

«THE CONCEPT OF «SUPERHUMAN» IS A KEY TENET OF NIETZSCHE'S  
PHILOSOPHY»

*Nasrulaeva Mohigul Suxrobovna*

*Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages*

**Abstract:** This article is devoted to Friedrich Nietzsche's ideas about superman, the study of his philosophy, the influence of his ideas on philosophical thought.

**Keywords:** Philosophy, Friedrich Nietzsche, superman, Zarathustra, «Thus Spoke Zarathustra».

«Man is a rope stretched between the animal and the superhuman - a rope over the abyss» is a quote from Friedrich Nietzsche's book «Thus Spoke Zorathustra» [1]. Friedrich Nietzsche's philosophy is fundamentally different from the views of other philosophers of his time such as Kant and Hegel [2]. His philosophy completely turns away from humanism and moral standards towards the denial of God. Nietzsche's philosophy was directly influenced by his life difficulties: illness, loneliness, rejection of his ideas by his contemporaries, and as a consequence of which was the madness he suffered at the end of his life. His books allow us to see the world from a completely different angle. Nietzsche's concept of morality is relative. His philosophy calls for a reassessment of values that have been established for centuries, the norms of morality Nietzsche considers obsolete and relative. Friedrich Nietzsche's ideas had a great influence on the philosophy of the twentieth century. In particular, «Friedrich Nietzsche's ideas» edited under his beliefs, after his death by his sister Elisabeth, who was an ardent anti-Semite, were popular in Nazi Germany. It was only in 1967 that Italian scholars published the previously inaccessible works without distortion [3].

Many pages of works or whole books by Semyon Frank, Nikolai Berdyaev, Martin Heidegger, Michel Foucault, Gilles Deleuze and other prominent philosophers are devoted to analyzing his legacy, polemics with his prophecies, permeated with rejection of his ideas or admiration for them.

Friedrich Nietzsche, a German philosopher whose life was full of contrasts introduced the concept of *Übermensch*, which translates as «superhuman». According to Nietzsche, a superhuman is a person who has surpassed the limitations of human nature and reached a higher level of existence. This idea is often associated with the rejection of traditional morality and the pursuit of individualism. The idea of the superhuman is mentioned in a number of Nietzsche's works, but the most complete concept of the Superhuman appears in his book *Thus Spoke Zorathustra*. The book is written in metaphorical language and is different from other philosophical works. Nietzsche's style was influenced by his philological education, at first his manner of presentation seems confusing and haphazard, but upon re-reading it becomes more apparent the poetic nature of his language.

Because of the aphoristic style of Nietzsche's presentation of his thoughts in the work «Thus Spoke Zorathustra», these ideas are interpreted in their own way and a great deal of controversy is caused by the key theses of this work (the ideas of the Superman, «eternal return», the death of God («God is dead») and «the will to power»). Nietzsche's Superman is the result of his moral and cultural-spiritual perfection. The Superhuman rises above the ordinary man to such an extent that the latter becomes for him not just a biological species - he can create a new evolutionary level «What is an ape to man? A mockery or a painful disgrace. And the same must be man for the superhuman, - a laughing stock or a painful disgrace» [3]. For the superman there is no goal of domination and dominance, but the need to go beyond the limits of his being.

Nietzsche distinguishes three stages of transition to the superman. The first stage is the state of «camel» - a man loaded with traditions and attitudes of culture, and traditions of previous generations. The second stage is the state of the «lion» - a man who denies himself as a «camel», i.e. who refuses absolutely everything on which he depends. From the moment of transformation of the camel into a lion and begins the evolution of man into a superman. This stage is a preliminary stage in the process of evolution and is exhausted by one negation. And the next stage is the state of the «child» - man, open to everything new, a blank slate, making his own laws and controlling his own will. This is the end of the whole process.

The idea of the superhuman, formulated by the philosopher, is increasingly manifested in our modern world. Recently, in many Western countries, the principle - «the man who made himself» - has begun to develop. One of the distinctive features of this principle is egoism, individualism, and the will to power. A person who «made himself» is a person who has risen from the lowest to the highest position in society, thanks to hard work on himself, active development of his qualities. In order to become a superhuman, you need to have a bright individuality, you need to differ from other people in that you have an inner world, sometimes not coinciding with the generally accepted norms of behavior. However, it is important to note that Nietzsche's idea of the superhuman has been heavily criticized and is often seen as problematic. Many argue that pursuing individualism can lead to lacking empathy and disregarding the welfare of others. Furthermore, the rejection of traditional morality can lead to a society without a moral compass, where everything goes its own way. Overall, while Nietzsche's concept of the superhuman may have some merit in terms of personal growth and fulfilment, it is important to consider the potential negative consequences of pursuing such an ideal. In order to create a just and equal citizenry in society, it is important to maintain a balance between individualism and social welfare, and to recognize the importance of traditional morality.

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