

NIETZSCHE'S FREE SPIRIT WORKS

Between 1878 and 1882, Nietzsche published what he called “the free spirit works”: *Human, All Too Human*; *Assorted Opinions and Maxims*; *The Wanderer and His Shadow*; *Daybreak*; and *The Gay Science*. Often approached as a mere assemblage of loosely connected aphorisms, these works are here reinterpreted as a coherent narrative of the steps Nietzsche takes in educating himself toward freedom that executes a dialectic between scientific truth-seeking and artistic life-affirmation. Matthew Meyer’s new reading of these works not only provides a more convincing explanation of their content but also makes better sense of the relationship between them and Nietzsche’s larger oeuvre. His argument shows how these texts can and should be read as a unified project even while they present multiple, in some cases conflicting, images of the free spirit. The book will appeal to anyone who is interested in Nietzsche’s philosophy and especially to those puzzled about how to understand the peculiarities of the free spirit works.

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NIETZSCHE'S FREE
SPIRIT WORKS

A Dialectical Reading

MATTHEW MEYER

The University of Scranton



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To my loving wife and companion of nearly twenty years, Renata.

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Acknowledgments

This book is the result of a project that extends back to my time as a Master's student at Harvard University and my work at the University of Vienna as a Frederick Sheldon Fellow from Harvard University. It develops the argument of two previously published papers (Meyer 2004 and 2006) and expands on the ideas from my previous book (2014a). I am grateful to the various organizers, audiences, and venues at which I have been able to present my work, including the North American Nietzsche Society, the Friedrich Nietzsche Society, Nietzsche in the Northeast, and the Berliner Nietzsche Colloquium, and I would like to thank The University of Scranton for supporting my conference travel, a year-long sabbatical, and summer research with a faculty development grant.

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Abbreviations and Translations of Nietzsche's Published Works

The following is a list of abbreviations and the English translations I use for Nietzsche's works. Because the chronology of Nietzsche's texts is important for understanding the argument of this book, I have listed Nietzsche's works below in the order in which they were written. In most cases, the dates listed are dates of publication. Works marked by (*) are works that Nietzsche only distributed privately. Works marked by (**) are works that Nietzsche authorized for publication but were not published in his lifetime. Thus, the date next to these two types of works is the year in which the work was completed. "P" is the abbreviation for the preface to a given work (except for the preface to the 1886 edition of *The Birth of Tragedy*). Unless otherwise noted, translations of *Nachlass* notes from *Sämtliche Werke: Kritische Studienausgabe* (KSA) and Nietzsche's letters from *Sämtliche Briefe: Kritische Studienausgabe* (KSB) are my own. See the bibliography for information for KSA and KSB.

- 1872: BT = *The Birth of Tragedy Out of the Spirit of Music*. In *The Birth of Tragedy and the Case of Wagner*, trans. W. Kaufmann, 15–151. New York: Vintage (1967). Republished in 1878 and then in 1886 with a new preface and title: *The Birth of Tragedy Or: Hellenism and Pessimism. New Edition with an Attempt at a Self-Criticism*. "Attempt" = "Attempt at a Self-Criticism" (1886).
- 1873: DS = *David Strauss the Confessor and the Writer*. In *Untimely Meditations*, trans. R. J. Hollingdale, 1–55. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1983).
- 1874: HL = *On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life*. In *Untimely Meditations*, trans. R. J. Hollingdale, 57–123. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1983).

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- 1874: SE = *Schopenhauer as Educator*. In *Untimely Meditations*, trans. R. J. Hollingdale, 125–194. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1983).
- 1876: RWB = *Richard Wagner in Bayreuth*. In *Untimely Meditations*, trans. R. J. Hollingdale, 195–254. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1983).
- 1878: HH = *Human, All Too Human: A Book for Free Spirits*, trans. R. J. Hollingdale, 1–205. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1996). Republished as *Human, All Too Human I* in 1886 with an additional preface (= HH I P).
- 1879: AOM = *Assorted Opinions and Maxims*. In *Human, All Too Human: A Book for Free Spirits*, trans. R. J. Hollingdale, 215–299. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1996). Republished as part of *Human, All Too Human II* in 1886 with an additional preface (= HH II P).
- 1880: WS = *The Wanderer and His Shadow*. In *Human, All Too Human: A Book for Free Spirits*, trans. R. J. Hollingdale, 301–395. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1996). Republished as part of *Human, All Too Human II* in 1886.
- 1881: D = *Daybreak: Thoughts on the Prejudices of Morality*, trans. R. J. Hollingdale. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1982). Republished in 1887 with an additional preface.
- 1882: IM = *Idylls from Messina*. Originally published in the *Internationale Monatschrift*. There is no English translation available.
- 1882: GS = *The Gay Science*, trans. W. Kaufmann. New York: Random House (1974). Republished in 1887 with an additional preface, fifth chapter, and appendix of songs (JCR = “Joke, Cunning, and Revenge”; SPV = “Songs of Prince Vogelfrei”).
- 1883–1885: Z (I–IV) = *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. In *The Portable Nietzsche*, ed. and trans. W. Kaufmann, 109–439. New York: Viking Press (1954) (references include book number and an abbreviated section title). Z IV* was distributed only privately during Nietzsche’s lifetime.
- 1886: BGE = *Beyond Good and Evil*, trans. W. Kaufmann. New York: Random House (1989).
- 1887: GM = *On the Genealogy of Morals*. In *On the Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo*, trans. W. Kaufmann, 13–163.

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- New York: Random House (1989) (references include essay number followed by section number).
- 1888: CW = *The Case of Wagner*. In *The Birth of Tragedy and the Case of Wagner*, trans. W. Kaufmann, 153–192. New York: Vintage (1967).
- 1888: TI = *Twilight of the Idols*. In *The Portable Nietzsche*, ed. and trans. W. Kaufmann, 463–564. New York: Viking Press (1954) (references include an abbreviated chapter title and section number).
- 1888**: EH = *Ecce Homo*. In *On the Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo*, trans. W. Kaufmann, 215–335. New York: Random House (1989) (references include abbreviated chapter title and section number; in the section “Books,” the section number is preceded by the abbreviation of the relevant book title).
- 1888**: A = *The Antichrist*. In *The Portable Nietzsche*, ed. and trans. W. Kaufmann, 565–656. New York: Viking Press (1954).
- 1888*: NCW = *Nietzsche contra Wagner*. In *The Portable Nietzsche*, ed. and trans. W. Kaufmann, 661–683. New York: Viking Press (1954).
- 1888**: DD = *Dithyrambs of Dionysus*, trans. R. J. Hollingdale. London: Anvil Press Poetry (2001).

Unpublished Writings

The following are abbreviations for texts that Nietzsche neither published nor authorized for publication. The dates listed are dates of composition.

- 1872: FEI = “On the Future of Our Educational Institutions.” In *Anti-Education*, ed. P. Reitter and C. Wellmon, trans. D. Searls. New York: New York Review of Books (2016).
- 1873: TL = “On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense.” In *Philosophy and Truth: Selections from Nietzsche’s Notebooks of the Early 1870’s*, ed. and trans. D. Breazeale, 77–97. Atlantic Highlands, NJ: Humanities Press (1979).
- 1873: PTAG = *Philosophy in the Tragic Age of the Greeks*, trans. M. Cowan. Washington, DC: Gateway (1962).
- 1872–1876: PPP = *The Pre-Platonic Philosophers*, ed. and trans. G. Whitlock. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press (2001).

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