

Fernando Pessoa

When I ask «is matter infinite or not» putting this as a question. . .

When I ask «is matter infinite or not» putting this as a question of reality I err. For matter is the external sum of our sensations and possesses neither of these characteristics.

As a sensation, as a thing perceived, it is necessarily finite, *suo genere*, in its own kind. It is not finite in opposition to infinite (in the usual sense of the word). It is *limited*, so that it may be perceived. The sum of sensations must be something to give a general sensation; and by something is meant, if not exactly something finite, necessarily something *definite*, finite in this sense.

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Textos Filosóficos . Vol. II. Fernando Pessoa. (Estabelecidos e prefaciados por António de Pina Coelho.) Lisboa: Ática, 1968: 39.