

Rather Something - On Nothing in King Lear



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Reviews

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(Gust Kuphal)

RATHER SOMETHING - ON NOTHING IN KING LEAR



GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 52 pages. Dimensions: 8.1in. x 5.8in. x 0.2in. Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1, 0, University of Heidelberg (Anglistisches Seminar), course: Shakespeare and the human evil , 18 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: In Elizabethan English there was no figure standing for nothing. But through the influence of Indian philosophy and mathematical concepts the sign 0 was established in Europe. This introduction had a strong impact - not only in mathematics. The idea assigned to it brought strong dispute with it. Especially in philosophy a lot of questions were being asked: What was the nature of nothing, Was nothing really nothing, Could one talk about nothing Didnt it become something thereby etc. Questions like these appeared during the Nihilist movement in the 16th century, which eventually led to Nietzsches statement God is dead. Shakespeare used the term nothing about forty times in different contexts within his tragedy King Lear. However, in most student guides and source books on King Lear, nothing is not regarded as leitmotive. As Brian ROTMAN points out, William Shakespeare was in the first generation of children in England to have learned about zero from Robert Recordes Arithmetic. In addition to his frequent use of nothing, Shakespeare lets two of his main characters deal with the aspect of nothing: the play dramatizes . . . reductions to nothing, charting the annihilation of human warmth, the dissolution of social, natural, familial bonds, the emptying of kindness, sympathy, tenderness, love, pity, affection into hollow shells, into substitutes for themselves. . . . The main thesis of this essay is based on the mathematical concept of nothing in which zero is the narrow borderline between positive and negative. Hence, Edgar...



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