




4-1-2013

Nietzsche's Zarathustra and Parodic Style: On Lucian's Hyperanthropos and Nietzsche's Übermensch

Babette Babich

Fordham University, babich@fordham.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://fordham.bepress.com/phil_babich

 Part of the [Ancient History, Greek and Roman through Late Antiquity Commons](#), [Classical Literature and Philology Commons](#), [Continental Philosophy Commons](#), [German Literature Commons](#), [History of Philosophy Commons](#), and the [Rhetoric Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Babich, Babette, "Nietzsche's Zarathustra and Parodic Style: On Lucian's Hyperanthropos and Nietzsche's Übermensch" (2013).
Articles and Chapters in Academic Book Collections. Paper 56.
http://fordham.bepress.com/phil_babich/56

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Philosophy at DigitalResearch@Fordham. It has been accepted for inclusion in Articles and Chapters in Academic Book Collections by an authorized administrator of DigitalResearch@Fordham. For more information, please contact considine@fordham.edu.

Nietzsche's Zarathustra and Parodic Style: On Lucian's *Hyperanthropos* and Nietzsche's *Übermensch*

Diogenes
58(4) 58–74
Copyright © ICPHS 2012
Reprints and permissions:
sagepub.co.uk/journalsPermissions.nav
DOI: 10.1177/0392192112467410
dio.sagepub.com


Babette Babich

Fordham University, New York City

Nietzsche's Zarathustra, Nietzsche's Empedocles

I here undertake to read Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* as an echo of Empedocles' esoteric *Katharmoi* or *Purifications* via the once extremely popular Lucian of Samosata. A 2nd century satirist, Lucian was famous for his style as an exemplar of the very same '*satyra menippea*'¹ Nietzsche declares that he admires.² Lucian foregrounds the eponymous Menippus of this brand of satire in a number of his dialogues, rather after the fashion of Plato's Socrates, such that we are led to take Menippus as Lucian's double (and, just as with Plato and Socrates, scholars differ in their valuation of Lucian as compared with Menippus).³ At the very least, Lucian's parodic style is at its 'high' or earnest best with Menippus – and it can be supposed that his depiction of Menippus may have inspired Lucian's own reputation as one who tells the *truth* by lying.⁴

Lucian was seemingly uniformly read in the past and it is important to emphasize this universality because his work (even his name) has become increasingly unfamiliar to philosophical scholars today. This unfamiliarity holds *across* the philosophical board as it were: analytic, continental, historical. Thus writing from the perspective of analytic or mainstream history of philosophy, the late Annette Baier can observe with respect to David Hume that and although Lucian was widely read in Hume's own day, 'the overlap between readers of Hume these days, and readers of Lucian, seems to have been almost nil.'⁵ Similarly – despite what one might think would be the very important detail that Nietzsche was a classicist citing Lucian and indeed *qua* classical philologist (i.e., both beginning with *The Birth of Tragedy* and towards the end of his writerly life in 'What I owe the Ancients' in his *Twilight of the Idols* which title is itself very Lucianic) – the connection between readers of Nietzsche and readers of Lucian seems to be a comparably sparse set.

As Baier thus rightly points out, Lucian is far from a philosophical commonplace and again the point has to be emphasized because Lucian's readers once included a wide and disparate range of European authors: from Erasmus, who writes in Latin,⁶ to Goethe and Schiller among others in a German context. In French, we may note among others: Rabelais, Voltaire,⁷ Diderot, as well as de Bergerac, Montaigne, and of course Fontenelle with his *New Dialogues of the Dead* (1683) – as

Corresponding author:

Babette Babich, Fordham University, 113 West 60th Street, Room 925H, New York City, NY 10023, USA.
Email: Babich@fordham.edu

quoted by Nietzsche in *The Wanderer and His Shadow*, §214 (two very Lucianic titles). In English and in addition to Thomas More, there is Lucian's influence on Shakespeare and beyond his literary influences on Milton as on Swift and Sterne as well as Joyce – Lucian also influenced philosophical authors like Hume in addition to Marx and Hegel (for whom Lucian is the rather exactly not to be admired 'Syrian Greek') – all in addition to Nietzsche.

In this diverse sense, Lucian turns out to have been many things – here, one almost feels compelled to add, *too many* things – to many readers. Which also means, and not unlike Nietzsche, that Lucian is hard to pigeonhole: an elusive complexity rendered still more complicated in the case of a satirical author. Thus Carlo Ginzburg in his analysis of the influence of Lucian on More's *Utopia*, attempts to unpack the particularities or dissonances of this influence, observing that from '1550 onward, Lucian was to many people all over Europe (including John Calvin) a synonym for atheist, unbeliever' (Ginzburg 2000: 12; cf. 11ff). And to be sure, the idea of the parodic author, the very notion of satire (be it Menippean or otherwise) is commonly taken as sufficient to constitute enlightenment as disbelief, which is also part of the ahistorical or presentist (i.e., and to contextualize the term, a 'whiggish' or 'Whig' notion of history, as Herbert Butterfield (1951) speaks of it), that is to say, a habit of reading a staunchly Protestant and even atheist vision of the enlightenment back into Xenophanes, Anaxagoras, but also Plato and Socrates and above all Aristotle, all of whom are routinely argued (with indictments and convictions to support the case) to have been more, rather than less, skeptical with regard to the Greek deities.⁸ Given Lucian's avowedly 'atheistic' credentials vis-à-vis both the so-called pagan gods and the Judeo-Christian God, Ginzburg (2000: 12) refines the question, asking for his part: 'what had Lucian meant to Erasmus and More a few decades earlier?'⁹

I shall be arguing that an ironic parallel may be drawn between Lucian's satirical *hyperanthropos* and the serious or high ideal of the same as it has been exceedingly non-ironically received in our own conception of Nietzsche's *Übermensch*.¹⁰ I find this irony illuminating just where it is characteristic of both Lucian and Nietzsche to mix things up. Similarly, Ginzburg (2000: 13) underlines Erasmus as praising Lucian's talent for 'mixing serious things with jokes, jokes with serious things, (*sic seria nugis, nugas seriis miscet*).'¹¹ Lucian's *hyperanthropos* is a highly metonymic concept that includes above and below in its original parsing, to wit as the over-human above the merely human, as apparent superman, with all the trappings (by *their fruits you shall know them* becomes *by their kitchens you shall know them*), of the higher man.¹² In Lucian, this supposed higher man, here the tyrant Megapenthes, as he is distinguished in life, i.e., in the world above, is tracked in his reluctant 'translation' or passage to Hades or the underworld. This is his 'downward journey,' for a passage placing him among the shades, as the Greeks counted the afterlife: a dark, lightless domain, not altogether dissimilar to sunless pit of the Hebrew She'ol.

As I emphasize above and elsewhere, Nietzsche was not merely coincidentally educated in classical philology. One of the best of his day, Nietzsche was a consummate classicist and I have argued that philology remained his *vocation* throughout his life.¹³ Nietzsche not only knew his Lucian¹⁴ – and not just because every classicist would know Lucian – and there are obvious parallels between some of Nietzsche's more characteristic loci and Lucian's favorite images, beginning with a shared penchant for demystification.¹⁵ Thus we may compare Nietzsche's famous reflections on truth and lie with Lucian's *Alethe Diegemata* or *True Story*, which last includes the paradoxically Cretan claim 'I am not telling a word of truth' and the claim that what makes Lucian's account distinctive is that his 'lying is far more honest than' other reports (Lucian 1913–67, vol. 1: 253). As Nietzsche will later do (to the enduring frustration of analytic philosophers), Lucian too overtly declares his own prevarication as an express and therefore superior *variation* on the

otherwise traditional lies used by other historians in this *True Story* (which is accordingly sometimes rendered as *True History*):

But my lying is far more honest than theirs, for though I tell the truth in nothing else, I shall at least be truthful in saying that I am a liar. I think I can escape the censure of the world by my own admission that I am not telling a word of truth (ibid.).

And inverting Plato as he does, and given Lucian's reference to the philosophers ('lying [...] was already a common practice even among men who profess philosophy': ibid.: 251), it ought indeed to be difficult to overlook the nicely epistemological point of Lucian's warning: 'Be it understood, then, that I am writing about things which I have neither seen nor had to do with nor learned from others – which, in fact, do not exist at all and, in the nature of things, cannot exist. Therefore my readers should on no account believe in them' (ibid.: 253).

Lucian's tonality here is not of course Nietzsche's yet the epistemological issue is common to both as we recall Nietzsche's famously frustrating (to analytic philosophers for the most part) declaration contra the very value of truth where he begins his reflections in *Beyond Good and Evil: Prelude to a Philosophy of the Future* by wondering 'Granted that we want the truth: Why not rather untruth?' ('Prejudices of Philosophers,' §1). If this initial supposition may seem merely casual rather than central (a worry for some where his preface begins: 'Supposing truth to be a woman – what? is the suspicion not well founded that all philosophers, in so far as they have been dogmatists, have had little understanding of women ...?'), Nietzsche, very systematically – and this is noteworthy given that Nietzsche is a philosopher who is not only commonly taken to *lack* a system but who also explicitly opposes what he calls the 'will' to the same – applies the same reflections to the logicians and again to the mathematicians and thence to theoretical physicists (or cosmologists) by arguing that their valuations, or estimations, namely 'that the definite [*Bestimmte*] shall be of greater value than the indefinite [*Unbestimmte*], appearance of less value than the "truth"' (*Beyond Good and Evil*, §3) can be seen as 'no more than superficial valuations [*doch nur Vordergrunds-Schätzungen*], a certain species of *niaiserie*' (ibid.) If we note that today's turn to evolutionary epistemology was already at work in the nineteenth century, we find Nietzsche arguing that the sheer circumstance that 'without granting as true the fictions of logic, without measuring reality against the purely invented world of the unconditional and self-identical, without a continual falsification [*Fälschung*] of the world by means of numbers, the human being could not live' (§4) does not change the character of these falsifications. Beyond the formal and the ideal, Nietzsche contends that he would not be the only one (here we mention only Poincaré or Mach)¹⁶ to suppose 'that physics too [*dass Physik auch*] is only an interpretation and arrangement of the world (according to us, if I may say so!) and *not* an explanation of the world' (§14) As I have argued elsewhere with regard to Nietzsche's philosophy of science, Nietzsche's consistency in this regard is striking for its philosophical rigor and Nietzsche emphasizes, not unlike Xenophanes, not unlike Heraclitus and Epicurus, but above all, not unlike David Hume: 'it is *we* alone who have fabricated causes, succession, reciprocity, relativity, compulsion, number, law, freedom, motive, purpose' (§21) which Nietzsche then articulates specifically contra Kant, arguing that when 'we falsely introduce this world of symbols into things and mingle it with them as though this symbol world were an "in itself," we once more behave as we have always behaved, *mythologically*' (ibid.). It is in this very systematically sustained context that we may perhaps begin to read Nietzsche's intensification of the same point, which he now frames by speaking of himself as an 'old philologist,' in order to challenge the arch-scientific projection of 'nature's conformity to law' of which, as Nietzsche teases here, 'you physicists speak so proudly' (§22). For Nietzsche, such

law-like ‘conformity’ is the product of interpretation, ‘it is not a fact, not a “text,” but rather only a naïve humanitarian [*naiv-humanitäre*] adjustment and distortion of meaning,’ (ibid.). Thus Nietzsche only too happily concedes that anyone may counter his argument with the challenge ‘that this also is only interpretation’ (ibid.). As it is, and which would be his point: ‘– well, so much the better’ (ibid.).¹⁷

* * *

In what follows, I focus on a particular dialogue: Lucian’s *Kataplous* (which is variously translated as *The Downward Journey*, *Journey into Port* or *Journey into the Underworld*) just because Lucian’s ὑπεράνθρωπος in this same dialogue is – as has long been argued – the source for Nietzsche’s *Übermensch*, the super- or over-human.¹⁸ Beyond this very conventional attribution and its reception, I argue that the context of Lucian’s *Journey*, including its thematic subtitle: *or The Tyrant*, precisely as it is a dialogue examining the fate of many souls, specifically the tyrant in the underworld and as contrasted with the world up above, as a meditation on *vanitas* and its inevitable reversal, exemplifies the eternal or ultimate context of the ‘ought’ in Zarathustra’s teaching that the human being is something that *ought* to be overcome.

In addition, one might well add Nietzsche’s Lucian-inspired focus on the savors of the kitchen or cooking as such (and by metonymic extension: on the gut and on associated physiological aspects of nutrition such as digestion).¹⁹ Even with reference to Nietzsche’s discussions of food, a reading of Lucian will or *should* make it plain that Nietzsche’s philological formation matters. Thus in the context of the fourth book added to Zarathustra, we note that the discussion of supper or ‘The Evening Meal’ includes the more refined or noble delights of the table, detailing, just to read Zarathustra’s specifications here: lamb aromatically cooked with sage and served with wine (as contrasted with a vegetarian’s meal of ground corn and water), and recommended in the context of gladness or delight – here we may recall that the historico-mythical figure of Zarathustra was said to have been born laughing – as opposed to moral superiority or advantage and without arguing for the moral virtues of such enjoyments (and eating meat always remains morally invidious). Thus this section, ‘The Evening Meal’ in the all-too-parodic fourth book of *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* not only sets the stage for the section entitled (what else?) ‘On the Higher Man’ but also includes a detailed allusion to nothing less Lucianic than the leveling equation of cooks and kings (‘With Zarathustra, to be sure, even a king may be a cook’ [IV, *The Evening Meal*]), which democratizing conversion also echoes the substance of Lucian’s *Kataplous* or *Downward Journey*, including not only a discussion of the kitchen and the smells emanating from the same, but a dramatization of the reversal of circumstances for shoemakers (like Micyllus) and tyrants (like Megapenthes).

If the vocations in question (to speak of shoemakers and rulers) are allusions to Plato’s *Republic*, Christian resonances also turn out to be important in Lucian.²⁰ Still more, I argue that the same array of allusions offers us a context for reading Zarathustra as an explicitly Empedoclean figure. Thus one can read the beginning of the *Katharmoi* as a listing of lives or roles that one must take on: prophet, poet, healer, in order to be, as a figure of free death, i.e., as one who goes to ground, a mortal no more. *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* is the tale of Zarathustra’s downward journey, told as the tale of one who dies, very paradoxically – but also very philosophically inasmuch as the task of philosophy is and always was the task of *learning* to die.

Just as Empedocles ‘speaks’ to his Agrigentians, teaching nothing less than the doctrine of eternal recurrence, Zarathustra is likewise the teacher of the eternal return and of blessing life, teaching the lesson of the overman and self-overcoming beyond the barrel organ or music-box cycle of birth and rebirth to a standing eternity, *amor fati, da capo*.

By proposing to read Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* between Empedocles' *Katharmoi* and Lucian's *Downward Journey*, I inevitably join with those many scholars who argue that Nietzsche's Zarathustra is modeled on *something*²¹ – be it the Bible, or Plato's *Republic* as I have also referred to both texts (just as Nietzsche does), or even of Wagner's Ring as we see in Ernst Bertram and others. And although I think there are intrinsic limitations to such parallels and although they by no means permit a reduction of Nietzsche's thought to the same, I will argue, rather like Ginzburg already cited above in his own historical reflections on More's *Utopia*, that we need such parallels in order to understand Nietzsche's thinking with regard to the themes advanced in *Zarathustra*, i.e., the overhuman, the will to power, and the eternal return of the same.

We need Lucian not only for his art of satire or parody but also as noted for his own picture of Empedocles, among other things. We thus need Lucian just because his work embraces the full range of Greco-Roman antiquity, its gods and its philosophers (and thereby also as argued above the range of enlightened modernity), both text and tale, along with, and this is essential: the new God of the New Testament, as it is with nothing other than just this new faith that the old Germanic belief, as Nietzsche speaks of it, that 'all gods must die' (*Kritische Studienausgabe* [KSA] 9, 128),²² is ultimately, ineluctably fulfilled – *consumatum est*, it is finished.

From Lucian's *Philosophies for Sale* to Zarathustra's 'Golden Fishing Rod'

Here, in a preliminary fashion underway to a discussion of Nietzsche's Empedocles, Lucian's *The Fisherman or the Dead Come to Life* also bears on Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Lucian's text tells the story of the reanimation of philosophers, all centuries dead,²³ ranging from the so-called Presocratics to Socrates himself and Plato and Aristotle and Diogenes the Cynic, all of whom gain a one-day reprieve from the underworld in order to return to the 'overworld' (i.e., life on this earth) for the purpose of taking revenge on Lucian for his mockery in the antecedent dialogue, *Philosophies for Sale*. Hence the dialogue begins in full *couleur*, venting the rage of the temporarily resurrected Socrates: 'let him pay the penalty for his ribaldry.'²⁴

This satire is an agonistic exercise and the contest in question is indispensable for illuminating what is an otherwise perplexing reference to Zarathustra's 'golden fishing rod' in *The Honey Sacrifice* of Book Four, not to mention that the metaphor of fishing and 'bait' is a recurrent one for Nietzsche. The importance of the metaphor of fishing is not itself in doubt, if it is also usually heard in terms of Christ as 'fisher of men,' as we can read Nietzsche's later musing in his *Ecce Homo*, 'From this moment forward, all my writings are fishhooks: perhaps I know how to fish as well as anyone?' (§1) Hence the fishing rod appears in the first section of the deliberately unpublished, fourth or final book of *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, followed by *The Cry of Distress* and *Conversation with the Kings*.

Lucian's *Fisherman* thus offers what can seem to be an 'attempt at a self-criticism,' parodying the fate of his own parodies in the face of the philosophies he 'puts up' for sale, as it were: the 'golden fishing rod [*goldene Angelruthe*],' appropriately baited as he emphasizes, describing its function to test the mettle of philosophers, as a scale for their merits, as true and not (mostly not), hauled up before the judgment of the personifications of *Truth* as well as *Philosophy* together with the plain speaking (and very plain living) *Cynic* himself: Diogenes of Sinope. Lucian's 'frank' comparison of a 'test' for the philosophic pretenders in question is instructive in a Zarathustran context as he puts the account of the test in the mouth of Philosophy herself who now says, addressing both *Aletheia* [Truth] and *Parrhesiades* [Frankness or Honesty]:

Let the test, Frankness, be like the test of the eaglets against the sun. Not that they, like the eaglets are to stare at the light and be put to the proof in that way; but set gold and fame and pleasure in their view, and whomsoever of them you see paying no attention and in no way attracted to the spectacle, let him be the one to wear the crown of green olive.²⁵

The problem with those who call themselves philosophers is precisely that ‘all their professions of despising wealth and appearances, of admiring nothing but what is noble, of superiority to passion, of being proof against splendour, and associating with its owners only on equal terms – how fair and wise and laudable they all are!’ but and instead, philosophers today ‘take pay for imparting them’ and what is even more significant,

they are abashed in presence of the rich, their lips water at sight of coin; they are dogs for temper, hares for cowardice, apes for imitativeness, asses for lust, cats for thievery, cocks for jealousy. They are a perfect laughing-stock with their strivings after vile ends, their jostling of each other at rich men’s doors, their attendance at crowded dinners, and their vulgar obsequiousness at table. They swill more than they should and would like to swill more than they do, they spoil the wine with unwelcome and untimely disquisitions, and they cannot carry their liquor. (‘The Fisher’ in Fowler and Fowler 1905: 221)

To winnow the true from the pretended claimants to philosophy (nota bene: once again, in the presence of the perfected judgment of the incarnation of Philosophy and Truth and Honesty), we read Lucian’s dialogical exchange on the rigors of the test as such:

Parrhesiades. – ... if the priestess will lend me the line I see there and the Piraean fisherman’s votive hook; I will not keep them long.

Priestess. – You can have them; and the rod to complete the equipment (ibid.: 227).

Baited with ‘a few dried figs and a handful of gold,’ the first ‘fish’ to be caught before the eyes of the resurrected Diogenes is ‘a dog fish’ (ibid.).²⁶ The dogfish/cynic is followed by a Platonist, a sham Aristotle (i.e., an Aristotelian), and so on – ‘fishes’ who are in the course of the dialogue dully assessed as deficient by the same philosophers who had at the start of the dialogue returned to life just in order to persecute Lucian but who wind up by admitting that his denunciations did indeed apply to the so-called ‘philosophers’ of Lucian’s times.

And one is hard pressed to claim that our own era is any different.

Where Nietzsche’s Zarathustra speaks of ‘the best bait,’ he means it ‘as is needful for huntsmen and fishermen’ and where he refers to ‘a sea full of colorful fishes and crabs,’ he is talking in a similarly classical mode of bounty ‘for which even the gods might be envious, such that they would wish to fish in it and become throwers of nets: so rich is the world in wonders, great and small!’ (*Zarathustra IV, The Honey-Sacrifice*).

The language is Lucian’s, mixing the language of classical literature and classical gods with the language of the New Testament, adding Nietzsche’s parodic musing with regard to his own search for those to whom he might speak, for his readers, for his human beings:

Extraordinary the human world, the human sea: – to *this* do I now throw out my golden angle-rod, speaking thusly: Open up, thou human abyss!

...

Until, biting upon my sharp hidden hooks, they must ascend to *my* heights, to the wickedest of all fishers of humanity, the most colorful abyss-groundlings. (ibid.)

Death of Zarathustra and Nietzsche's sketches for the Death of Empedocles

In a section titled, 'The philosophers of the tragic age revealed, as tragedy, as world' (KSA 7, 21 [16]: 527), Nietzsche sketches the relationship between Heraclitus '(art in the service of willing),' Empedocles '(love and hatred in Greece)' (ibid.) and the other Presocratics, and we note that Nietzsche also characterizes Empedocles as the 'ideal-perfect Greek.' (KSA 7, 3 [84]: 83) but also as exemplifying the 'purest tragic human being' (KSA 7, 5 [94]: 118), and we see an outline in three acts of his plan for the 'death' of Empedocles, concluding with 'The great Pan is dead.' (KSA 7, 5 [115]: 125). Even here, the parallel with Zarathustra is patent.

Both Empedocles and Zarathustra are compared with the divine and both are simultaneously absorbed with mortality. Indeed, Empedocles accedes to divinity by dying, elected or 'staged' as such (his refusal of kingship is part of this accession), as he had already characterized himself as an outcast in these terms 'Of these I too am now one, an exile from the gods and a wanderer, having put my trust in raving strife' (KRS: 401; DK: 115).²⁷

David Allison and others have reminded us that Nietzsche's original plans for his *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* also included Zarathustra's literal death. But one might go still further, as I do, even beyond the figurative and as I have already suggested, one may take the Lucianic reference to Zarathustra's downgoing in Zarathustra's *Prologue* as already announcing the literal eventuality or 'fact' of Zarathustra's death in the first book of the published text, where Zarathustra succumbs to a snake bite under a fig tree (nothing like one metaphorical cliché after another): "'Your journey is yet short," said the adder sadly; "my poison kills,"' (*Zarathustra I, On the Adder's Bite*).

Quite explicitly, now paralleling Empedocles, Zarathustra reflects: 'Verily, through a hundred souls I have already passed on my way, and through a hundred cradles and birth pangs. Many a farewell have I taken; I know the heart rending last hours' (ibid.; cf. DK: 31). But 'thus my creative will, my destiny, wills it. Or, to say it more honestly: this very destiny: my will wills' (ibid.) In addition, Empedocles' teaching of rebirth echoes in the language of 'nuptial ring of rings, the ring of recurrence' (*Zarathustra III, The Seven Seals (Or: the Yes and Amen Song)*).

Zarathustra teaches the *Übermensch*, as the transition that is the overhuman and the eternal recurrence of the same. But Zarathustra describes the human being as 'a rope over an abyss.' (Z I, Prologue §4), here embodied by the tightrope walker. If the entirety of Zarathustra's speech is thus an inevitable and involuntary commentary on the 'performance' of the tightrope walker and his own downgoing, we are confronted with nothing but a very patent dramatization of above and below: esoteric and exoteric.²⁸ It is in this context, as the tightrope walker makes his way above the crowd, producing a tension that appeared to Zarathustra as being the kind of rapt attention that permitted him to expand upon his account, thus he describes the human being as 'a dangerous across, a dangerous on-the-way, a dangerous looking-back, a dangerous shuddering and stopping' (ibid.), as Zarathustra teaches the overhuman. In this way, Zarathustra's sermon on the 'rainbow bridge' of life is offered as a life and death drama proceeds above him, step by careful step:

I love those who do not know how to live, except by going under, for they are those who cross over.

I love the great despisers because they are the great reverers and arrows of longing for the other shore.

I love those who do not first seek behind the stars for a reason to go under and be a sacrifice, but who sacrifice themselves for the earth, that the earth may someday come to be the overman's.

...

I love him whose soul squanders itself, who wants no thanks and returns none: for he always gives away and does not want to preserve himself. (Z I: *Prologue* §4)

Many readers take the point but commonly assume the reference to be none other than the traditional Christian teaching of dying to the life of the world or the body.

This teaching should remind the reader of Nietzsche's shadow discourse in the book appended to his *Human, All too Human, The Wanderer and His Shadow*, where the shadow turns, vanishing as it does at the end. Thus Nietzsche writes of the human being as a small overstressed kind of animal, which – happily enough – has also had its day; life on earth as such, eclipsed in the blink of an eye, a detail, 'an instant, an accident, an exception without consequence [...] the earth itself, like all the stars, as a hiatus between two nothingness [ein Zwischenfall, eine Ausnahme ohne Folge, ... die Erde selbst, wie jedes Gestirn, ein Hiatus zwischen zwei Nichtsen],'²⁹ 'an event without design, reason, will, self-awareness, the most wretched sort of necessity, the *stupid* necessity ... [ein Ereigniß ohne Plan, Vernunft, Wille, Selbstbewußtsein, die schlimmste Art des Nothwendigen, die dumme Nothwendigkeit ...]' (KSA 13, 16 [25]: 488–489; cf. KSA 12, 10 [34]: 473).

Inasmuch as Zarathustra teaches what philosophy teaches – that is, the art of living – Zarathustra teaches the overhuman as 'the meaning of the earth,' thereby teaching that the human being is 'something that shall be overcome' (*Zarathustra's Prologue*). The point is literal enough: the art of living *is* the self-same art that it is to die. The art, in Nietzsche's words, of dying in the right way and, indeed: for the right reason, 'at the right time.' (*Zarathustra I: On Voluntary Death*)

Da Capo: Nietzsche's *Übermensch* and Lucian's *hyperanthropos*

It remains common to assume that Nietzsche's *Übermensch* corresponds, more or less coincidentally, more or less historically, to Hitler's fourth Reich fantasy: this would be the evolutionary apex of human development.³⁰ The *Übermensch* has thus been assumed a superior human being (and that is also to say, with Plato and Aristotle and even Alasdair MacIntyre, a superior warrior or perfect soldier) or at least *good breeding*, by which one means a family of a certain economic where-withal, thereby heir to a certain 'good' education, nutrition, environment, travel, etc. Today's *Übermensch* emerges as the promise of science. This last scientific ideal was at the time of Hitler conceived in terms of eugenics and genetic and other kinds of social planning; today the science has shifted more than once, first to genomics and since this is largely a related science, thence to cybernetics. Indeed the whole of technologically oriented society via the fantasy of genetic engineering and associated technologies – just think of the enduring enthusiasm for cyborgs, now considered in their latest incarnation as transhuman – presupposes the humanist's vision of the human *per se* and in general as supreme, as other, as 'higher,' in Nietzsche's words. If Nietzsche opposes Darwinism in the conviction that today's species represent 'improvements' or 'developments' over past species, he shares Darwin's habit of associating humans and apes. In other words, when Nietzsche's Zarathustra says 'I teach you the overhuman. Humanity is something that should be overcome' (*Zarathustra's Prologue*: 2), he is talking about overcoming *today's* humanity *together* with its ideals of superiority and attainment. Thus Zarathustra goes on: 'You have made your way from worm to human, and much in you is still worm. Once you were apes, and, even now, the human being is more of an ape' (*Zarathustra's Prologue*: 3).

When we hear talk of the overhuman, the superman, even of the *transhuman*, we often respond by wanting to be first in line. Moreover we are inclined to imagine ourselves already there, hence we are *already* cyborgs, we are *already* transhuman: we are the culmination of evolution, we are all overhumans already. Thus it is significant that both Nietzscheans and anti-Nietzscheans alike

share the defining definition of the overhuman as a ‘superior’ being, the question dividing those who are Nietzschean and those who are not being only whether one takes this to be a good or bad, and perhaps even a fascist thing. But and to the extent that we are advanced, technologically sophisticated scholars, we will also happen to know that we are ‘superior’ not necessarily because revelation guarantees this for us (although it does) but owing to science and its estimation of our value as the dominant species in comparison with the ape. And routinely, at least in a political context, we do take or assume our own culture/nationality/race superior to others. Overall and in any case, most of us do not need to be persuaded that evolution works in the direction of the overhuman. And if we have not yet acceded to this superior status by natural evolutionary means, or by default given the rapacity of our destruction or ‘use’ of natural resources (whereby we act fully as if we intend to be the last beings on the face of the earth, which is indeed one way to read Nietzsche’s ‘last men’), we expect to be transformed (this would be a version of the technological singularity) *into* ‘overhumans.’ Disagreeing with both pro-Nietzscheans and anti-Nietzscheans, Nietzsche himself, on my reading, would seem to suggest that the overhuman *qua* all-too-human ideal, may turn out to be less than we suppose. To see this we need to take the classical, scholarly ‘step back’ as such a backstep can effect – this is the point of perspectivalism – a change in one’s perspective.

As we have noted, *every* scholar knows that Nietzsche’s *Übermensch* is a coinage taken or derived from Lucian. Every scholar ‘knows’ this not because today’s scholars read that much, but because Walter Kaufmann (1974: 307, footnote 1) tells us so and every account I have read on the topic dutifully cites Kaufmann (and here I am doing it again but the citation is a simple one: ‘*Kataplous*, 16.’)³¹ Kaufmann himself offers no context and this may have been because he was simply interested in the coinage *per se* (and Kaufmann’s interest would seem to have set the tone for the positivism of source scholarship to this day). In the first section above I have shown that Lucian’s ΚΑΤΑΠΛΟΥΣ Η ΤΥΠΑΝΝΟΣ³² illuminates Nietzsche’s notion of the ‘overhuman.’ The literary scholar, Northrop Frye had detailed the consequences of that kind of comparison for Anglophone readers, explaining in a section of his *Anatomy of Criticism* that

whenever the ‘other world’ appears in satire, it appears as an ironic counterpart to our own, a reversal of accepted social standards. It is this form of satire that we find in Lucian’s *Kataplous* and *Charon*, journeys to the other world in which the eminent in this one are shown doing appropriate but unaccustomed things, a form incorporated in Rabelais, and in the medieval *danse macabre*. In the last named the simple equality of death is set against the complex inequalities of life. (Frye 1957: 232)

Note here that Nietzsche’s friend Rohde in his own monograph on the ancient Greek novel and its antecedents, had already emphasized the importance and strange significance of the notion as such, namely of ‘travelling in the underworld, for the sake of philosophical knowledge.’ (1900: 261) This subterranean endeavor appears in both Nietzsche (*Zarathustra*) and Lucian, and it is the transfiguring point of Empedocles’ leap into the Volcano.

Lucian’s contrast in his *Kataplous*, ‘*The Journey into Port*,’ highlights the superficial vision of the over-human being as a man of the wealthy, or ‘higher’ power class, a human being man towering above others regarded as lower, or lesser, in this life, and the same ‘over’ human transposed into the lower-world of the afterlife: the ‘superman’ (ὑπεράνθρωπος), the tyrant, is a man of power: ‘he seemed like divinity to me.’ It would be these same power attributes that allowed Micyllus, our shoemaker, to report that the tyrant Megapenthes in life seemed ‘a superman in my eyes, someone thrice blessed, nothing short of an Adonis, a foot and a half taller than the rest of mankind’ (Fowler and Fowler 1905: 16) (ὑπεράνθρωπος τις ἀνὴρ καὶ τρισόβιός μοι κατεφαίνετο καὶ μονονουχὶ πάντων καλλίων καὶ ὑψηλότερος ὄλω πῆχει βασιλικῶ...).³³ ‘But,’ – and this “but” *is* the point of

the satire – ‘when he died and had to take off his trappings, not only did he look ridiculous to me, but I had to laugh at how ridiculous *I* was. Imagine – I had stood in awe of that trash and had jumped to the conclusion that he was divinely happy on the basis of the smells from his kitchen and the color of his robes’ (‘The Journey to the Underworld,’ in Fowler and Fowler 1905: 276).

Given this sense of Lucian’s overman *unmasked*, or better said – as Lucian reminds his readers – *stripped of everything*, of position and possessions including all raiment, of one’s bodily aspect, of one’s flesh and blood: the passage from life to death means total democratization. The Greeks did not teach the consummate resurrection of the body (and getting to the resurrected body in the after-life takes Christian convictions) but retaining the barest shadow of the self is already an extraordinary achievement:³⁴ the underworld is a world of shades. But and just by this token, Lucian has a great time with skulls and bones: displacing the beauty of a Helen, the warrior’s prowess of an Achilles, for the gloom, as Lucian remarks, makes it hard to get to know one’s neighbors.

And yet with the *Übermensch* we are talking about what is arguably the most influential of all of Nietzsche’s philosophic notions – vastly more influential than the eternal return of the same, a notion even Nietzsche scholars find difficult to understand. Set into what some claim to have been its ultimate constellation in Nietzsche’s *Der Wille zur Macht* (that infamously ‘invented’ book), the sheer idea of the *Übermensch* in its Aryan configuration may be held to be the causal factor in not only Hitler’s war but also the First World War (which was itself also called, instructively, fatally enough, ‘Nietzsche’s war’ by journalists of the day).³⁵ It is not accidently that George Bernard Shaw titles a play *Man and Superman*. Talking about Nietzsche’s *Übermensch*, we inevitably seem to be talking about the philosophy that generated the language of the master-race: the *Übermensch* as opposed to the *Unter-Mensch* as the same National Socialist terminology also speaks of it.

Nietzsche uses both terms. Yet the reference to Lucian suggests that Nietzsche’s Zarathustra also teaches the *Übermensch* in a *parodic* fashion. The overhuman is therefore (if it is not only this) a satiric notion and to say this is to offer a didactic clarification which in fact does little to clarify Nietzsche’s meaning. What I am arguing does not make things simpler, I wish that it did. Hence I am not saying that Nietzsche’s Zarathustra does not teach the *Übermensch* – of course he does – but it is easy to fail to note that the elusive doctrine of the eternal return, the doctrine that Zarathustra comes to teach, the teaching that the overhuman himself or herself is meant to be the passage toward, is the eternal return of the *same*. And this too is the heart of Empedocles’ ‘truth’ of rebirth. Nietzsche’s Zarathustra teaches that the human is charged to overcome, that is to say to get beyond, that is to say to get over the eternally recurrent, and that we know is the human, all-too-human.

On Death: Zarathustra, the Isles of the Blest, and the Gateway to Hell

More than Empedocles’ caution against carnivorousness, more than his cosmological cycle, it can be the tableau of the volcano and the philosopher’s voluntary death that strikes us most powerfully. And then there is also the dramatic detail of just one bronze sandal, tossed up and back to the land of the living by the same volcano. Would it not have been vaporized or melted? And indeed, to Empedocles is attributed a foot of bronze, often noted together with Pythagoras’ golden thigh.

Still the question of the sandal remains. *Why just one?* Scholars suggest this is a sign.³⁶ And thus Nietzsche’s own Diogenes Laertius reports the ‘dropped’ sandal as a sign by which ‘afterwards the truth’ might be detected. So too we recall that Jason also loses a sandal crossing the flood-surgings of Anauros, carrying an old woman across the river, who turned out indeed to be Hera herself (no small feat, and there are Norse and Christian myths of the kind reflecting on deities disguised as the least of the world who manage to have themselves carried over various floods). More saliently,

recalling Lucian here, the loss of a sandal bespeaks a very particular translation in this context. Here the passage is over the Styx, the bronze of the sandal tossed up thus signifies a passage, a crossing over to the underworld. Hence the metal character of Empedocles' sandals – we recall that Hermes' sandals are variously said to be silver or gold, befitting a messenger who passes between the realms of the deathless and the mortal³⁷ – connects Empedocles to the underworld, as we recall that Hecate was specifically said to be associated with a single bronze sandal. All this then matters in connection with Lucian who reminds us that Diogenes the Cynic (here Lucian combines certain accounts), dies by the expedient of (that is to say: voluntarily) consuming Hecate's dinner – that would be dog meat – ah and of course, all of it at a crossroads. If this were a longer exposition we could take this to a reflection on the significance of the dog's howling in Nietzsche's Zarathustra and even the lice-ridden complaints of Nietzsche's 'theocritical goatherd' in the 'Songs of Prince Free as a Bird' appended to *The Gay Science*, on the sorrows of abandoned lovers, as Virgil has Dido curse Aeneas, before her own voluntary death, invoking Hecate and anyone with sympathies for abandoned lovers, sacrificing with one foot bare (*Aeneid*, IV).³⁸

In Book Two of Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, we meet 'the Isles of the Blest' following the beginning of Zarathustra's withdrawal – a retreat that takes years – ending with the following words: 'The beauty of the overman came to me as a shadow.'³⁹

We have already encountered the Homeric topos of the 'Isles of the Blest' as the subtitle of Wilhelm Heinse's *Ardinghello*, to which Heinse Hölderlin dedicated his *Brot und Wein* and which same vision illuminates Hölderlin's own novel *Hyperion*. The geographic contours of these two accounts, Heinse detailing the recollections of Ardinghello, a wanderer in Sicily, and Hölderlin's *Hyperion*, the hermit in an idealized vision of modern Greece, are essential for both and both point to a locative longing for place and a transfigured world.⁴⁰ In addition to the local 'setting' of German literature, there is also a metonymic association to be made to the darkly dramatic Swiss painter Arnold Böcklin (1827–1901), Nietzsche's contemporary Basel inhabitant.⁴¹ Although Böcklin also painted in 1888 a version of the 'Isle of the Blest', the *Lebensinsel* or *Isle of Life*, his most famous painting is the *Toteninsel* or *Isle of the Dead*, of which the painter created several variants between 1880 and 1886.

Here the point with reference to Zarathustra concerns his own flight into the volcano (echoing the suicide of Empedocles) also located in a specifically Mediterranean locus. Most of us will recall the Zarathustran passage in question just because of its oddity, if and still more strangely, the majority of Zarathustra scholars – with the exception of Jung (1988: 1214) – rarely remark upon this wackiness. For my part, I remember reading it for the first time or for however many hundreds of times I have read it, but always without much sense. But it is worth thinking about such things, especially with reference to Nietzsche who spent his life engaged with oddities often unquestioned by supposedly critical scholarship.⁴²

It is in this context that we turn to *Of Great Events*, prefaced by the section just to ensure that we do not miss it: *On Poets*, and beginning what can appear to be (if this were not Nietzsche's Zarathustra) a Platonic-Socratic mode teasing the poets for their lies, and affirming that 'Zarathustra too is a poet' (*Zarathustra II: On Poets*) Thus Zarathustra warns his disciple against belief, reflecting in a mode that we have seen above to be all-too-Lucianic, 'if someone said in all seriousness the poets lie too much: he would be right' (ibid.). As we noted at the outset, such a serious reflection on the poetic lie constitutes Lucian's epithet as the pretext for his *True Story*. For Zarathustra (as for Lucian here), 'we know too little and we are bad learners; so we simply have to lie' (ibid.).

Together with the above reading of Lucian, together with the suggestion that Nietzsche retells the purifications of Empedocles along with the death of Empedocles with his *Thus Spoke*

Zarathustra, the initial constellation or setting *Of Great Events* begins to lose a little of its oddity: this is the constellation of island and volcano, of the underworld, and ship with its captain and crew, the relevance of the cry 'It is time! It is high time!' and above all, Zarathustra flying through the air (along with the comment 'there is Zarathustra descending to Hell!') but also the interval detailed before his return on the fifth day, with anxiety 'after three' days 'the devil had taken Zarathustra' followed in good Menippean (or good Lucianic) fashion by the retort that 'Sooner would I believe that Zarathustra had taken the devil.'

Let us recall the start of this section here:

There is an island in the sea – not far from the Blissful Islands of Zarathustra – upon which a volcano continuously smokes; the people, and especially the old women among the people, say that it is placed like a block of stone before the gate of the underworld, but that the narrow downward path which leads to this gate of the underworld passes through the volcano itself. (*Zarathustra II, Of Great Events*)

This is patently related to Lucian if we are also aided by Rohde's *Psyche*.⁴³ In addition, we read further:

... it happened that a ship dropped anchor at the island upon which the smoking mountain stood; and its crew landed in order to shoot rabbits. Towards the hour of noon, however, when the captain and his men were reassembled, they suddenly saw a man coming towards them through the air, and a voice said clearly: 'It is time! It is high time!' But as the figure was closest to them – or flew quickly past, however, like a shadow, in the direction of the volcano – they recognized, with the greatest consternation, that it was Zarathustra. (*ibid.*)

Here Nietzsche's story as he tells it in *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* repeats a popular ghost story published by the Suabian poet, Justinus Kerner (we may recall that Kierkegaard refers to him very generally), who indeed claimed that it had been originally been 'channeled' by a seeress in his *Blätter aus Prevorst*:⁴⁴

The four captains and a merchant, Mr Bell, went ashore on the island of Stromboli to shoot rabbits. At three o'clock they called the crew together to go aboard, when, to their inexpressible astonishment, they saw two men flying rapidly over them through the air. One was dressed in black, the other in grey. They approached them very closely, in the greatest haste; to their greatest dismay they descended amid the burning flames into the crater of the terrible volcano, Mt. Stromboli. They recognized the pair as acquaintances from London. (Jung 1988: 1217–1218)

Jung, who argues that such ghost 'stories are recorded because they are edifying,' explains that '[t]he two gentlemen from London were big merchants and evidently they were not quite alright, because they are painted with the colors of hell which express sinfulness, one is black and the other grey, whereas they should be wearing white shirts which is court dress in heaven' (*ibid.*).

Grüselgeschichten, ghost stories, tales of the unhappy dead and of things we do not guess in this life – as is Lucian's *Kataplous*, in one vein, and Rohde's *Psyche*, in another – are comparably 'instructive' or edifying. The ghostly dimension of Zarathustra's witch-like flight, as the reference above to Lucian and to Rohde now makes plain, is literal rather than literary. If Gary Shapiro, who is one of the few scholars to write on this, is very right to point to the geological significance of this passage by contrast with *the Isles of the Blest*, he notes that here in *Of Great Events* Zarathustra 'appears mysteriously on a volcanic island (where his Shadow seems to fly into the volcano itself),'⁴⁵ Shapiro, along with most other commentators does not note that Zarathustra's shadow,

the *shade* in question, corresponds to the flattened dimensionality that is for the ancient Greek the only thing that remains of us after death.

Thus and with respect to the claim that it is, as Nietzsche's Zarathustra repeats, 'high time,' that it is therefore *late* – 'it's time, it's time' as T.S. Eliot calls – we are talking about death.⁴⁶ Thus Zarathustra teaches the overman and in 'our loneliest loneliness' (remembering that everyone must die their own death, which no one can die *for* you as Heidegger will tell us to great philosophical renown: as it is with being born, death is always only one's own),⁴⁷ and thus we hear the teaching of the eternal return of the same. And of this teaching we can say, as Nietzsche did, that whether you hear it or not, it is what you will do in any case: *Du wirst es jedenfalls*.

Coda

What Nietzsche takes from Lucian's *Kataplous* is the contrast between the values we have in our culture and our tendency to take these values, à la Herbert Butterfield's presentism, not only as universal but also as timeless. Writing that the human being is something to be overcome, Nietzsche points to a perspective beyond the here and now, asking us to consider not the immediate, be it economic advantage or pleasure, but the cosmos, as will to power.

Thus Nietzsche does not say *The little businessman is will to power and nothing besides*, much less *The German nationalist is will to power and nothing besides*, but *The world is will to power and nothing besides* – meaning thereby the collective whole of existence in the world (and indeed beyond the earth). In this sense, he has recourse to biological metaphors and from this same perspective he also emphasizes that the aim of life is expression not survival. It is only, he says, a bit unkindly, the Englishman who strives for life at any cost. But this is his general criticism of asceticism as anti-life. Life, as Nietzsche writes, is 'continually shedding something that wants to die... constantly being a murderer,' (GS 26) but also and always including death itself. Life is all about becoming, change, growth, reproduction, and death as Nietzsche denumerates these in his *Twilight of the Idols* contra the *idée fixe* of "'Reason" in Philosophy,' all points to very Lucianic insights.

We may wonder what Nietzsche might have meant by inventing Zarathustra as a sage for a modern world and even more radically, by calling neither for salvation nor for a remedy but and to begin with: purification. But to understand this call we need to overcome the human all-too-human, and for that we need to learn to love life even beyond what we know of the human condition.

Notes

1. In this classical philologist's context, Nietzsche notes the cynics as those who coined or 'invented' Menippean satire. On Menippus here, see Diogenes Laertius (2005: II.6, 99–101).
2. See Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols, What I owe the Ancients*, §2, in Nietzsche (1980 [KSA], 6: 155).
3. See what Clay (1992) calls 'Lucian's doubles.'
4. For our purposes here we note that Lucian is characterized by the fifth century Eunapius as an 'earnest' (or truth-purposing or truth-intending) liar. Cf. too the recent Ebner et al. (2001), especially Nesselrath's 'Lukian und die antike Philosophie' (135–152). See also, more generally, Branham (1989) in addition to the contributions to Bartley (2009).
5. Baier (2008: 103). Baier's own interest in Lucian, as she tells us, was elicited by an email inquiry from the Italian scholar Emilio Mazza (110) regarding the exact title of the dialogue Hume was reading on his death bed. Adam Smith, who is the usually cited source, is for Baier insufficiently specific, reporting 'that when he called on Hume on August 8, Hume was reading Lucian's "Dialogues of the Dead"' (here: 100). The dialogue turns out to be Lucian's *Kataplous*, which is also, to speak in Smith's favor, generically enough a 'dialogue of the dead' – all the characters are associated with death (like Charon and Hermes).

6. Here it is significant that Lucian had been translated into Latin by 1400 and by Erasmus in 1506. For context, see Marsh (1999). Lucian was translated into English as early as 1675, notably by Charles Cotton, *Burlesque upon Burlesque; or the Scoffer Scoff'd. Being Lucian's Dialogues newly put into English Fustian* (London, 1675; corrected in 1686).
7. See, for just one example, Voltaire 'Conversation de Lucien, Érasme, et Rabelais dans les Champs Elysées' (1765).
8. Here we can observe that disbelieving in the gods is not taken to be a belief that there is no deity but rather as a refusal of polytheism.
9. In this context, see Lauvergnat-Gagnière (1988).
10. See the entry in Eisler (1904). As it begins: 'Übermensch ist eigentlich nichts anderes als die Idee des vollkommeneren, des vollkommensten Menschen, sowohl als Gattung wie auch als Individualität (Genie) gedacht.'
11. The Latin is missing from Ginzburg's Italian original as well as the French translation.
12. Thus Albert Henrichs (1984: 217) notes with reference to Hölderlin that the context of his own syncretism of Christ and Dionysus is a classical idealization that is distinctly vertical: 'the Greek gods belonged in a different world far above that of man, or on a notional Parnassus.'
13. See, for an analysis, Babich (2005: 48–49).
14. In addition to Nietzsche's own references to Lucian, see Nietzsche's friend, Erwin Rohde (1869). And both Nietzsche and Rohde refer to Lucian in their correspondence. Although a discussion of Lucian is not part of what he does, see for a discussion of Rohde and Nietzsche, Cardew (2004). There are a range of references to Lucian (some already noted, some to be given in the notes to follow) but Friedrich Kainz (1974: 340) reminds us that in addition to the origins of the *Übermensch*, which Kainz is concerned to trace to its earlier appearances in Herder and Goethe, Lucian is also the source for the language of the 'halcyonic.' For an amusing exemplification that does not however regrettably engage Lucian's role *per se* in Nietzsche, see Rauer (2005).
15. See for this notion of demystification, Wallas (1994: ch. 10).
16. I have often discussed the context of nineteenth century science in terms of Nietzsche's own philosophy of science. Thus see for a recent and rather broader example, Babich (2010), esp. the section entitled 'Nietzsche and the Sciences': 353ff.
17. This approach to truth runs throughout Nietzsche's texts.
18. This is by far the most common attribution and I address this further in the second half of this essay. At this juncture, I wish to express my thanks to both Eli Friedländer and Horst Hutter for noting the even greater complexities of this already highly complex question. I note too that Claude Pavur (1998) reads the *Übermensch* in a renaissance humanist context. In addition, one can also read the *Übermensch* in the spirit of Montanus of the overman as Attis or Christ, with a patent parallel via the shepherd to Zarathustra.
19. Derrida is an invaluable inspiration for many reflections on this topic, just where Derrida (1989) draws on Nietzsche's Zarathustra (and let us not forget Brillat-Savarin in the background)
20. See, for an example of such a theological discussion of reversal, Hock (1987).
21. One usually speaks of parodies in this general sense. See for further references in English, Wolfe (1964).
22. See for a discussion, Wienand (2006).
23. Thus we noted above with reference to Annette Baier's reflections on the dialogue David Hume was reading along with Adam Smith's characterization of it as a dialogue of the dead, all turn out to be Lucian's stock in trade. Hence *The Downward Journey* (to be found in Vol. 2 of the Loeb edition) together with *The Dead Come to Life* (in Vol. 3) may be counted as so various 'Dialogues of the Dead.'
24. Lucian, 'The Dead Come to Life,' Loeb III: 3. The same text is rendered as 'Let him reap the fruit of his revilings' in *The Fisher: A Resurrection Piece* in an older translation (Fowler and Fowler 1905: 206).
25. Lucian, 'The Dead Come to Life,' Loeb III: 69.
26. 'Salmo Cyniscus: good gracious what teeth ... why the hook is bare; he has not been long assimilating the figs, eh? And the gold has gone down too' (Fowler and Fowler 1905: 227–228).
27. Elsewhere I develop this point concerning earthly kingship and the resonance between Hölderlin's and Nietzsche's use of the claim that the time of kings is no more.

28. Cf. Nietzsche's explication of 'exoteric' versus 'esoteric', whereby what is 'essential' is that the former 'sees things from below, but the esoteric sees them *from above!*' (BGE §30).
29. Nietzsche was fond of this metaphor; it is a musical one, and he used it more than once.
30. See Habermas (2001).
31. This citation reproduces Kaufmann's footnote in its entirety. The footnote itself clarifies Kaufmann's main text: 'The *hyperanthropous* is to be found in the writings of Lucian in the second century AD and Nietzsche as a classical philologist had studied Lucian and made frequent references to him in his philologia' (ibid.). Note that Kaufmann is mainly interested in the creation of the term as such.
32. See the mid-nineteenth century Loeb edition of Lucian (1913–67) or else the Everyman library edition (Lucian 1968, 'Kataplous': 175–193). The Loeb edition follows the 1905 translation by the Fowlers, *The Complete Works of Lucian of Samosata* also cited above.
33. Lucian (1913–67, 'The Journey to the Underworld or the Tyrant', 2: 35 [see for the Greek: 34]). Cf. Lucian's 'Menippus or the Descent into Hades', ibid., vol. 4; Nietzsche, *Human, All too Human, Mixed Opinions and Maxims* § 408; and Rohde (1900). For Lucian's influence, see further Hunger (1978: 151ff), as well as Robinson (1979) in addition to Baumbach (2002) and, more broadly, von Koppenfels (2007). A rewarding treatment is Francis G. Allinson (1926) who for his own part refers to Rohde's studies and to Swift's patently 'Lucianic' debt to Lucian.
34. As Marcus Aurelius argues the problem even with the persistence of the emanations of breath or spirit is that these too take space – and these too dissipate.
35. See Salter (2009). See also Strong's overall 'Introduction' (ibid., pp. xi–xxxiii) and my own discussion of Salter in Babich (2009).
36. I am grateful to Bracht Branham for emphasizing the sign character and I am especially grateful to Peter Bing for highlighting the allusion to Jason when I presented a version of this essay in a lecture given at Emory University, 15 April 2011.
37. Note here that the Greeks, like the Hindus today, focused on the spiritual value of metal. I offer further references in Babich (2008: 155–156).
38. See on the question of the sandal (which is rarely discussed), Fauth (1985–86) as well as and for a recent general summary, Rabinowitz (2005). For his part, Rabinowitz draws from, among other sources, Billault (1986) as well as Boedekker (1983).
39. Note that Zarathustra refers to the reference to the shadow and spirit world later as a choice for body, musing 'to one of his disciples "the spirit is to me no more than quasi-spirit; and all that is 'permanent' is also a mere parable"' (Z: II. *On Poets*).
40. There are a number of studies of this theme, beginning with Butler (1958); see, for a recent account, Güttenke (2008: 70ff).
41. In his notes from 1881, Nietzsche praises Böcklin as an exemplar of the quality of contemporary Swiss (by contrast with German painters) as a '*pathbreaking painter*' (KSA 9: 536).
42. In general, when scholars say they are 'puzzled,' they are usually halfway to dismissing the issue.
43. Rohde's study, originally published in the mid 1890s, is subsequent to Nietzsche's writing here but Nietzsche was, as noted above, familiar with Rohde's initial book on Lucian and on the Greek novel and its antecedents.
44. Although the citation is given by the compiler of Jung's *Nietzsche's Zarathustra*, as 'The Seeress of Prevorst,' (2117) the citation was taken from Justinus Kerner's *Blätter aus Prevorst; Originalien und Lese Früchte für Freunde des innern Lebens* inasmuch as these were a series of volumes and Jung's reference is to 'Volume IV: 57.' I thank Robin Small for drawing my attention to this detail as well as Annette Hornbacher.
45. See further, Shapiro (2008: 13).
46. Jung explains 'that "This is the secret, this is the key to the meaning of that descent into hell. It was a warning; soon you will go down into dissolution."' (1988: 1224).
47. "— Tod *ist* je nur *eigner* —" Heidegger (1984: 265. But Günther Anders happily reminds us that this also applies to quite a few other things. We can note: having sex, eating cupcakes, etc.

References

- Allinson, Francis G (1926) *Lucian: Satirist and Artist*. Boston: Marshall Jones Company.
- Babich, B (2005) 'The Science of Words or Philology: Music in *The Birth of Tragedy* and The Alchemy of Love in *The Gay Science*', *Rivista di estetica*, 28: 47–78.
- Babich, B (2008) 'Die Naturkunde der Griechischen Bronze im Spiegel des Lebens: Betrachtungen über Heideggers ästhetische Phänomenologie und Nietzsches agonale Politik', trad. H. Seubert with the author, in Günter Figal (ed.) *Internationales Jahrbuch für Hermeneutik*, pp. 127–189. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.
- Babich, B (2009) 'Nietzsche's Will to Power: Politics and Destiny', in: Tracy Strong (ed.) *Friedrich Nietzsche*, pp. 281–296. Aldershot: Ashgate.
- Babich, B (2010) 'Towards a Critical Philosophy of Science: Continental Beginnings and Bugbears, Whigs and Waterbears', *International Journal of the Philosophy of Science*, 24(4): 343–391.
- Baier, Annette (2008) *Death and Character: Further Reflections on Hume*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP.
- Bartley, Adam, ed. (2009) *A Lucian for Our Times*. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars.
- Baumbach, Manuel (2002) *Lukian in Deutschland. Eine forschungs- und rezeptionsgeschichtliche Analyse vom Humanismus bis zur Gegenwart*. Munich: Wilhelm Fink.
- Billault, A (1986) 'Hécate Romanesque', in: *Mort et Fécondité dans les Mythologies. Actes du Colloque de Poitiers, 13–14 mai 1983*, pp. 109–116. Paris: Les Belles Lettres.
- Boedekker, Deborah (1983) 'Hecate: A Transfunctional Goddess in the Theogony?' *TAPA*, 113: 79–93.
- Branham, Robert Bracht (1989) *Unruly Eloquence: Lucian and the Comedy of Traditions*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Butler, Eliza M (1958) *Tyranny of Greece over Germany*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Butterfield, Herbert (1951) *The Whig Interpretation of History*. London: Bell.
- Cardew, Alan (2004) 'The Dioscuri: Nietzsche and Erwin Rohde', in: Paul Bishop (ed.), *Nietzsche and Antiquity*, pp. 458–478. Rochester: Boydell & Brewer.
- Clay, Diskin (1992) 'Lucian of Samosata: Four Philosophical Lives (Nigrinus, Perigrinus, Demonax, Alexander Pseudomantis)', *Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt*, 2.36.5: 3406–3450.
- Derrida, Jacques (1989) "'Il faut bien manger" ou le calcul du sujet. entretien avec Jean-Luc Nancy', *Cahiers Confrontation* 20: 91–114.
- Diogenes Laertius (2005) *Lives of Eminent Philosophers*, trans. R D Hicks. Cambridge: Harvard UP.
- Ebner, Martin, Gzella, Holger, Nesselrath, Heinz-Günther and Ribbat, Ernst, eds (2001) *Philopseudeis è Apiston. Die Lügenfreunde oder: Der Ungläubige*. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft.
- Eisler, Rudolf (1904) *Handwörterbuch der Philosophie*. Berlin: Mittler und Sohn.
- Empedocles (1934) *Katharmoi*, in Hermann Diels and Walther Kranz, *Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker*, Vol. 1, p. 354 s. Berlin: Wiedmannsche Buchhandlung.
- Fauth, Wolfgang (1985–86) 'Aphrodites Pantoffel und die Sandale der Hekate' *Grazer Beiträge*, 12–13: 193–211.
- Fowler, H W and Fowler, F G (1905) *The Complete Works of Lucian of Samosata: Complete with Exceptions Specified in the Preface*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Frye, Northrop (1957) *Anatomy of Criticism*. Princeton: Princeton UP.
- Ginzburg, Carlo (2000) *No Island is an Island: Four Glances at English Literature in a World Perspective*. New York: Columbia UP.
- Güthenke, Constanze (2008) *Placing Modern Greece: The Dynamics of Romantic Hellenism, 1770–1840*. Oxford: Oxford UP.
- Habermas, Jürgen (2001) *Die Zukunft der menschlichen Natur. Auf dem Weg zu einer liberalen Eugenik?* Frankfurt-am-Main: Suhrkamp.
- Heidegger, Martin (1984) *Sein und Zeit*. Tübingen: Niemeyer.
- Hock, Ronald F (1987) 'Lazarus and Micylus: Greco-Roman Backgrounds to Luke 16: 19–31', *J. of Biblical Literature*, 106(3): 447–463.
- Hunger, Herbert (1978) *Die hochsprachliche profane Literatur der Byzantiner; Teilbd. 2: Philologie, Profandichtung, Musik, Mathematik und Astronomie, Naturwissenschaften, Medizin, Kriegswissenschaft, Rechtsliteratur*. Munich: Beck.

- Jung, Carl Gustav (1988) *Nietzsche's Zarathustra: Notes of the Seminar Given in 1934–1939*, trad. James L Jarrett. Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP.
- Kainz, Friedrich (1974) 'Klassik und Romantik', in Friedrich Maurer and Heinz Rupp (eds) *Deutsche Wortgeschichte*, t. 2, pp. 245–491. Berlin: de Gruyter.
- Kaufmann, Walter A (1974) *Nietzsche, Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP.
- von Koppenfels, Werner (2007) *Der andere Blick. Das Vermächtnis des Menippos in der europäischen Literatur*. Munich: Beck.
- Lauvergnot-Gagnière, Christine (1988) *Lucien de Samosate et le Lucianisme en France au XVI^e siècle: Athéisme et polémique*. Geneva: Droz.
- Lucian of Samosata (1913–67) *Lucian*, with an English translation by A M Harmon, 8 v. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP.
- Lucian of Samosata (1968) *Selected Satires of Lucian*, trad. Lionel Casson. New York: Norton.
- Marsh, David (1999) *Lucian and the Latins: Humor and Humanism in the Early Renaissance*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Nietzsche, F (1980) *Kritische Studien Ausgabe* [KSA]. Berlin: De Gruyter.
- Pavur, Claude (1998) *Nietzsche Humanist*. Milwaukee: Marquette UP.
- Rabinowitz, Jacob (2005) 'The "Her" Story of the Great Witch-Goddess: Analyzing the Narratives of Hekate', AJCN, 2, http://cf.hum.uva.nl/narratology/a05_rabinowitz_00.html.
- Rauer, Konstantin (2005) 'Totengespräch zwischen Kant and Nietzsche zur Moralphilosophie', in: Beatrix Himmelmann (ed.), *Kant und Nietzsche im Widerstreit*, pp. 119–129. Berlin: de Gruyter.
- Renault, Philippe (2004) 'Lucien de Samosate ou le prince du gai savoir' *Folia Electronica Classica*, 8, ftr.ucl.ac.be/FE/08/Lucien.html.
- Robinson, Christopher (1979) *Lucian and his Influence in Europe*. London: Duckworth.
- Rohde, Erwin (1869) *Über Lucians Schrift Loukios e Onos und ihr Verhältnis zu Lucius von Patrae und den Metamorphosen des Apuleius*. Leipzig: Engelmann.
- Rohde, Erwin (1900) *Der griechische Roman und seine Vorläufer*. Leipzig: Breitkopf und Härtel.
- Rohde, E (1925) *Psyche, Seelencult und Unsterblichkeitsglaube der Griechen*. Tübingen: Mohr.
- Salter, William MacIntire (2009) 'Nietzsche and War', in Tracy Strong (ed.) *Friedrich Nietzsche*, pp. 3–26. Aldershot: Ashgate.
- Shapiro, Gary (2008) 'Beyond Peoples and Fatherlands: Nietzsche's Geophilosophy and the Direction of the Earth', *Journal of Nietzsche Studies*, 35–36: 9–27.
- Wallas, Armin A (1994) *Albert Ehrenstein: Mythenzerstörer und Mythenschöpfer*. Grafrath: Boer.
- Wienand, Isabelle (2006) *Significations de la Mort de Dieu chez Nietzsche d'Humain, trop humain à Ainsi parlait Zarathoustra*. Bern/Oxford: Peter Lang.
- Wolfe, Peter (1964) 'Image and Meaning in *Also Sprach Zarathustra*', *MLN*, 89(5): 546–552.