

# We are unconscious of the present

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The present: the faculty from which it proceeds lies to us in the fiction of the specious present. There is no present; it is composed of past and future divided by an indivisible point or instant. That instant or time-point, is the strict present. What we call loosely the present is an empirical portion of the course of time, containing at least the minimum of consciousness, in which the instant of change is the present time-point. If we take this as the present time-point, it is clear that the minimum of feeling contains two portions, a sub feeling that goes and a sub feeling that comes. One is remembered, the other imagined. The limit of both are indefinite at beginning and end of the minimum, and ready to melt into other minima, proceeding from other stimuli. The present is an empty time, and we have no sense of empty time. A simple sensation is an abstraction, and all our concrete states of mind are representations of objects with some amount of complexity. We have a constant feeling of pastness, to which every one of our experiences in turn falls a prey. Awareness of change is the condition on which our perception of time's flow depends. But there exist no reason to suppose that empty time's own changes are sufficient for the awareness of change to be aroused. The change must be of some concrete sort, an outward or inward sensible series, or a process of conscious attention or volition. But we have no conscious attention or volition. we are the product of habit, and habit diminishes conscious attention. The reproduction of an event, after it has once completely dropped out of the rearward end of the specious present, is an entirely different psychic fact from its direct perception in the specious present as a thing immediately past. The date of a thing is a mere relation of before the present thing or some past or future thing. The unit of composition of our perception of time is a duration. A date in time. A position in space. The date of a thing is Cajole; to coax or persuade by flattery, soothing words, or false promises; wheedle; persuasion by flattery. The salesman tried to cajole the woman into buying a new vacuum cleaner. The date of a thing is Cache; a hiding place, especially for provisions or treasure. Something hidden or stored in such a place. To hide or store in cache. To hide or store in present. The date of a thing is Escapism; the tendency to escape the dull routine and responsibilities of daily life by daydreaming or by reading, watching Television, or the like. The date of a thing is Escarole; a plant bearing curly green leaves, used especially in salads. The date of a thing is Escarpment; a steep slope or cliff. A fortification consisting of a man-made steep slope. The date of a thing is Eschew; to keep away from; avoid; shun: to eschew wickedness. The date of a thing is Establish; to set up permanently; found: to establish a colony in a new land, to establish a university. To settle (oneself) securely or permanently, as in a business: The lawyer established himself in his new office. To introduce and win permanent acceptance for; gain recognition of: to establish a law; to establish one's reputation. To show or prove to be true: to establish a motive, to establish a fact. The date of a thing is Plasticity; the possession of a structure weak enough to yield an influence. A change in the tissue, becomes a new habit. The date of a thing is Soul; manifesting its faculty of memory, reasoning, volition, imagination, appetite, ambition, goal, drive, hope, desire, purpose, objective, aim, aspiration, target, END. The date of a thing is Matter; is Energy; is 0.000.000.000.000.000.000.000.000.001.672