**Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)**  
**Wrote about Morals**

In 1878, Nietzsche published a book of aphorisms, or collections of his ideas on man and morals, called *Human, All Too Human.* Because his health had grown increasingly worse over the years and he was frequently absent, the university retired him in 1879 with a generous pension of 3,000 Swiss francs a year. Nietzsche then concentrated on his writing. He followed with *Mixed Opinions and Maxims* in 1879 and *The Wanderer and his Shadow* in 1880. He came out with two more books of aphorisms, *Dawn* in 1881 and *The Gay Science* in 1882. The twentieth century idea that God is dead was discussed by Nietzsche in *The Gay Science.* He wrote, "The greatest modern event—that `God is dead,' that the belief in the Christian God has become unworthy of belief—is beginning to cast its first shadow across Europe."

Nietzsche's books during this period were written in numerous locales, wrote Brinton, "sitting on the sea-shore near Genoa, strolling the back-ways of Nice, striding in ecstasy by Lake Silvaplana, hunched near-sightedly over a table in a dozen rooming- houses." From *Human, All Too Human* on, his books were primarily aphoristic. In *Nietzsche as Philosopher,* Arthur C. Danto wrote, "Nietzsche's books give the appearance of having been assembled rather than composed. They are made up, in the main, of short, pointed aphorisms, and of essays seldom more than a few pages long; each volume is more like a treasury of the author's selections than like a book in its own right."

**Developed Idea of Superman**

His most important works were to quickly follow. *Thus Sake Zarathustra* was published in four parts from 1883 to 1885. The new book was focused on the idea of the Superman and the idea of eternal recurrence. Nietzsche argued that man can only elevate himself in this world and that he must achieve his kingdom now. The ideal of the Superman is one of the ultimate warrior. He stated in *Zarathustra,* "Man should be trained for war, and woman for the warrior's relaxation; everything else is folly." In Nietzsche's vision, "power is the true goal of life," wrote Frenzel.

Eternal recurrence is the idea that everything has happened before and will happen again, in precisely the same way, for all eternity. In his unpublished notes, as quoted by Danto, Nietzsche remarked, "The world is a cycle which has already infinitely repeated itself, and plays its play in infinitum."

Nietzsche's next two books further expanded on the ideas of *Zarathustra.* He published *Beyond Good and Evil* in 1886 and *The Genealogy of Morals* in 1887. Many consider these his masterpieces. He then published *The Case of Wagner* in 1888, which presented to the public his objections to Wagner. *The Twilight of the Idols,* subtitled *How to Philosophize with a Hammer,* was printed in 1889; it was an attack on Christianity. In his criticisms of moral systems, Danto pointed out, "Nietzsche played the roles of moral critic and moralist at the same time, often in the very same aphorism, commenting in a general way about the logic of moral concepts and enjoining a specific moral reform at once."

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