

Why is There "Something" Rather than "Nothing"?: Peter van Inwagen

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Transcript - Short

Peter van Inwagen:

To say that there is nothing is to say that there isn't anything. And that's all there is to it. Maybe you could allow the existence of abstract things, if you believe in them like numbers or mathematical objects like that, maybe the question, why is there something rather than nothing, is the question why are there concrete things, or maybe not. A vast emptiness is a vast emptiness. For there to be nothing, if there were really nothing, there wouldn't be points in space that were a certain distance apart, even a vacuum, if there's really nothing, there isn't even a big vacuum. It's just there isn't anything. For anything that you might mention, there isn't that. If you ask why is there anything, well you can't appeal to anything in addition to anything, because there isn't anything in addition to anything. That's what makes it such a difficult question. That's what makes it a non-ordinary question.

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