



## Thus Spake Zarathustra

*Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 - 1900) Translated by Thomas Common*

Read by:	Multiple readers	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	12 hours 36 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1254
Language:	English	UPC:	0701236969740
Style:	Collaborative	MSLP:	\$11.99
Genre:	Non-Fiction, Philosophy		

“God is Dead”. “The Superman”. The “will to power”. We’ve all heard the phrases, which are often used to represent concepts quite different from those first articulated by Nietzsche in *Thus Spake Zarathustra*. The most influential and famous of his books, the comic philosophic novel chronicles the imagined travels and speeches of Zarathustra, also known as Zoroaster, founder of the Persian religion Zoroastrianism, which is thought to be a precursor of Christianity. Nietzsche’s hero, however, is the opposite of the historical prophet. Here, the mission is to turn traditional morality upside down, to inform humanity that God is no more, that the meaning of life is to be found in the all powerful human life force represented by the *Übermensch*, or Super-

man. The idea of “eternal recurrence”, which holds that events recur in an infinite cycle and is found in Indian philosophy and ancient Egypt, is a central theme of the work and stands in opposition to the linear concept of time in Christianity. In addition to its radical thinking, the book is also noteworthy for its unusual format and experimental style, which is full of wordplay, incorporates poetry and rhetoric, and, at times, mimics the styles of the New Testament and Platonic dialogs. Nietzsche said that “among my writings my Zarathustra stands to my mind by itself”. Written in four distinct parts between 1883 and 1885, the first three parts were published individually and combined into a single volume in 1887. The fourth part was held back until incorporated in a new edition in 1892.

**Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche** (October 15, 1844 – August 25, 1900) was a German philologist, philosopher, cultural critic, poet and composer. He is best known for several works that articulate his call for a radical rethinking of the nature of man, truth and philosophy: *Thus Spake Zarathustra*, *Beyond Good and Evil*, *The Genealogy of Morals*, and *the Anti-Christ*. The expressions “God is dead” and “the will to power” derive directly from his work.

Nietzsche was born near Leipzig in the province of Saxony, part of Prussia. After his father, a Lutheran minister, died of a brain ailment in 1849, his mother moved the family to Naumburg to live with her mother. His secondary schooling at the prestigious Schulpforta was followed by studies of theology and philology at the University of Bonn and the University of Leipzig. He was appointed professor of Philology at the University of Basel at the unheard of age of 24 in 1868. He renounced his Prussian citizenship before moving to Switzerland. During his tenure at Basel he published regularly and was befriended by composer Richard Wagner, becoming a member of his inner circle. Increasingly beset by illness, he was forced him to resign in 1879 and spent the next ten years as an independent author until suffering a mental collapse in 1889. He was treated at a clinic in Basel and then cared for by his mother and sister until his death in 1900. His condition was initially diagnosed as paresis due to tertiary syphilis, but some hinted that dark forces unleashed by his ideas were at play. Reexamination of his evaluation documents show brain cancer to be the cause of his breakdown and eventual demise.