

## IDENTITY

# Levinas on the Other

Contributed by [Ajay Chaudhary](#)

Source: Levinas, Totality and Infinity

“To approach the Other in conversation is to welcome his expression, in which at each instant he overflows the idea a thought would carry away from it. It is therefore to receive from the Other beyond the capacity of the I, which means exactly: to have the idea of infinity. But this also means: to be taught. The relation with the Other, or Conversation, is a non-allergic relation, an ethical relation; but inasmuch as it is welcomed this conversation is a teaching. Teaching is not reducible to maieutics; it comes from the exterior and brings me more than I contain. In its non-violent transitivity the very epiphany of the face is produced.” — [Emmanuel Lévinas, \*Totality and Infinity: An Essay on Exteriority\*](#)