

Fernando Pessoa

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Personality can no more be infinite than quantity can. Supreme personality is no longer personality, infinity is not number at all. Infinite personality is no personality at all.

In the first place personality is not a conventional term like «character» (in a restricted sense), of which one man may possess more than another man. In personality there are no degrees. Personality, properly speaking, means and implies 2 things, existence and modality of existence. Substance and quality — this personality means. It may be said and truly that, for instance an atom has personality, by this definition. There is no reason why an atom should not have a personality.

Or perhaps in personality there is understood the idea of intelligence, of will, of sensibility.

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Textos Filosóficos . Vol. I. Fernando Pessoa. (Estabelecidos e prefaciados por António de Pina Coelho.) Lisboa: Ática, 1968 (imp. 1993): 173.