

Fernando Pessoa

MATTER AND FORM

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There are 2 fundamental conditions of existence: one of these is time and the other is space. Through each of these the Unknown is manifested.

Through Space its condition — is pure Matter, primary matter. Pure matter has no duration. When there is duration there is change; and pure matter cannot change: for if it change what is it to change to? To something other than matter. But then it is no longer pure matter, it exists no longer by space. If it cannot change in itself, it must (appear to change), bear change in itself.

But to bear change in itself it must admit a «changeness», (a principle of change). This must be the pure result of extension and of duration. This is Form.

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Textos Filosóficos . Vol. II. Fernando Pessoa. (Estabelecidos e prefaciados por António de Pina Coelho.) Lisboa: Ática, 1968: 37.