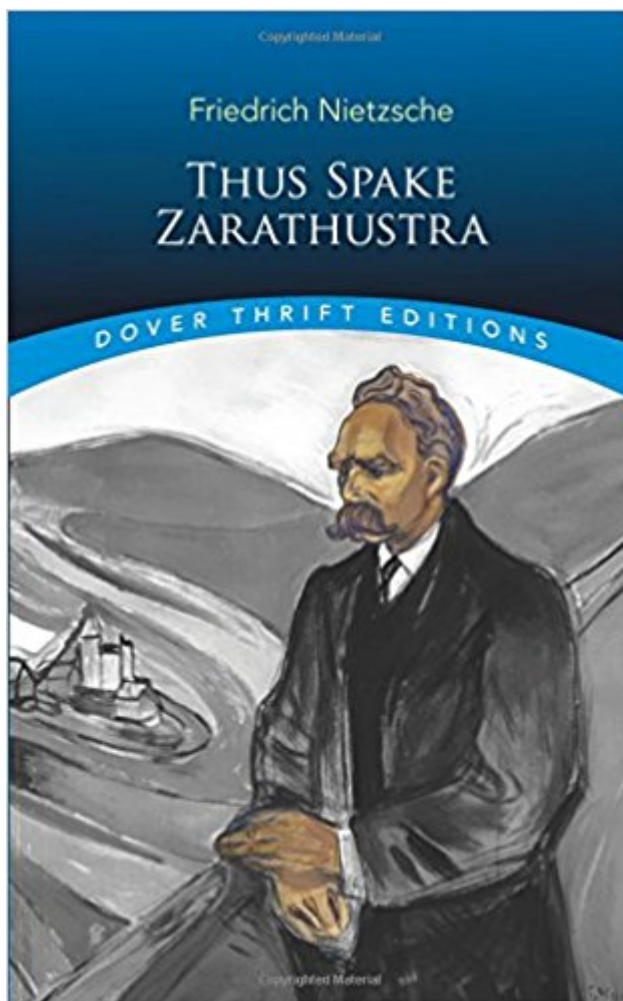


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# Thus Spake Zarathustra (Dover Thrift Editions)



## Synopsis

A tremendously influential philosophical work of the late nineteenth century, *Thus Spake Zarathustra* is also a literary masterpiece by one of the most important thinkers of modern times. In it, the ancient Persian religious leader Zarathustra (or Zoroaster) serves as the voice for Friedrich Nietzsche's views, which include the introduction of the controversial doctrine of the Übermensch, or "superman." Although later perverted by Nazi propagandists, the Übermensch was conceived by Nietzsche to designate the ultimate goal of human existence as the achievement of greatness of will and being. He was convinced that the individual, instead of resigning himself to the weakness of being human and worshipping perfection only possible in the next world (at least in the Christian view), should try to perfect himself during his earthly existence, and transcend the limitations of conventional morality. By doing so, the Übermensch would emerge victorious, standing in stark contrast to "the last man" – an uncreative conformist and complacent hedonist who embodies Nietzsche's critique of modern civilization, morality, and the Christian religion. Written in a passionate, quasi-biblical style, *Thus Spake Zarathustra* is daring in form and filled with provocative, thought-provoking concepts. Today, the work is regarded as a forerunner of modern existentialist thought, a book that has provoked and stimulated students of philosophy and literature for more than 100 years.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

, also translated as *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Treatise by Friedrich Nietzsche, written in four parts

and published in German between 1883 and 1885 as *Also sprach Zarathustra*. The work is incomplete, but it is the first thorough statement of Nietzsche's mature philosophy and the masterpiece of his career. It received little attention during his lifetime but its influence since his death has been considerable, in the arts as well as philosophy. Written in the form of a prose narrative, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* offers the philosophy of its author through the voice of Zarathustra (based on the Persian prophet Zoroaster) who, after years of meditation, has come down from a mountain to offer his wisdom to the world. It is this work in which Nietzsche made his famous (and much misconstrued) statement that "God is dead" and in which he presented some of the most influential and well-known (and likewise misunderstood) ideas of his philosophy, including those of the *Übermensch* ("overman" or "superman") and the "will to power." Though this is essentially a work of philosophy, it is also a masterpiece of literature. The book is a combination of prose and poetry, including epigrams, dithyrambs, and parodies as well as sections of pure poetry.

-- The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Text: English Original Language: German

"Zarathustra the godless!" Written in a unique literary style with a unique philosophical perspective. You experience this book more than you read it. You read a magazine, right? This book is deep and heavy and all us mortals can do is try to wrap our heads around the genius of Nietzsche.

Masterpiece!

Ah not for everyone. Not to sound snobbish but don't attempt to read if your level of reading and understanding isn't in top form . If philosophy is important to you then read i

Nietzsche transfigures himself as a melancholic and incredulous figure. This piece shows his disappointment and sadness regarding the institutions of modern times. The style is a quasi-satire of how religions deliver their messages and it reaches genius proportions in this book. I can see how revolutionary it was more than 100 years ago. It may still cause discomfort to readers nowadays. A must.

Mirrored with the Jungian individuation process, I found the book to be most fruitful. I loved it! I recommend for a fairly experienced reader, both subjectively and objectively.

Dated but an interesting read nonetheless

WOW! I believe I'm a Zorathustrian!! His anger at false teachings match mine

exactly as described

Don't have anything against it, just very hard read for a person who's english is a second language

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