PREFACE

This thesis aims to explore and examine Nietzsche's vision of man and superman in the light of his central concept of will to power and his critique of traditional religion and morality in our present civilization. He is one of the greatest philosophers of the nineteenth century and represents a major historical event. His ideas are of concern not only to the members of one nation or community, nor alone to philosophers but to men everywhere. He has been assigned a great place in the grand tradition of western thought and his fame has spread like wild fire.

The dichotomy between life-affirmation and life-negation is seen as central to Nietzsche's thought. A life-negating perspective denies to man authentic freedom and the dignity of a creator in the realm of values. Man, in his view, has to eternal horizons and perspectives. The realm of values is an open-ended one. The superman is not a completed ideal but a process, the only medium in which authentic freedom can survive. According to Nietzsche, one must consider many perspectives and a philosopher should not imprison his thought in one system. Thus many philosophers are impressed by Nietzsche's ideas that instead of deducing a system from accepted premises one must engage in the pursuit of independent problems.
The thesis is divided into six chapters. Chapter I outlines the historical background of Friedrich Nietzsche's life. The purpose of this chapter is to show how German philosophers have greatly influenced Nietzsche and it shows that Contemporary German philosophy is not a disconnected aggregate of miscellaneous opinions, but that its course has been determined by the historical situation, which resulted from the collapse of Hegel's philosophy and the emergence of separate sciences. Chapter II presents the development and enunciation of his specific philosophy of 'Will to power' and its consequences and ramifications. This chapter also seeks to show how Nietzsche's conception of power is inextricably linked to the tradition of Plato, Spinoza and Schopenhauer. In Chapter III Nietzsche's critique of Christian morality and Christian religion is discussed. This revealing chapter illustrates two kinds of morality, the passionate depth of Nietzsche's antitheism, its recognition of Christian theism as the supreme enemy and its indictment of God on vitalistic, moral and humanistic grounds. Chapter IV presents Nietzsche's conception of man, Darwin's explanation of evolution in terms of the struggle for existence and Nietzsche's idea of new meaning of human existence. Chapter V is concerned with the Nietzsche's conception of Superman, transvaluation of all values and eternal recurrence. The concluding Chapter shows how Nietzsche has influenced other philosophers and brings out his contribution to philosophical tradition.
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