

But do not you yourself perceive or think of them all the while? This therefore is nothing to the purpose; it only shews you have the power of imagining or forming ideas in your mind: but it doth not shew that you conceive it possible the objects of your thought may exist without the mind. To make out this, it is necessary that you conceive them existing unconceived or unthought of, which is a manifest repugnancy. (159-60)

1. It is impossible to conceive of a tree existing unconceived without (at the same time) conceiving it.
2. Therefore, a tree cannot exist unconceived.

If important did follow from 1, it would be that

A tree cannot exist unconceived by me.

Some analogous cases

- It is impossible to conceive of another mind existing unconceived by me without (at the same time) conceiving it.
- Therefore, no other mind can exist unconceived by me.

- It is impossible to conceive of dinosaurs roaming the earth without conceiving of it.
- Therefore, dinosaurs never roamed the earth unconceived.

- It is impossible to conceive of my funeral without (at the same time) conceiving of it.
- Therefore, my funeral cannot take place unconceived by me.

What follows is only that

A tree cannot exist *as an object of conception* if no one conceives of it.

Compare: A tree cannot exist in the spotlight unless the spotlight is turned toward it.