

Carlo Roselli

## Into the Depth of Nothingness

### Abstract

Why is there something that in some of us arouses so much amazement? Is this something we call "universe" an illusion of the senses or does it exist out there and independently of the mind? Did it have a start? And if so, was it created by a supernatural entity or did it arise spontaneously from nothing at a given instant in the past? How big is it and what stuff is it made of?

It seems that questions of this kind are unthinkable to answer. But here is an innovative cosmological thesis that is radically different from all those proposed up to now, since in it the idea of an uncreated, necessary and self-sufficient cosmos is proposed and, above all, the concept of nothingness is called into question in order to be interpreted as the ingredient at the foundation of all existing things.

The thesis draws inspiration from two sources: one is an epistolary text, entitled "De nihilo et tenebris" (about nothingness and darkness), written by the philosopher Fredegiso di Tours and dedicated to Charlemagne and his court in the year 800, the other is a contribution provided by the English physicist Peter Atkins in a meeting of scientists at Jesus College in Cambridge in 1992 and entitled "The unlimited power of science", an argument addressed to philosophers and cosmologists as a provocative and seemingly absurd challenge. Indeed, in it Atkins argues that Science will be able to claim total success only if it achieves the goal that anyone would think impossible, namely to account for the emergence of anything from nothing, not from almost nothing, but from absolute nothing; and it is precisely around the concept of *nothingness* that a large part of this essay revolves, in which two fundamental ideas are advanced regarding the study of the cosmos and the presence in it of life and conscious beings: on the one hand, the inadmissibility of any hypothesis on the origin of the cosmos and, on the other hand, the rejection of "emergentism" in the philosophy of mind, i.e. the hypothesis that the conscious mind is a phenomenon that suddenly appeared at a given level of complexity in the course of the evolution of living organisms on Earth. This hypothesis is opposed here by a worldview based on monism, which argues that the phenomenology of experience is a physical property pertaining to all different levels of physical complexity starting from an elementary level. In closing, the Fifth Part concerns the search for simple "objects" and its original geometric setting, in addition to solving a puzzle at the basis of a myth of the Hindu tradition to which *Mount Analogue* refers, the last story by René Daumal, also allows us to provide a description of how a stream of elementary quanta of phenomenal experience can unfold.

The essay is preceded by an account of the most significant ideas that promoted the development of the two great physical theories of the twentieth century: *general relativity* which describes the macroscopic aspects of our universe and *quantum theory* which describes the microscopic structure of matter.

Also available in Italian language with the title "NI-ENTE" - "Il Nulla, il Cosmo, la Coscienza"..  
Contacts: Carlo Roselli, Via di Villa Ada 24, 00199 Roma (Italy), tel. 3335217868,  
email: [beswick@tiscali.it](mailto:beswick@tiscali.it)

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