



Beyond Good and Evil: Prelude to a Philosophy of the the Future Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 - 1900)

Read by:	Multiple readers	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	7 hours 55 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1084
Language:	English	UPC:	0684758936615
Style:	Solo	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Non-Fiction, Philosophy		

Beyond Good and Evil: Prelude to a Philosophy of the Future is the second of four seminal late period works by philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche and perhaps the best at clearly stating the principles of his call for a radical departure from the traditional presumptions of philosophy. He exposes what he sees as a lack of critical thinking and a blind acceptance of moral dogma in which good and evil are strict opposites. He urges us instead to see good and evil as simply different expressions of the impulses towards a “will to power”. He calls for “free spirits” who are “investigators to the point of cruelty, with rash fingers for the ungraspable, with teeth and stomach for the most indigestible” to undertake the daunting task of seeing the world as it is and accepting the harsh realities that likely result. He challenges the key precepts of the philosophic tradition by dissecting the short-

comings of its major thinkers. He subjects religion to similar scrutiny, noting the tendency to bow to the “order of rank” as well as an eternal and cruel connection to “three dangerous dietary prescriptions: solitude, fasting, and sexual abstinence.” He also discusses the philosophical particularities of the major western nations and cultures. His statement that ““The time for petty politics is past: the very next century will bring with it the struggle for mastery over the whole earth” is both a validation of his thinking and an eerie prophecy.

First published in 1886 at the author’s own expense and written in an aphoristic style consisting of 296 numbered sections and an “epode”, *Beyond Good and Evil*, along with all of Nietzsche’s work, has been a significant influence in the work of many leading figures in the life of the culture, from artists to academics to statesmen and revolutionaries.

Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche (October 15, 1844 – August 25, 1900) was a German philologist, philosopher, cultural critic, poet and composer. He is best known for several works that articulate his call for a radical rethinking of the nature of man, truth and philosophy: Thus Spake Zarathustra, *Beyond Good and Evil*, *The Genealogy of Morals*, and *the Anti-Christ*. The expressions “God is dead” and “the will to power” derive directly from his work.

Nietzsche was born near Liepzig in the province of Saxony, part of Prussia. After his father, a Lutheran minister, died of a brain ailment in 1849, his mother moved the family to Naumburg to live with her mother. His secondary schooling at the prestigious Schulpforta was followed by studies of theology and philology at the University of Bonn and the University of Liepzig. He was appointed professor of Philology at the University of Basel at the unheard of age of 24 in 1868. He renounced his Prussian citizenship before moving to Switzerland. During his tenure at Basel he published regularly and was befriended by composer Richard Wagner, becoming a member of his inner circle. Increasingly beset by illness, he was forced him to resign in 1879 and spent the next ten years as an independent author until suffering a mental collapse in 1889. He was treated at a clinic in Basel and then cared for by his mother and sister until his death in 1900. His condition was initially diagnosed as paresis due to tertiary syphilis, but some hinted that dark forces unleashed by his ideas were at play. Reexamination of his evaluation documents show brain cancer to be the cause of his breakdown and eventual demise.