



LODGE VEGAS # 32

Nothing comes from nothing

Nothing comes from nothing (*Latin: [ex nihilo nihil fit](#)*) is a philosophical expression of a thesis first argued by [Parmenides](#). It is associated with [ancient Greek](#) cosmology, such as presented not just in the opus of [Homer](#) and [Hesiod](#), but also in virtually every philosophical system – there is no time interval in which a world didn't exist, since it couldn't be created *ex nihilo* in the first place. Note that Greeks also believed that things cannot disappear into nothing, just as they can't be created from nothing, but if they ceased to exist, they transform into some other form of being. We can trace this idea to the teaching of [Empedocles](#). Today the idea is loosely associated with the laws of [conservation of mass](#) and [energy](#).

De Rerum Natura

The Roman poet and philosopher [Lucretius](#) expressed this principle in his first book of [De Rerum Natura](#) (eng. title *On the Nature of Things*)

Principium cuius hinc nobis exordia sumet,
nullam rem e nihilo gigni divinitus umquam.^[1]

English translation:

But only Nature's aspect and her law,
Which, teaching us, hath this exordium:
Nothing from nothing ever yet was born.^[2]

He then continues on discussing how matter is required to make matter and that objects cannot spring forth without reasonable cause.

Nam si de nihilo fierent, ex omnibus rebus
omne genus nasci posset, nil semine egeret.
e mare primum homines, e terra posset oriri
squamigerum genus et volucres erumpere caelo;

English translation

Suppose all sprang from all things: any kind
Might take its origin from any thing,
No fixed seed required. Men from the sea
Might rise, and from the land the scaly breed,
And, fowl full fledged come bursting from the sky;

Prepare By, Br. Florian for the benefit of the Craft, OCT, 2012