



## Thus Spoke Zarathustra

**A Book for All and None**

by *Friedrich Nietzsche*

Modern Library © 1995

368 pages

### The Big Ideas

#### God Is Dead!

OMG! When did he/it die?!

#### Seed of Hope

Plant yours.

#### Chaos & Dancing Stars

Dance!

#### I Am Who I Must Be

And who are you?

#### Virtues & Mistakes

Strange thing with them...

#### How's Your Will?

Command and obey.

#### Dance!

Does your God dance?

#### Flying & Looking Up

Strain necks, please.

#### Your Worst Enemy

Is inside your head.

#### Your Own Flame

Light yourself on fire.

#### Lies

Do you trust yourself?

#### Push yourself.

Praised Be What Hardens!

#### Depth & Height

Go deep to go high.

#### Domesticated Animals

Are you a sheep?

... And a LOT more!

**“But by my love and hope I beseech you: do not throw away the hero in your soul! Hold holy your highest hope!”** ~ Friedrich Nietzsche from *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

You ready for some Nietzsche? Let's start with how you say the guy's name shall we? You can pronounce “Nietzsche” either “knee-chee” or “knee-cha.” (I prefer the latter...sounds cooler, don't you think? ;)

With that behind us, you're ready for a warning: Be warned: The man, as they say, delivers his philosophy with a hammer. As Walter Kaufmann brilliantly articulates in the foreword, Nietzsche *“is a dedicated enemy of all convention, intent on exposing the stupidity and arbitrariness of custom.”*

In *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, we meet the enlightened hero, Zarathustra, who has come down from the mountaintop to deliver a series of scathing rants on everything from his famous proclamation that “God is dead!” to admonitions to forget loving thy neighbor and instead learn to love the farthest.

It's written in a mock-Biblical style and features Nietzsche's undying commitment to our potential. If you're new to Nietzsche and thinking about reading the book, you'll definitely want a quiet space to read but don't be intimidated. Once you get into it, it flows. For now, let's jump in to one of my favorite classics. I think you'll dig the incredible Big Ideas I mined for us. :)

### ■ God Is Dead!

**“But when Zarathustra was alone he spoke thus to his heart: “Could it be possible? This old saint in the forest had not yet heard anything of this, that God is dead!”**

So, we all know that Nietzsche pronounced God dead. But, did you know what he was getting at?

Nietzsche's philosophy paints the portrait of his ideal man, the “Überman” or “Overman”: an individual who, through self-discipline and his “will to power” has overcome his social conditioning and is, in Nietzsche's words, “beyond good and evil” and no longer needs God (or anyone else for that matter) to tell him what is moral. Hence, the Overman lives. God is dead.

(For the record, Nietzsche did leave his possible belief in God open just a bit...Apparently, he **“would believe only in a god who could dance.”**) And, of course, ultimately a friend of