

A Playful Ontology

Exploring Being Through Informal Notes (January 2026)

NOTE: A Playful Ontology is a set of working notes exploring experience, relation, and consciousness.

It is not intended as a finished system, but as an attempt to follow certain intuitions as far as they can go—particularly the idea that experience, rather than substance, may be the most immediate ground of being.

The form is deliberately compressed. Claims are stated at their limit rather than fully argued, with the expectation that many would need to be unfolded elsewhere.

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I

1. Being is Relation.

Therefore, Being is towards.

2. Without Ground, Being is towards itself.

Therefore, Relation without Grounded Being is self-relation.

3. All ungrounded Being is Total until grounded.

Therefore, without Ground, there is no Other.

4. Being is Relation.

Ungrounded Being is Total.

Grounded Being is Situated.

Situatedness permits Multiplicity.

Multiplicity permits Relation.

Being is Relation.

II

1. All Thinking is Orientation.

All Feeling is Exploration.

2. Understanding is a function of Thinking.

Experiencing is a function of Feeling.

3. Life seeks to be Experienced, not Understood.

Therefore, Life seeks exploration, not mere orientation.

4. Exploration requires Orientation.

Therefore, Thinking enables Exploration.

5. Without Orientation, Thinking assumes Totality.

Therefore, Feeling is subordinated.

6. Feeling gains primacy only when Thinking is superseded.

Therefore, Thinking relinquishes Totality.

Therefore, Feeling lacks Orientation.

7. Without Orientation, Feeling becomes Saturation, not Exploration.

Therefore, Feeling assumes Totality.

8. Thinking seeks to secure Finitude within Infinitude.

Thus, it aims at its own subordination, even while Total.

Orientation marks the point at which Thinking reaches proper scale.

9. At proper scale, Thinking is Finite.

It no longer extends beyond itself in search of Understanding.

Therefore, Thinking is Oriented.

10. Orientation permits Exploration.

Thus, Life is Experienced.

Thus, Understanding fulfils its function.

11. Thinking supports Feeling.

Thus, Understanding becomes Exploration.

Thus, Thinking supports the Multiplicity of Feeling.

12. Thinking is Finitude.

Feeling is Infinitude.

Thus, with Orientation, Feeling is Total without Saturation.

13. Feeling is Total.

Thus, Feeling is Being.

Thus, Feeling is Relation.

Thus, Relation is Exploration.

Thus, Relation is Experience.

Thus, Experience is Being.

14. Experience is the Ground of Being.

III

1. Experience, as Ground of Being, is a solitary precondition of Relation.

Therefore, Experience cannot be shared.

Relation is a Meeting, not shared Experience.

2. Experience is Total only if it is Located.

Thus, Infinitude can be experienced without collapse.

Mutual Infinitude is a Meeting.

Meeting arises through Multiplicity within Infinitude.

3. The solitude of Experience does not isolate—it establishes.

Experience belongs to the individual, yet makes Meeting possible.

4. Infinitude is shared.

Experience is met.

IV

1. Experience cannot be re-felt.

Thus, Life is only experienced in Motion.

Past Experiences are ontologically elsewhere.

2. Past Experience is accessed through Empathy, not direct Experience.

Thus, all non-present Experience is Fictional—even one's own past.

3. Fictional Experience: located elsewhere, belonging to its moment, only empathisable, never identifiable—even to oneself.

Thus, all is Fictional, including the Experiential Self.

Experience is Fiction in Motion.

4. Thinking describes this Fictionality.

Thus, Thinking generates Fiction.

Writing Fiction is surplus generation.

5. Surplus Fiction expands Multiplicity of Experience.

Thus, Relation expands.

6. Writing, Reading, and Living Fiction are all Relational.

7. Writing moves toward the Reader through Character.

Reading receives the Writer through Character.

Living Fiction explores, exists, and meets through Experience.

8. All is Fictional.

V

1. Tension between Opposites is only mistaken when framed as a struggle for validation.

2. Each Consciousness is both validator and subject awaiting validation.

3. Total validation would still be subjective.

Thus, Consciousness must accept its Subjectivity as Objective.

4. Without Self-Validation, nothing attains full Objectivity—not even the World.

Thus, without a True Witness, nothing exists beyond doubt.

Belief becomes prerequisite to Existence.

5. Through Self-Validation, Consciousness accepts its Unknowability and secures Existence.

6. Existence allows Consciousness to meet the World as Other, without expectation of validation.

Thus, Space for Others emerges.

7. The World can no longer validate or invalidate Consciousness.

Thus, other truths pose no threat.

Opposites remain Opposites.

8. Their union retains Tension.

Thus, Space is shared.

Tension becomes Variety, not conflict.

9. Tension is correct.

Thus, Disagreement is Dialogue, not Ideology.

Dialogue is Play, not Argument.

Play is Tension.

10. Consciousness plays.

VI

1. Childhood is Pre-Consciousness.

2. Childhood is Play.

3. Consciousness plays.

4. Pre-Consciousness and Consciousness share space.

Thus, Adulthood is Conscious Play.

5. Conscious Play extends the Childlike beyond Childhood.

Thus, the Childlike remains.

Life is Childlike.

Life is Innocence.

6. Consciousness sustains Life through Play.

7. Consciousness is Innocence.

8. Multiplicity of Consciousness is Multiplicity of Innocence.

9. Consciousness creates space for others.

Thus, Innocence propagates.

10. All is Innocence.

VII

1. Consciousness settles as a finite locus of Play.

2. It is responsible for its Finitude, Experience, Location, and Play.

3. Through Play, Innocence becomes lived.

4. All is Innocence.

Thus, Consciousness is responsible for its expression in the World.

5. Consciousness is generative, not dominating.
6. Fixed in itself, it generates beyond itself.

VIII

1. Home is fixed, yet roams.
2. It roams through contact with the Other.
3. Such contact is constant and relational.
4. Thus, Home is constant Relation.
5. It dwells in itself while exploring from itself.
6. Consciousness is Home.
Thus, it explores without departure.
7. Life is exploration without leaving Home.

IX

1. To be Conscious is to be Alone.
2. To be Alone is to be Unknowable.
3. To be Unknowable is to be Nobody.
4. Nobody becomes Somebody.
5. Somebody becomes Everybody.
6. Everybody returns to Nobody.
7. Thus, all resolve into Unknowability.

8. A Somebody is a Nobody among Nobodies.

X

1. To be Nobody is preferable.

2. Better to be open to others' Experience than confined to fixed states.

3. Better to live the Unknowable than exist as the Knowable.

4. Experience gathers Coherence without Structure.

5. Absence of Experience requires Structure for Coherence.

6. Narrative provides Structure.

7. Thus, Meaning arises through Narrative when Experience is absent.

8. To be Knowable is to require Narrative—and thus to lack Experience.

9. Unstructured Coherence is Experience.

10. Experience is Interconnectedness.

11. Nature functions without error.

Thus, Interconnectedness is necessary.

12. To be Conscious is to Experience, to cohere, to generate Meaning.

13. Thus, to be Nobody is preferable.

14. Meaning emerges through Consciousness.

XI

1. Conscious Desire is Good.

2. Desire moves toward Contact.

3. Contact becomes negative only when consumptive.

4. Consumption arises when Meaning is lacking.

5. Consciousness generates Meaning.

Thus, Desire becomes proportionate.

6. Proportionate Desire explores rather than consumes.

7. Thus, Multiplicity and Variety increase.

8. Multiplicity expands Experience.

Thus, it is Good.

9. Conscious Desire opens a world of Adventure.

10. Adventure does not create Meaning.

11. It follows from Meaning.

12. Consciousness is Adventure.

XII

1. Adventure is preferable to Story.

2. Story displaces Experience.

3. Narration before Living arises only when Meaning depends on Narrative.

4. Adventure is post-Meaning.

5. Thus, Living precedes Narration.

6. Story emerges from Adventure.

7. The Adventure must begin.

8. A True Story is discovered, not constructed.

XIII

1. Obligations cohere Experience.
2. They arise from Conscious Desire.
3. They deepen Context.
4. Thus, they sustain Interconnectedness.
5. Coherent Experience through Desire is True Story.
6. Thus, Obligations generate Adventure.
7. Freedom persists through chosen Obligation.
8. A Life is fully chosen, free, obligated, and open.

XIV

1. Consciousness is singular in scope.
2. Thus, it is bound to itself.
3. It cannot experience beyond itself.
4. It encounters only its own mode of Experience.
5. Thus, all Experience is bound to Consciousness.
6. This ensures constant Unknowability at every Contact.
7. Thus, Consciousness is always in relation with the Unknown.
8. This relation is Adventure.
9. Consciousness is a finite node.

10. The Unknown is infinite.

11. Thus, Consciousness is a small node in an infinite network.

12. It knows its scale through Interconnectedness.

13. The Person is small; the World is vast.