

## NIETZSCHE'S *THUS SPOKE ZARATHUSTRA*

Nietzsche regarded *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* as his most important philosophical contribution because it proposes solutions to the problems and questions he poses in his later books – for example, his cure for the human disposition to vengefulness and his creation of new values as the antidote to nihilism. It is also the only place where he elaborates his concepts of the superhuman and the eternal recurrence of the same. In this *Critical Guide*, an international group of distinguished scholars analyze the philosophical ideas in *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, discussing a range of topics that include literary parody as philosophical critique, philosophy as a way of life, the meaning of human life, philosophical naturalism, fatalism, radical flux, human passions and virtues, great politics, transhumanism, and ecological conscience. The volume will be invaluable for scholars and students interested in Nietzsche's thought.

KEITH ANSELL-PEARSON is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Warwick. He is the author and editor of a number of books on Nietzsche, including *Nietzsche contra Rousseau*, *Nietzsche's Search for Philosophy*, *Nietzsche's Dawn: Philosophy, Ethics, and the Passion of Knowledge* (with Rebecca Bamford), *Nietzsche and Modern German Thought* (ed.), *A Companion to Nietzsche* (ed.), and *The Nietzsche Reader* (ed. with Duncan Large). He was elected Honorary President of the Friedrich Nietzsche Society in 2021.

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NIETZSCHE'S  
*THUS SPOKE ZARATHUSTRA*  
*A Critical Guide*

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[W]hat is more important is that Zarathustra is more truthful than any other thinker. His teaching, and his alone, has truthfulness as the supreme virtue—in other words, the opposite of the *cowardice* of the 'idealist' who flees from reality, Zarathustra has more courage in his body than all thinkers put together. To tell the truth and *to shoot arrows well*, that is the Persian virtue.

Nietzsche, *Ecce Homo*

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## *Note on Texts, Translations, and References*

The following abbreviations of Nietzsche's works are used in this volume. The specific English translations used by each author are listed in a footnote after the first reference to a translated passage. The Bibliography provides a complete information about all translations used as well as all the cited secondary literature and the cited primary sources for Nietzsche's texts. In the references to Nietzsche's works, Roman numerals generally denote the volume number of a set of collected works or the standard subdivision within a single work, and Arabic numerals generally denote the relevant section number. "P" is the abbreviation for the preface (or in the case of *Z*, the Prologue) to a given work (except for the preface to the 1886 edition of *BT*). Page numbers are added when sections are long, providing more precise information about the relevant text. In citing Nietzsche's unpublished fragments in *KSA*, references provide the volume number followed by the relevant fragment number. In cases where Nietzsche's works are cited from *KSA*, a page number is typically provided. In citing *KSB*, the volume number is followed by the letter number.

## Abbreviations

### **Abbreviations for Nietzsche's collected works in the original German**

KGB	<i>Friedrich Nietzsche: Briefwechsel. Kritische Gesamtausgabe</i>
KSA	<i>Friedrich Nietzsche: Sämtliche Werke. Kritische Studienausgabe</i>
KSB	<i>Friedrich Nietzsche: Sämtliche Briefe. Kritische Studienausgabe</i>

### **Abbreviations for titles of published works**

AOM	<i>Vermischte Meinungen und Sprüche</i> (republished in 1886 in <i>Menschliches, Allzumenschliches II</i> ); translated as <i>Assorted Opinions and Maxims</i>
BGE	<i>Jenseits von Gut und Böse</i> ; translated as <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>
BT	<i>Die Geburt der Tragödie</i> ; translated as <i>The Birth of Tragedy</i> . The "Attempt at a Self-Criticism" added to the 1886 edition is cited as "Attempt" followed by the relevant section number
CW	<i>Der Fall Wagner</i> ; translated as <i>The Case of Wagner</i>
D	<i>Morgenröthe</i> ; translated as <i>Daybreak</i> or <i>Dawn</i>
GM	<i>Zur Genealogie der Moral</i> ; translated as <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> or <i>On the Genealogy of Morality</i>
GS	<i>Die fröhliche Wissenschaft</i> ; translated as <i>The Gay Science</i>
HH	<i>Menschliches, Allzumenschliches</i> ; translated as <i>Human, All Too Human</i> . References to the two-volume 1886 edition are indicated by Roman numerals ( <i>HH I</i> and <i>HH II</i> )
HL	<i>Vom Nutzen und Nachteil der Historie für das Leben</i> ( <i>Unzeitgemässe Betrachtungen II</i> ); translated as <i>On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life</i>
RWB	<i>Richard Wagner in Bayreuth</i> ( <i>Unzeitgemässe Betrachtungen IV</i> )
SE	<i>Schopenhauer als Erzieher</i> ( <i>Unzeitgemässe Betrachtungen III</i> ); translated as <i>Schopenhauer as Educator</i>

## List of Abbreviations

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- TI* *Götzen-Dämmerung*; translated as *Twilight of the Idols*. References include an abbreviated chapter title and section number.
- UM* *Unzeitgemässe Betrachtungen*; translated as *Untimely Meditations*
- WS* *Der Wanderer und sein Schatten* (republished in 1886 in *Menschliches, Allzumenschliches II*); translated as *The Wanderer and His Shadow*
- Z* *Also sprach Zarathustra* (Part IV originally published privately); translated as *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. In most of the chapters in this anthology, references include the part number in Roman numerals and an abbreviated chapter name that is sometimes followed by the section number in Arabic numerals. For example, (Z:I "Prologue" 3) refers to the third section of the Prologue, and (Z:III "Convalescent" 2) refers to the second section of the chapter entitled "The Convalescent" in Part III. Alternatively, references list the part number in Roman numerals followed by "P" for "Prologue" or the chapter number in Arabic numerals (not included in Nietzsche's manuscripts), sometimes followed by the section number in Arabic numerals. For example, (Z P:1) refers to the first section of the Prologue and (Z III.13:2) refers to the second section of the chapter entitled "The Convalescent" in Part III

***Abbreviations for private publications, authorized manuscripts, and unpublished works***

- A* *Der Antichrist*; translated as *The Antichrist* and *The Anti-Christ*
- EH* *Ecce homo*; translated as *Ecce Homo*. References include an abbreviated chapter title and section number. For example, (EH "Destiny" 3) refers to the third section of the chapter entitled "Why I Am a Destiny." In the chapter entitled "Why I Write Such Great Books," the section numbers within the material devoted to one of Nietzsche's books is preceded just by the abbreviation of the relevant book title. For example, (EH BT:2) refers to the second section of the material in the chapter "Books" devoted to BT
- GSt* "Der griechische Staat;" translated as "The Greek State" (references are to page numbers)

- PPP “Die vorplatonischen Philosophen;” translated as *The Pre-Platonic Philosophers* (references are to page numbers)  
 PTAG “Die Philosophie im tragischen Zeitalter der Griechen;” translated as *Philosophy in the Tragic Age of the Greeks*

***Abbreviations for Nietzsche's unpublished notebooks and translations of notebook material***

- CWFN *The Complete Works of Friedrich Nietzsche*. For volumes that include Nietzsche's unpublished writings, these are cited by volume number and fragment number; for volumes that are translations of Nietzsche's published works, they are referenced by the abbreviation of the translated work and corresponding year of publication  
 WLN *Friedrich Nietzsche: Writings from Late Notebooks* (cited with page number)  
 WP *Der Wille zur Macht*; translated as *The Will to Power* (always cited with the corresponding entry from KSA)