

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910404124403321
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Titolo	Nietzsche, Religion, and Mood / / Sampsa Andrei Saarinen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	De Gruyter, 2019 Berlin ; ; Boston : , : De Gruyter, , [2019] ©2019
ISBN	9783110620351 3110620359 9783110621075 311062107X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (278 pages)
Collana	Monographien und Texte zur Nietzsche-Forschung ; ; 71
Classificazione	PHI016000PHI022000
Disciplina	193
Soggetti	Friedrich Nietzsche Nietzsche, Friedrich Radikaler Atheismus Stimmung Säkularisierung mood radical atheism secularization PHILOSOPHY / History & Surveys / Modern
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from eBook information screen..
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Preface and acknowledgements -- Contents -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Nietzsche and the inadequate secularization of the "heart" in the 19th century -- 3. Nietzsche's psychology and the tension between body and spirit -- 4. Nietzsche's psychology of religion in Human, All Too Human and Daybreak -- 5. On the communication of mood in Nietzsche's Gay Science -- 6. Thus Spoke Zarathustra: Communication of mood or nihilistic self-parody? -- 7. Nietzsche's final ideal -- 8. Nietzsche's radical atheism? -- 9. Conclusions -- 10. Literature -- Index of Names -- Index of Subjects

How does Nietzsche, as psychologist, envision the future of religion and atheism? While there has been no lack of "psychological" studies that have sought to illuminate Nietzsche's philosophy of religion by interpreting his biography, this monograph is the first comprehensive study to approach the topic through the philosopher's own psychological thinking. The author shows how Nietzsche's critical writings on religion, and especially on religious decline and future possibilities, are informed by his psychological thinking about moods. The author furthermore argues that the clarification of this aspect of the philosopher's work is essential to interpreting some of the most ambiguous words found in his writings; the words that God is dead. Instead of merely denying the existence of God in a way that leaves a melancholic need for religion or a futile search for replacements intact, Nietzsche arguably envisions the possibility of a radical atheism, which is characterized by a mood of joyful doubt. The examination of this vision should be of great interest to scholars of Nietzsche and of the history of philosophy, but also of relevance to all those who take an interest in the interdisciplinary discourse on secularization.
