

The Essential Schopenhauer

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we should be grateful to schopenhauer for managing to express the truth about life so beautifully alain de botton author of the consolations of philosophy schopenhauer s philosophy has had a special attraction for those who wonder about life s meaning along with those engaged in music literature and the visual arts stanford encyclopedia of philosophy the essential schopenhauer delivers the first comprehensive english anthology of the seminal philosopher s writings edited by wolfgang schirmacher president of the international schopenhauer association this indispensable collection affords readers a uniquely accessible gateway into the monolithic thinker s prodigious body of work just as the harper perennial basic writings series renders the work of heidegger and nietzsche accessible for english readers the essential schopenhauer gives us unprecedented access to the complex ideas of this profound and influential thinker

the essential schopenhauer key selections from the world as will and representation by arthur schopenhauer

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this book brings together fourteen essays by christopher janaway on the philosophy of schopenhauer and nietzsche they illuminate central philosophical issues in the work of these thinkers the death of god the meaning of existence suffering compassion the will christian values the affirmation or negation of life some of the essays concern schopenhauer in his own right focusing on his concept of will to life an underlying drive which constitutes our inner essence but which traps us in self centred desire a wrong identification of our true self with the human individual an egoistic conception of the good conflict with other beings and an existence pervaded by suffering opposed to the will to life stands everything of real value art morality and the kind of redemption from suffering recognized by mystics from several of the world s religions other essays discuss nietzsche s critical responses to schopenhauer and his own challenging views on related topics for nietzsche morality is a questionable phenomenon and egoism is wrongly maligned suffering is an enhancement of life and the attempt to eliminate it is impoverishing art is full not drained of willing the world religions and the whole idea of being saved from our life are symptoms of a malaise from which modern culture has somehow to recover the book also features discussions of the reception of schopenhauer by two contemporaries of nietzsche richard wagner and the analyst of pessimism olga plümacher

oscar wilde and nihilism examines wilde s major works in the context of nineteenth century philosophical nihilism and the victorian religious unsettlement the book covers wilde s plays the fairy tales the picture of dorian gray the critical writings and de profundis to show how wilde s thinking about nihilism developed over the course of his career profoundly influencing the tone and message of his work like nietzsche wilde came to regard art as the only effective counterforce to the problem of nihilism a uniquely consistent source of order and meaning in a godless universe the book is intended for the general reader with an interest in nihilism aesthetics or wilde as well as for more specialist scholars the aim is to provide the reader with the answers of an exceptionally brilliant and original intellect to the most compelling problem in philosophy how to find meaning and purpose in life

nietzsche s renewal of ancient ethics connects different strands in nietzsche studies to progress a unique interpretation of friendship in his writings exploring this alternative approach to nietzsche s ethics through the influence of ancient greek ideals on his ideas neil durrant highlights the importance of contest for developing strong friendships durrant traces the history of what nietzsche termed a higher friendship to the ancient greek ideal of the homeric hero in this kind of friendship

neither person attempts to tyrannize or dominate the other but rather aims to promote the differences between them as a way of stimulating stronger and fiercer contests through this exchange they discover new heights new standards of excellence both for themselves and for others durrant shows how the development of this approach to personal relationships relied on nietzsche rejecting the christian ideals of love and compassion to build an ethics which incorporated aspects of evolutionary biology into the ancient homeric ideals he was himself wedded to the resulting higher friendship is strong enough to include not only love and compassion but also enmity and opposition expanding our notion of what is good and ethical in the process

this study aims to systematically determine whether the question of the sacred has any relevance in schopenhauer s analysis of the human condition in light of his metaphysical and anthropological claims it proposes that the question of the sacred remains open given certain unanswerables to which schopenhauer himself alludes in his treatment of the denial of the will to live as specifically manifested in aesthetical and ethical praxis

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