
Edgar Lee Masters (1869-1950)

3338 They cannot scare me with their empty spaces
Between stars - on stars void of human races.
I have it in me so much nearer home
To scare myself with my own desert places.

Robert Frost (1875-1963)