



You Don't Have to Be Buddhist to Know Nothing: An Illustrious Collection of Thoughts on Naught

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" 'Nothing' is the force
That renovates the World."
—EMILY DICKINSON

"I love talking about nothing. It is the only thing I know anything about."
—OSCAR WILDE

"Nothingness lies coiled in the heart of being—like a worm." —JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

"Who in this world has not felt the power of this: a nothing!"—VICTOR HUGO

Whether a subject of dread or of fascination, nothing (often spelled with a capital "N") has intrigued writers, philosophers, and scientists since ancient times. In this sound-bite history of the concept of nothing, distinguished journalist Joan Konner—author of the bestselling *The Atheist's Bible*—has created a unique anthology devoted to, well, ... nothing. The collection brings together, in one portable volume, the thoughts of well-known writers and philosophers, artists and musicians, poets and playwrights, geniuses and jokers, demonstrating that some of the finest minds explored, feared, confronted, experienced, and played with the real or imagined presence of nothing in their lives. Paradoxical? Yes, indeed. *You Don't Have to Be Buddhist to Know Nothing* shows that, like many Eastern sages, deep thinkers in the West also recognized and pondered nonexistence as an essential component and complement of existence itself. Organized in short topical chapters from "Knowing Nothing" to the "Joy of Unknowing" and "Nothing is Sacred," the verbal snapshots captured in this collection create a coherent work of insight, wisdom, humor and wonder. *You Don't Have to Be Buddhist to Know Nothing* is compelling enough to be read all at once or in short bursts, as the spirit moves.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This little book, conceived and edited by my longtime friend and collaborator Joan Konner will surprise you with absolutely Nothing. Read it and -- Nothing happens. Nothing is the joy of it." --**Bill Moyers' Best Books of 2009**

"This is a book about Nothing. It is full of Nothing and I have learned more about Nothing from this book than I could have imagined--or could not have." --**Edward Albee**, playwright

"Travel in mid-air, discover naught! Joan Konner brings us delightful little nothings packed in a vacuum: we now have the world's nothingness at our feet." --**Philippe Petit**, high wire artist

"A choice selection from language's higher vineyards, that almost makes you comfortable with the unthinkable." -- --**Robert Kaplan**, author of *The Nothing That Is*, and co-founder, with his wife Ellen, of The Math Circle.

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About the Author

Joan Konner conceived and edited *The Atheist's Bible*, which became a national bestseller in 2007. She is Dean Emerita and Professor Emerita of the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, as well as the former publisher and currently an honorary co-chair of the Columbia Journalism Review. This is her second book.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Janice Saucier:

The book You Don't Have to Be Buddhist to Know Nothing: An Illustrious Collection of Thoughts on Naught make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make reading a book You Don't Have to Be Buddhist to Know Nothing: An Illustrious Collection of Thoughts on Naught to be your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You could know everything if you like open up and read a book You Don't Have to Be Buddhist to Know Nothing: An Illustrious Collection of Thoughts on Naught. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this book?

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