

Nothing vs Something

The concept of having “something” is totally meaningless unless you also have the opposite concept of NOT having something. If you think you have “everything” then whoever else there is around surely has “nothing.” Our minds need hooks to hang thoughts onto. These hooks need to be something already familiar, so let’s start with the idea of emptiness. You drink your cup of tea, and the cup now looks empty. There is nothing inside the cup except air. Next pretend you repeat this same action while floating in space near the International Spacestation. The cup is again empty, not even a trace of air remains, just vacuum. Mathematical concepts of Emptiness or Nothing or the number Zero were developed in several ancient civilizations such as the American Mayan and the Hindi in India. Present Western society teaches this idea in grade school arithmetic, but it took 100,000 years for humanity to arrive here. Still, it takes yet another great leap to imagine that this idea can apply to the entire cosmos. Thus, we arrive at an absolute ‘Everything’ and at a really, truly, absolute ‘Nothing.’ It seems to our human minds that the existence of Everything is predicated by the simultaneous existence of Nothing. It is easy to understand that if we live inside a universe that appears to contain Space and Time, that outside our Universe there is Nothing which contains no Space or Time. Thus, we can also think of our Universe sitting inside the womb of Nothingness. We didn’t Emerge as Something from Nothing, but

simply are one possibility within Nothing! Our entire Universe as a whole contains zero energy or zero 'something,' we are/aren't just a whiff of nothing.

Our ideas materialize because we have had previous similar thoughts. We tend to reject abnormalities that pop out of chaotic thinking as crazy ideas. To feel more comfortable with the concept of something popping out of nowhere, consider these: First imagine you have a large blank chalkboard in front of you. Pick up a marker pen and write a few sentences on the board. What have you done? You now have less space left to write on than before. Now consider a chalkboard of infinite size --- how much possibility do you have to write upon it? OK!? Let's look at another example from information theory. You are presented with all the letters of the English alphabet and are allowed to use each letter only once. You write the short sentence "God is" or if you are an atheist you write "I am." The more structures you form, the less possible structures you have left. What would happen if you had an alphabet of infinite size? From a total chaos of no structure, you can then form maximum structures. Within absolute Nothing there is a possibility of absolutely Everything.

Unfortunately, we know very little about true Nothingness. All our daily experience tells us that when we find 'something,' it is usually in the context of being ensconced within something bigger. Our mind is inside our brain, our brain is inside our body, our body is inside our house, and so on to

include us inside our Universe, inside a Nothingverse. But what surrounds the Nothingverse? Here is where I ask you to do a mind-bending flip-flop! What if the Nothingverse(es) is/are inside ABSOLUTE NOTHING! What if Absolute Nothing isn't something bigger but smaller ---very, very, very much smaller. In fact, since it is absolutely nothing, there isn't even a Vacuum, nor even any Dimensions. 'Nothing' has no size. Imagine a small dot that shrinks and shrinks until it completely disappears like the smile on the Cheshire Cat. Can this be the address of our ultimate residence? Not a place where we come from, but the only place where we actually sit.

Has your mind flip-flopped yet? If not, here's the other half of pure Nothing. Nothing contains 'no things' thus differences in structure do not exist---i.e., change cannot exist. No movement = no appearance of 'time.' 'Nothing' is timeless. So is this the matrix, the god within whose womb all possible universes exist. It is a womb truly empty and yet simultaneously brimming full of every possibility---a magnificently beautiful quantum thought. We are and we are not. We are nothing and everything. We have arrived at one of the basic tenets of Quantum Art. Therefore, the TOE Theory of Art is so much more appropriate than all the previous fragmented attempts. Welcome to the age of the Quantum! Welcome to unlimited possibilities! Welcome to the Creativity that arises in our universe of awareness!

So how does this grandiose Cosmic picture offer any guidance to us as artists? First, we are tiny cogs within the Cosmos. Then we also realize how truly very limited our awareness of nature actually is. We see colour, but only seven colours out of millions of frequencies. We sense time but only 1/50 second chunks like a slow-motion movie. The utter chaos of atomic restlessness in front of us appears restfully calm. We 'see' depth but only infer it from incoming 2D data. The entire biosphere on Earth is mostly unicellular, yet we are not aware of any of it until we catch a cold or get a tummy ache. Well, perhaps that is the point. We are here to appreciate the red sunset, the misty morning, the stunning audacity of a sunflower, and of course the cloying empathy of our human dilemma. All our mind pictures are novel creations, they add more and more complexity to the Universal Awareness. And when we paint pictures and show our friends what else we have created, we embellish things further.