# Nietzsche's System

*John Richardson*

New York Oxford
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
1996

# CONTENTS

Introduction, 3

1. Being, 16
   - 1.1 The metaphysics of will to power, 18
     - 1.1.1 Power as growth in activity, 21
     - 1.1.2 Power as over others, 28
   - 1.2 Wills to power as perspectives, 35
   - 1.3 Will to power's basic forms: active versus reactive, 39
   - 1.4 Persons and societies as synthetic wills, 44
   - 1.5 The typology of persons, 52
     - 1.5.1 The master, 53
     - 1.5.2 The slave, 57
     - 1.5.3 The overman, 66

2. Becoming, 73
   - 2.1 The temporal aspects of the power ontology, 76
     - 2.1.1 A world 'essentially changing', 79
     - 2.1.2 Plato's attack on becoming, 89
     - 2.1.3 Nietzsche's theory of becoming, 101
   - 2.2 The temporality of the active and reactive, 109
   - 2.3 Persons' complex time, 117
   - 2.4 History as societies' time, 122
   - 2.5 The basic temporal types of persons, 126
     - 2.5.1 The master's active effort to preserve, 128
     - 2.5.2 The slave's revenge against time, 131
     - 2.5.3 The overman's embrace of becoming, 135

3. Value, 142
3.1 Nietzsche's advice: maximize power, 148
3.1.1 Whose power?, 149
3.1.2 Why power?, 151
3.1.3 What power is, 154
3.2 A broader self-interest, 157
3.3 Nietzsche's politics, 163
3.3.1 Against equality, 165
3.3.2 For what type of inequality?, 173
3.4 Nietzsche's ethics, 182
3.4.1 Friends and enemies, 185
3.4.2 Men and women, 191
3.5 The force of Nietzsche's values, 201
3.5.1 Against reflection?, 203
3.5.2 Freedom and fate, 207
3.5.3 Rank order, 216

4. Truth, 220
4.1 Against truth's possibility, 223
4.1.1 Becoming can't be known, 224
4.1.2 Knowing can't be detached, 226
4.2 Against truth's value, 231
4.3 The genealogy of the will to truth, 236
4.3.1 As a tool of the drives, 238
4.3.2 As ascetic opponent to the drives, 243
4.3.3 In its active maturity, 251
4.4 The new philosophers, 257
4.5 Truth with perspectivism, 262
4.5.1 The new truth method, 264
4.5.2 The new truth goal, 280
4.5.3 A Nietzschean metaphysics, 284

Appendix: A Nietzschean Vocabulary, 291

Bibliography, 295
Primary Sources, 295
Secondary Sources, 297

Index, 305