

Fernando Pessoa

Being is that by which, outside which...

Being is that by which, outside which nothing can be conceived. (If anything be conceived it is within being).

Being is that in which nothing can be conceived but Being. E.g. if time be anything real it is identical with Being. But if time be Being, Being is time, which is false, for, by observation immediate, Being is Being and no more.

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Pure Being cannot be conceived as having anything (for ex. world) dependent on it, for that would be something in some way conceived beyond Being, outside Being. If what is thought to depend be a reality, it is Being. If a reality of another kind...

If an illusion, a manifestation...

Being is that in which nothing can be conceived but Being. For if anything (for example Good) could be conceived, it would follow that pure Being is imperfect or, in other words, is not pure Being, for it were not self-sufficient.

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Textos Filosóficos . Vol. I. Fernando Pessoa. (Estabelecidos e prefaciados por António de Pina Coelho.) Lisboa: Ática, 1968 (imp. 1993): 23.