

Did I Miss Anything?

By Tom Wayman

This is a question frequently asked by students after missing a class.

Student: Did I Miss Anything?

Teacher: Nothing.

When we realized you weren't here
we sat with our hands folded on our desks
in silence, for the full two hours.

Student: Did I Miss Anything?

Teacher: Everything.

I gave an exam worth
40 per cent of the grade for this term
and assigned some reading due today
on which I'm about to hand out a quiz
worth 50 per cent.

Student: Did I Miss Anything?

Teacher: Nothing.

None of the content of this course
has value or meaning
Take as many days off as you like:
any activities we undertake as a class
I assure you will not matter either to you or me
and are without purpose.

Student: Did I Miss Anything?

Teacher: Everything.

A few minutes after we began last time
a shaft of light descended and an angel
or other heavenly being appeared
and revealed to us what each woman or man must do
to attain divine wisdom in this life and the hereafter

This is the last time the class will meet
before we disperse to bring this good news to all people
on earth.

Student: Did I Miss Anything?

Teacher: Nothing.

When you are not present
how could something significant occur?

Student: Did I Miss Anything?

Teacher: Everything.

Contained in this classroom
is a microcosm of human existence
assembled for you to query and examine and ponder
This is not the only place such an opportunity has been
gathered but it was one place

And you weren't here