

Summary

Imagine waking up one morning to a philosophical shock: discovering that you might not actually exist. In his captivating book, *Neexistujeme. Ale to nevadí* (We Do Not Exist. But That's OK.), philosopher Jiří Beňovský explores the thesis central to the philosophy of mind and consciousness – that the “self,” as we traditionally conceive it, does not truly exist.

Deeply engaging and accessible, the book dives into the heart of philosophical debates surrounding consciousness, identity, and existence. Beňovský challenges traditional Western conceptions of the mind, questioning whether our perceived “self” – the apparent bearer of our thoughts, feelings, and experiences – is at best a useful illusion.

Drawing from Eastern philosophies like Buddhism and contemporary Western thought, Beňovský navigates through dual-aspect monism and panpsychism. He proposes the intriguing idea that all things in the universe, from electrons to vacuum cleaners, possess a primitive form of mentality. Initially, this might seem absurd, yet Beňovský persuasively argues why such unconventional perspectives provide richer insights into the nature of consciousness compared to traditional theories.

Far from purely theoretical speculation, the book also considers the practical implications of recognizing that “we do not exist.” This startling revelation encourages readers to reevaluate their relationships with the environment, society, and their personal understanding of the meaning of life. Ultimately, Beňovský suggests that acknowledging our non-existence can foster a deeper sense of connection and compassion.

Neexistujeme. Ale to nevadí invites both philosophical novices and seasoned thinkers on an intellectually thrilling journey. With clarity, humor, and profound insight, it challenges readers to confront fundamental assumptions about reality and selfhood — offering a liberating perspective that could enrich our everyday lives.