

Interpretation

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A Short Response to a Polite Request

HEINRICH MEIER

The editor-in-chief of *Interpretation* asked me to write a response to a review of *What Is Nietzsche's Zarathustra?* and to another article on my book published in this issue of the journal. I shall not comply with his polite request. Over the years my writings have been the subject of hundreds of reviews, comments, and critical studies. Never have I responded in public to them when they appeared. If I learn something from the critique, the response can be seen in my work. If the critique does not apply, I rely on the judgment of the reader I care about.

The article accusing me of several “crimes” against the Nietzschean faith and of “indecent” behavior is a special case. Its author shows by deed how important it is for the will to power to be “unharnessed,” as Zarathustra points out twice in his speeches. The anger, *Unmut*, indignation the attack breathes demonstrates *ad oculos* that the will to power that is refusing a reflective turn on itself precludes the will to truth from reaching its goal. The adherent of the orthodox doctrine may preserve his faith by denying that the “will to power” has to be thought first and foremost as a concept of philosophic self-understanding and self-critique. But he has to pay a high price for this denial.