

Works

- *Beyond Good and Evil*
- *Twilight of the Idols: Or, How to Philosophize with the Hammer*

Religion

- Believed that the loss of religious faith was one of the factors that was leading to nihilism (An extreme form of skepticism that denies all existence)
- No interest in the metaphysical truth of either Christianity or any other religion – convinced that no religion is really true
- Famous for his pronouncement that “God is dead”

Philosophy

- *Beyond Good and Evil*
 - Aims at changing the reader’s opinion as to what is good and what is evil
 - Philosophy theories give us insights into the minds of the creators but not about the world
 - Questions the necessity of Kant’s a priori judgments – synthetic judgments a priori should not “be possible” at all
- *Twilight of the Idols*
 - Denies many of Plato’s ideas
 - Senses should not be refuted
 - Believing in an unchanging, non-sensory world as superior – adopting a hate of the sensory world
 - Belief in the Christian God is a similar decadence and hate of life
 - Four Great Errors
 - Confusing cause and effect
 - False Causality
 - Imaginary causes
 - Free Will

Will to Power – *Beyond Good and Evil*

- The will has ethical as well as metaphysical primacy - must be a “will to power”
 - Every living thing seeks to discharge its force, to give full scope to its ability
 - Knowledge is the instrument of power
 - No absolute truth – only fictions which serve better or worse to fortify life

Morality

- Mill’s Utilitarianism
 - The interest of mankind collectively must be in the mind of the agent when conscientiously deciding on the morality of the act

- Primacy of the “Golden Rule – Do unto others
- Marx’s Socialism
 - Socialism as the next historical step for society
 - Means of Production in the hands of the proletariat
- Nietzsche - Two types of morality
 - Slave morality – (exemplified in Christianity) people are regarded as base and low in self esteem – promoting as “good” those qualities in others which would make their own debased state tolerable – forgiveness, love, mercy, kindness, patience, sympathy, and humility
 - Master morality – the morality of the aristocrat of the - noble birth, riches, bravery, truthfulness, and blondness
- Nietzsche wanted to destroy the slave morality – at least for superior people
 - Believed the way forward is to transcend the bounds of good and evil, and introduce a second *transvaluation* of values
 - The Superman would arise as a synthesis to the thesis and antithesis of master and slave

Aristocratic Class

- The uncorrupted aristocratic class give the meaning and the justification of a society
- Determines what is good - Creates values; the value of power
- Essential characteristics of a good and healthy aristocracy
 - That it experiences itself *not* as a function (monarchy or commonwealth) but as its *meaning* and highest justification
 - It accepts with good conscience the sacrifice of untold human beings who, *for its sake*, must be reduced and lowered to incomplete human beings, to slaves, to instruments
 - Their fundamental faith that society is the foundation and scaffolding on which a “choice” of being is able to raise itself to its higher task and to a higher state of being
- Common Good - as soon as it is accepted as the ‘*fundamental principle of society*’ it proves to be – a principle of disintegration and decay

Concept of the “Superman” - highest form of life

- Free to express our will to live – the will to power
- Humanity is merely a stage on the way to Superhuman
- Superman will be achieved by an exercise of will not evolution
- Arrival of Superman will be the perfection of the world; not the end of history