NIETZSCHE’S PHILOSOPHY
OF RELIGION

In his first book, The Birth of Tragedy, Nietzsche observes that Greek tragedy gathered people together as a community in the sight of their gods, and argues that modernity can be rescued from ‘nihilism’ only through the revival of such a festival. This is commonly thought to be a view which did not survive the termination of Nietzsche’s early Wagnerianism, but Julian Young argues, on the basis of an examination of all of Nietzsche’s published works, that his religious communitarianism in fact persists through all his writings. What follows, it is argued, is that the mature Nietzsche is neither an ‘atheist’, an ‘individualist’ nor an ‘immoralist’: he is a German philosopher belonging to a German tradition of conservative communitarianism – though to claim him as a proto-Nazi is radically mistaken. This important reassessment will be of interest to all Nietzsche scholars and to a wide range of readers in German philosophy.

JULIAN YOUNG is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Auckland and honorary Research Professor at the University of Tasmania. His many publications include Heidegger: Off the Beaten Track (2002) edited and translated with Kenneth Haynes, Heidegger’s Later Philosophy (2002) and Heidegger’s Philosophy of Art (2001, 2004).
NIETZSCHE’S
PHILOSOPHY OF
RELIGION

JULIAN YOUNG
For

David Montgomery
## Contents

**Acknowledgements** page xi

**List of abbreviations** xii

**Introduction** 1

1 Schopenhauer and ‘Man’s Need for Metaphysics’ 8
   - Idealism and pessimism 8
   - Religion 9

2 *The Birth of Tragedy* 14
   - The problem 14
   - The question of Nietzsche’s own attitude 15
   - Apollonianism 16
   - Dionysianism 20
   - The role of myth 26
   - The death of tragedy 27
   - What is wrong with the way we are now? 29

3 *Untimely Meditations* 34
   - First Meditation: *David Strauss: The Confessor and the Writer* 34
   - Second Meditation: *Of the Uses and Disadvantage of History for Life* 36
   - Monumental history 37
   - Antiquarian history 38
   - Critical history 38
   - History not in the service of life 39
   - Third Meditation: *Schopenhauer as Educator* 43
   - The way we are now educator 43
   - Educators 45
   - Fourth Meditation: *Richard Wagner at Bayreuth* 50
   - The destitution of modernity 51
   - Wagnerian redemption 52
   - The tragic effect 55
## Contents

4  *Human, All-too-Human*  
   58  
   *Human, All-too-Human: A Book for Free Spirits*  
   58  
   The way we are now  
   61  
   'Indicting' God  
   62  
   Science in life: (1) personal hygiene  
   68  
   Science in life: (2) eugenics  
   69  
   Science in life: (3) political science  
   70  
   Religion in a post-modern world  
   71  
   Art and the Greek revival  
   74  
   The festival  
   79  
   Cosmopolitanism  
   81  
   Criticisms  
   83  
   Death  
   84  
   Daybreak  
   86  

5  *The Gay Science*  
   88  
   The familiar Nietzsche: the bloody-minded creative individualist  
   89  
   The unfamiliar Nietzsche: conservatism and communitarianism  
   90  
   The free spirit as the agent of growth: reconciliation of individualism and communitarianism  
   94  
   Aspirations for the future  
   98  
   Death  
   102  

6  *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*  
   105  
   Christianity  
   105  
   Death  
   107  
   Volk  
   111  
   The festival  
   114  
   Gods  
   117  
   The child  
   118  

7  *Beyond Good and Evil*  
   121  
   Cultural criticism: (1) the 'motley cow'  
   121  
   Cultural criticism (2) Christianity and its 'shadows'  
   122  
   Overcoming diseased modernity: the 'Führer' principle  
   124  
   Nietzsche's *Republic*  
   132  
   Religion in the new society  
   138  
   The festival  
   143  

8  *On the Genealogy of Morals*  
   145  
   Genealogy  
   145  
   Nobles and slaves  
   149  
   Religion in the Genealogy  
   152  
   Community in the Genealogy  
   155  
   Postscript on the free spirit  
   155
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><em>The Wagner Case</em></td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wagner’s failings</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive lessons</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><em>Twilight of the Idols</em></td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The decadence of democracy</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Compassionate conservatism</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The gods</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Law of Manu</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Death and the Dionysian</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><em>The Antichrist</em></td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Healthy versus unhealthy gods</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Law of Manu again</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The <em>Nachlass</em></td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><em>Ecce Homo</em></td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Why Nietzsche is not an ‘individualist’</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Counter-indications</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The return of Dionysus</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Epilogue: Nietzsche in history</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Bibliography</strong></td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Works by Nietzsche</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Works by Schopenhauer</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other works</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Index</strong></td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Abbreviations

Nietzsche’s works are cited using the following abbreviations: roman numerals refer to major parts of the works; arabic numerals refer to sections, not pages. The exceptions to this are (i) references to extraneous material included in translations of Nietzsche’s published works (generally editorial comments and excerpts from the Nachlass) in which case I cite page numbers, and (ii) references to KSA which I cite by volume number followed by the notebook number and, in brackets, the note number (e.g. 13 14 [204]). For bibliographical details of the works cited see pp. 216–17 below. Sometimes I have preferred my own translation to that provided in the translation cited.

A  The Antichrist
BGE  Beyond Good and Evil
BT  The Birth of Tragedy
D  Daybreak
EH  Ecce Homo
GM  On the Genealogy of Morals
GS  The Gay Science
HH  Human, All-too-Human
KSA  Sämtliche Werke: Kritische Studienausgabe in 15 Bänden
NCW  Nietzsche contra Wagner
TI  Twilight of the Idols
UM  Untimely Meditations
WC  The Case of Wagner
WP  The Will to Power
Z  Thus Spoke Zarathustra

Schopenhauer’s works are cited as follows:

FR  The Fourfold Root of the Principle of Sufficient Reason
PP  Parerga and Paralipomena
WR  The World as Will and Representation