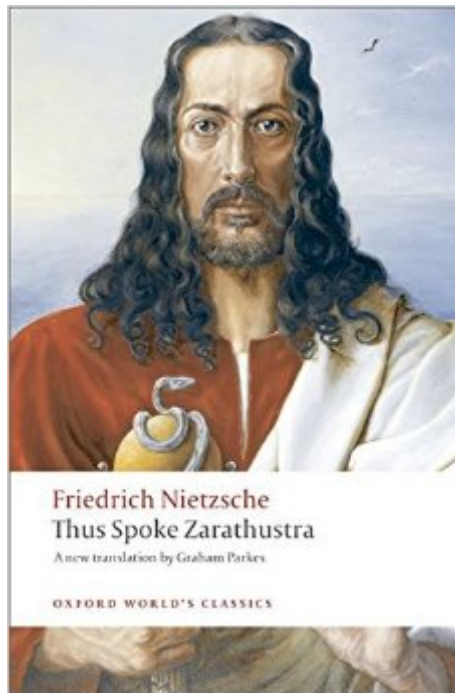


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Thus Spoke Zarathustra: A Book For Everyone And Nobody (Oxford World's Classics)



Synopsis

Thus Spoke Zarathustra is a masterpiece of literature as well as philosophy. It was Nietzsche's own favorite and has proved to be his most popular. In this book he addresses the problem of how to live a fulfilling life in a world without meaning, in the aftermath of "the death of God." His solution lies in the idea of eternal recurrence, which he calls "the highest formula of affirmation that can ever be attained." A successful engagement with this profoundly Dionysian idea enables us to choose clearly among the myriad possibilities that existence offers, and thereby to affirm every moment of our lives with others on this "sacred" earth. Graham Parkes's new translation is more accurate than previous versions, and is the first to retain the musicality of the original, by paying attention to the rhythms and cadences of the German. His introduction examines the work's three most important philosophical ideas and for the first time annotates the abundance of allusions to the Bible and other classic texts with which Nietzsche's masterpiece is in conversation.

About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

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Customer Reviews

"Hold your highest hopes holy," says Nietzsche in one breath, and "God is dead" in another. For Nietzsche the creator God is forever gone. But the God that represents man's highest hopes and aspirations remains very much alive. What Nietzsche's Zarathustra fears most is that creator-man will die along with his creator-God, leaving nothing but "the last man" who has transformed himself into a mere component of an orderly industrial machine. The last man "makes all things small," including himself. He no longer aspires to create something great, but only to play his tiny part in the machine. The last man enjoys his entertainment, but he wants to make sure it too remains small and superficial. "He's careful that his entertainment never takes hold of him." When duty makes man small, as it does in an industrial society that asks him to become a gear in a vast machine, man must cast a "holy no" in the face of duty. Creating freedom is the first step of all creativity. In the past man put "thou shalt" in his holiest place. "Now he must find frenzy and willfulness in his holiest place." Creativity demands saying no to the duty that makes man small, and then "a new beginning, a first movement, a holy yes-saying." "If you can't be the holy men of insight, at least be its warriors, the vehicles and harbingers of its holiness." Nietzsche envisions a new religion where all the piety and reverence we had once directed to the unknown God is directed to a God of insight. He wants us to retain all the evangelical fervor we have lavished on the gospel, but now directed toward a new gospel of creative searching. What is most praiseworthy is what is most difficult. The next step on the path to greatness is the one that leads uphill. You will invariably seem eccentric.

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