



## CONSIDERING THE ROLE OF SILENCE

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Silence is the “third speaker in a conversation.”<sup>1</sup>  
Without silence, all communication would be noise with no center.  
Moments of silence allow time for thoughts and emotions to process.  
Silence embodies a philosophy of openness to others;  
A dedication to being open provides space to cultivate  
the whole human person.  
Using reading and writing, we can experience both silence and  
non-silence while reflecting.  
These spaces are opportunities for critical thinking, to witness  
that which lies there:  
Our deeper selves.

The reader has the space to  
understand and interpret what they have read;  
The writer finds the space  
to reflect: Is this what I want to say?

There is more to communication and writing than just filling space;  
Come to a space of silence, and then move beyond...

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1. Max Picard, *The World of Silence*, trans. Stanley Goodman (Chicago: H. Regnery, 1952), 25.