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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Jaspers on Nietzsche

Nietzsche scholarship in English language comprises a wide range of interpretational approaches that bring attention to subtle nuances in Nietzsche's creative writing style, thereby inspiring ever-new translations of the philosopher's oeuvre. Perhaps even more important is the continued inspiration of Nietzsche's philosophy, a time-proven beacon of light to address existential and political challenges that shape and define the life of human beings. Grounded in but not defined by reason, creative advancement of knowledge destroys and rebuilds the ever-changing cultural and political horizons of humankind.

The lead essay by Pierre Keller focuses on Jaspers' interpretation of Nietzsche with regard to the topic of eternal recurrence and the potentially resulting sentiment of despair, which brings Kierkegaard into the narrative. The political relevance of Nietzsche's work comes to the fore in the critique by Babette Babich regarding the changing values in education, especially at the level of universities. Four additional essays on Nietzsche, by Ruth Burch, Dirk Johnson, Duncan Large, and Rolando Pérez focus on the interpretation and translation of Nietzsche's work in relation to Jaspers, to Miguel de Unamuno, and to Kevin Hill's translation of *Die fröhliche Wissenschaft*.

This *Existenz* issue is the fourth in a series that includes selected contributions presented at the Eighth International Jaspers Conference (Beijing 2018), namely, the essay by Michael Lafferty that probes similarities in Jaspers and William Empson with regard to the valuable place of partial and ambiguous disclosure in the context of reasoned dialogue, and the essay by Ruth Burch that suggests cheerfulness and seriousness as being integral to Jaspers' and Nietzsche's philosophizing.

Reminiscent of Joseph Campbell's mythological hero's journey, the pandemic era—as historians might want to refer to an early twenty-first century marked by unapologetic attempts to achieve world domination—sets the stage for an epic battle without external guidance. Eva Cybulska skillfully brings to life the myth of Oedipus and its well-known sinister utilization by a renowned scientist. This is followed by a discussion concerning a book by Mattias Desmet, *The Psychology of Totalitarianism*. Five learned reviewers, Vicky Iakovou, Leila Faghfour Azar, Nassir Ghaemi, Edward Mendelowitz, and Michael Schwartz analyzed the text from within their areas of expertise. The reviews were solely on the merits of Desmet's book; their findings do not put in question the legitimacy of the competing narratives that define the pandemic era. Due to the serious and timely nature of this topic, this 2022 book discussion is included in the Fall 2020 *Existenz* production with its September 2022 publication date.

A videotaped version of the Desmet book discussion and of the Nietzsche session is posted at existenz.us/media.html.

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