# **NON-BEING**

# Darkness, Emptiness, Nothingness, Silence and Space

#### 1. ESSENCE

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

- awakened yet for the new wheel, and his pilgrimage thereon.

  Book of Dzyan (B.C. 3000?)
- In the first age of the gods, existence was born from non-existence.

Rig Veda (B.C. 1200-900?)

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

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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?)

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)

- 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)
- 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)

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.)

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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)

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...

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)

- None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing.

  Franklin (1706-1790)
- Our noisy years seem moments in the being of the eternal silence.

  Wordsworth (1770-1850)
- Three things are ever silent: Thought, Destiny, and the Grave.

Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873)

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Bonnard (1744-1784)

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Non-Being 5 of 9 There is a silence, the child of love, which expresses 3300 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 selflove. 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)

Slight is the merit of keeping silence on a matter, on the 3309 other hand serious is the guilt of talking on things whereon we should be silent.

Ovid (B.C. 43-18 A.D.)

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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)

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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?)

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.)

- 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 ununderstood Understander.
  Other than It there is naught that sees...hears...thinks...
  understands. Across this Imperishable is space woven.

  Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)
- 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.)

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.)

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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)

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