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Patience Among Peeping Toms

There was once a new doctor appointed to serve in a certain hospital for mental disorders. During his first of work there the doctor noticed a number of patients lined up and taking turns at peeping through a keyhole. He paid little attention to this on that first day, but as time went on and he saw this repeated several times, he became curious about what all those patients were seeing through the keyhole.

There finally came a day when his curiosity got the better of him, and so he decided to satisfy it. When the patients lined up before the door, the doctor took his place at the end of the line. When it came his turn to look through the keyhole, the doctor stared hard but could see nothing on the other side of the door. The doctor was puzzled by this, and so he thought about it a while.

When he could think of no explanation for this confusing situation, he asked one of the patients for

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some clarification. He said to the patient, "I looked through the keyhole of that door but I could not see anything--not a single thing!"

The patient said, "Sir, you are a very strange person. We have all been looking through that keyhole for years without seeing anything, but you think that you should see something the very first time you look through it!"