

Nothing

A professor is giving a tutorial to a student.

S: So what are we going to discuss, today.

P: I thought I'd let you decide, this time.

S: I haven't thought of anything.

P: What, nothing?

S: Nothing.

P: Let's go with that then.

S: It might be a very short discussion. We might have nothing to say on the subject.

P: You might be somewhat surprised.

S: I will be at that!

P: Carry on.

S: Nothing is a word. It is also a noun...

P: A pronoun, actually.

S: A Pronoun then, A pronoun denotes a something, does it not?

P: Not exactly! In this case, a something that isn't there, nothing is. Surely that stands to reason.

The student Googles the word Nothing.

A: On study dot com it says it is a noun!

The student shows the professor the data on the smart phone.

P: Well, I'll be blessed!

S: Not for an error, you won't be.

P: Well, that's America for you! Let's get back to the subject, then.

S: Are you saying the Americans are wrong?

P: Let's say there is a difference of opinion.

S: On the word, nothing?

P: We can use the word, Nothingness if you want. That's classified as a noun.

S: Let's keep to the subject. We can't change subjects every time we have a disagreement on what kind of word it is. Besides it's a Buddhist perception isn't it. Let's keep arguable perceptions out of it.

P: Nothing is anywhere where there isn't anything.

S: Anywhere is everywhere until it's chosen or occupied.

P: Give me an example of somewhere where an emptiness that has been chosen.

S: Antarctica and the moon. Didn't the Americans plant a flag on the moon? And what does that signify?

P: Possession, but that's something isn't it. The moon and Antarctica are things, aren't they?

S: Yes, but no one knew Antarctica was there until someone stumbled upon it and there was nothing on the moon until the Americans planted a flag on it And left some exploration debris they had dumped there.

P: Stumbled!

S: Stop splitting hairs.

P: Isn't that somewhat abstract? I mean, human beings are entering the equation, are they not? Anywhere there are humans is not a nothing space.

S: Anywhere around us is a place to put something. Anywhere where there is nothing.
Or as in Something, we didn't know was there, before. As in outer space.

P: Outer space is full of stars.

S: Not full. There is plenty of space between them. Nothing in fact. Space is empty by its definition. It is the space between things. Like the stars.

P: Space and the stars have always been there and humans have noticed where the stars are and where they moved to. What is more, they have studied them, and discovered significance in their movement positions.

S: You are bringing humans into the discussion now. We are supposed to be talking about Nothing.

P: There is plenty of debris, bits of stuff where they haven't combined with a larger body, the asteroid belt for instance. And there are other heavenly bodies that are so far out there, we don't know about them. Some are so small or far away that we can't detect them with the instruments we have at hand at the moment.

S: Heavenly bodies! Are they good people that have gone to heaven and died? Why bring Christian mythology into the equation? Heaven must be absolutely full of those in their after life or death.

P: I didn't mean that and you know it. Religions are a human thought construct. People attribute the things they can't figure out why to their gods.
That is why they created them in the first place.

S: But that doesn't make the heavenly bodies tangible, however you categorize them.

P: Being tangible doesn't make a thing in itself knowable.

S: Don't you give me, now a load of old Kant!

P: Take oxygen, you can't see it can you?

S: No, but I know it's there because we need to breathe it into stay alive, otherwise I wouldn't be alive today and neither would you!

P: Now don't you get personal. This is an argument for arguments sake nothing more, nothing less.

S: How can you have something less than nothing?

P: Just a figure of speech! We are expressing our opinions aren't we, like everyone else?

S: A figure! That's cheating. And leave expressions out of it, will you?
And it's you that's brought all humanity into the equation, this time.

P: We are the judge and jury, are we not?

S: And figures don't count amongst the stars. There's no one big enough out there to count them.
Let's return to nothing much at all. Where on earth were we?

P: Breathing in lung-fulls of air, you were.

S: Yes, we know it's there even though, no one senses it until it's gone. Funny about that when you think of it.

P: And Nitrogen?

S: If nitrogen wasn't there the world would, after a spark, ablaze be. Just like that.

P: You think you have a credible explanation for everything.

S: You're being patronizing, now!

P: Who me?

S: I'm saying nothing.

P: Avoiding the question are we?

S: The void! Now, you might have something there.

P: It wouldn't be a void, if I did.

S: And how about a hole? A hole is empty after all.

P: Not a black one. Light can't escape its force,
Nothing can. Everything around it is sucked into it.

S: So why call it a Black Hole?

P: It's a misnomer! Until the sub atomic particles are re-united.
Like a powerful electric current. Inflation, that's the term
they've called it.

S: How's that!

P: Could be, the electrons or protons of the atom are the only
parts to be sucked into it!

S: Are you sure about that?

P: No, I wasn't there.

S: Resulting in another big bang.

P: How do you know about it? The sound it makes, I mean.
After all, there wasn't anyone around to hear it, was there?

S: I'm saying nothing.

P: But that's something, is it not?

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