

# What Exactly Did Nietzsche Mean by “Übermensch”?

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## Abstract

Nietzsche used the words “Übermensch” and “Übermenschen” in his book “Also sprach Zarathustra: Ein Buch für Alle und Keinen.” Several translations of these words have been put forward in the more than a century since this book’s first publication in the 1880s. This paper will examine German and “Also sprach Zarathustra,” also referred to as “Thus Spoke Zarathustra” later on, and argue that “Beyond-Human” is the best translation of Übermensch.

## Keywords

Nietzsche, Zarathustra, Übermensch, Übermenschen

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## 1. Introduction<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

In 1896, Alexander Tille translated Übermensch as “Beyond-Man.” Various translations such as Overhuman and Overman have followed in the more than 100 years since (Nietzsche, 2018). This paper will argue that “Beyond-Human” is the best translation of Übermensch.

## 2. The Meaning of “Über”

Über has several translations in English. They include “above,” “beyond,”

<sup>1</sup>A free and fully searchable copy of “Thus Spoke Zarathustra” is available at the Project Gutenberg website at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/7205/7205-h/7205-h.htm>.

<sup>2</sup>A downloadable pdf of an 1893 copy in German of “Thus Spoke Zarathustra” is available at the Internet Archive at [https://ia800301.us.archive.org/10/items/NietzscheAlsoSprachZarathustra1893/Nietzsche\\_Also\\_sprach\\_Zarathustra\\_1893.pdf](https://ia800301.us.archive.org/10/items/NietzscheAlsoSprachZarathustra1893/Nietzsche_Also_sprach_Zarathustra_1893.pdf). Alternate file formats can be found at the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/NietzscheAlsoSprachZarathustra1893/mode/2up>.

<sup>3</sup>“The Portable Nietzsche,” a translated compilation of Nietzsche’s (1988) works, is available for download for free and in other file formats at The internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/ThePortableNietzscheWalterKaufmann>

<sup>4</sup>The author left out Clancy Martin’s translation of “Thus Spoke Zarathustra” because Martin didn’t translate the word in focus.

“over,” “about,” and “more than.” “Over” is applied for sentences such as “Die Hürdenläuferin springt über die Hürden wie eine Gazelle,” which one website essentially translates as “The hurdler jumps over the hurdles like a gazelle” (WordReference.com<sup>5</sup>). “More than,” meanwhile, can be applied for sentences such as “Wie lange hat das Spiel gedauert? Etwas über zwei Stunden” (Deutsch: Na klar! (Hereafter “DNK”) (5th ed.), 2008: p. 218). In “Run Lola Run!,” in response to the main character’s father asking her that she had a boyfriend after she told him that she had a boyfriend, she replied “Über einem Jahr!” (Twyker, 1998, between the 21:00 and 21:08 marks). As for “about,” translating “über” as such fits sentences such as “Berichten Sie über eines der folgenden Themen” (DNK, 2008: p. 381). Two online translation tools translate this sentence as “report on one of the following topics” (Deepl.com<sup>6</sup>; Google Translate<sup>7</sup>). Another translation, however, is “report about one of the following topics.” An “above” translation of über fits sentences such as “sie wohnt über uns” and “über uns nichts als blauer Himmel” which one website translates as “she lives above us” and “nothing above us but blue sky, respectively (WordReference.com<sup>8</sup>). As for translating über as “beyond,” this translation fits sentences such as “über meine Kräfte,” which one website translates as “beyond my strength” (Wordreference.com<sup>9</sup>).

### 3. The Significance of “Weiter”

“Weit” in High German means “far” (DNK, 2008: A-54) and “weiter” in High German means “further.” In High German, however, it is sometimes used in the way that native English speakers would use “more” or “additional” (*same* at p. 345), as shown by the previous citation. It comes from a German textbook that when speaking about the actress Franke Potente gave some examples of movies that she has been in and when about to mention a few more, it said “weitere Filme”.

### 4. Über in Various German Words

“Über” is a prefix in various High German words, including überglücklich, überleben, übergroß, and überfreundlich. “Überglücklich” is translated as “overjoyed” and “over the moon” (*same* at A-51; WordReference.com<sup>10</sup>). Translating it as “beyond happy,” though, also makes sense, especially given the previously mentioned tendency in High German to think of things as separate and

<sup>5</sup><https://www.wordreference.com/deen/%C3%BCber>, accessed on 2/14/22.

<sup>6</sup>Deepl.com,

<https://www.deepl.com/translator#de/en/Berichten%20Sie%20%C3%BCber%20eines%20der%20folgenden%20Themen>, translation accessed on 10/26/22.

<sup>7</sup>Google Translate,

<https://translate.google.com/?sl=de&tl=en&text=Berichten%20Sie%20%C3%BCber%20eines%20der%20folgendenThemen&op=translate>, translation accessed on 7/25/22.

<sup>8</sup><https://www.wordreference.com/deen/%C3%BCber>, accessed on 2/14/22.

<sup>9</sup><https://www.wordreference.com/deen/%C3%BCber>, accessed on 2/14/22.

<sup>10</sup><https://www.wordreference.com/deen/%C3%BCbergl%C3%BCcklich>.

discrete, as shown by “weitere Filme.”

As for “überleben,” this word is traditionally translated as “to survive” or “to outlive” (DNK, 2008: A-51; WordReference.com<sup>11</sup>). Another translation that makes sense, however, is “to live beyond,” especially given the previously discussed tendency in High German to use “über” to describe lengths of time, such as for how long a soccer game lasted (DNK, 2008: p. 381).

“Überfreundlich,” meanwhile, is translated as “super-friendly” (*same* at A-51). It can easily be translated as “beyond friendly,” though, if one thinks of friendliness as a spectrum with discrete categories or cutoff points such as “somewhat unfriendly,” “not really friendly or unfriendly,” etc.

## 5. The “Above” and “Over” Translations

“Über” is oftentimes translated as “above” or “over” in English. This translation does make sense for when referring to something that’s physically above another thing, but “beyond” also works in these sentences because “above” is another way of saying “beyond” or “over” in a vertical sense. “Above” and “over,” however, can’t be used in certain sentences that have “über” in them, such as sentences with the previously mentioned “überleben”<sup>12</sup> and sentences such as “geht der Zug über Frankfurt?” (WordReference.com<sup>13</sup>). “Geht der Zug” translates as “does the train go” and Frankfurt is a city, so translating “über” as “over” or “above” in this sentence doesn’t make sense in English.

## 6. The Actual Text of “Also Sprach Zarathustra”

“Übermensch” or “Übermenschen” comes up 47 times in *Also Sprach Zarathustra*.<sup>14</sup> Perhaps the most important of these 47 times is when Nietzsche wrote “Der Mensch ist ein Seil, geknüpft zwischen Thier und Übermensch,—ein Seil über einem Abgrunde,” which more than one online tool essentially translates as “man is a rope tied between animal and Übermensch, a rope over an abyss” (Google Translate<sup>15</sup>; Deepl.com<sup>16</sup>). The imagery of this passage strongly suggests “Beyond Human” or “Beyond Man” as the best way to translate “Übermensch” given the imagery of a rope with three groups tied to it with human beings in the middle, a rope that is horizontal given its being over an abyss unless one were to

<sup>11</sup><https://www.wordreference.com/deen/%C3%BCberleben>.

<sup>12</sup>To say “to live over” or “to live above” to mean “to survive” would be weird for a native English speaker.

<sup>13</sup><https://www.wordreference.com/deen/%C3%BCber>

<sup>14</sup>This was found via a CTRL-F search of a full-text version of the text available on the project Gutenberg website. This version can be found at <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/7205/7205-h/7205-h.htm>.

<sup>15</sup>Google Translate,

<https://translate.google.com/?sl=de&tl=en&text=Der%20Mensch%20ist%20ein%20Seil%2C%20gekn%C3%BCpft%20zwischen%20Thier%20und%20%C3%9Cbermensch%2C%E2%80%94ein%20Seil%20%C3%BCber%20einem%20Abgrunde&op=translate>, translation accessed on 11/15/21.

<sup>16</sup>Deepl.com,

<https://www.deepl.com/translator#de/en/Der%20Mensch%20ist%20ein%20Seil%2C%20gekn%C3%BCpft%20zwischen%20Thier%20und%20%C3%9Cbermensch%2C%E2%80%94ein%20Seil%20%C3%BCber%20einem%20Abgrunde>, translation accessed on 10/26/22.

add something to Nietzsche's words along the lines of that rope somehow being suspended from something else over that abyss's floor.

Another telling mentioning of "Übermensch" by Nietzsche comes later in the book when he wrote "Ich gehe nicht euren Weg, ihr Verächter des Leibes! Ihr seid mir keine Brücken zum Übermenschen!". Online sources essentially translate this passage as "I am not going your way, you despisers of the body! You are no bridges to the Übermenschen for me!" (Google Translate<sup>17</sup>; Deepl.com<sup>18</sup>). The reference to bridges continues the aforementioned horizontal imagery, giving more support to translating "die Übermenschen" as "The Beyond Humans" or "The Beyond Men."

## 7. The Passages that Support an "Above Human" or "Over Human" Translation

There are some passages which seem to support a translation of Übermensch as "Overhumans" or "Above Humans"<sup>19, 20</sup> and they are shown below with an English translation from deepl.com next to them. Each of these passages works, however, if you translate Übermensch as "Beyond Humans" or "Beyond Men."

1	Seht, ich bin ein Verkündiger des Blitzes und ein schwerer Tropfen aus der Wolke: dieser Blitz aber heisst Übermensch.	(Behold, I am a herald of lightning, and a heavy drop out of the cloud: but this lightning is called the superman.)
2	Ich will die Menschen den Sinn ihres Seins lehren: welcher ist der Übermensch, der Blitz aus der dunklen Wolke Mensch.	I will teach people the meaning of their being: which is the superman, the lightning from the dark cloud man
3	Den Schaffenden, den Erntenden, den Feiernden will ich mich zugesellen: den Regenbogen will ich ihnen zeigen und alle die Treppen des Übermenschen.	I will join the creators, the reapers, the celebrators: I will show them the rainbow and all the stairs of the superman.
4	Dort, wo der Staat <i>aufhört</i> ,—so seht mir doch hin, meine Brüder! Seht ihr ihn nicht, den Regenbogen und die Brücken des Übermenschen?	There, where the state ends,—so look at me, my brothers! Do you not see it, the rainbow and the bridges of the superman?
5	Wahrlich, immer zieht es uns hinan—nämlich zum Reich der Wolken: auf diese setzen wir unsre bunten Bälge und heissen sie dann Götter und Übermenschen:— Sind sie doch gerade leicht genug für diese Stühle!—alle diese Götter und Übermenschen.	Truly, we are always drawn to the realm of the clouds: on these we place our colorful brats and then call them gods and supermen. They are just light enough for these chairs!—all these gods and supermen.

<sup>17</sup>Google Translate,

<https://translate.google.com/?sl=de&tl=en&text=Ich%20gehe%20nicht%20euren%20Weg%20ihr%20Ver%C3%A4chter%20des%20Leibes!%20Ihr%20seid%20mir%20keine%20Br%C3%BCcken%20zum%20%C3%9Cbermenschen&op=translate>, translation accessed on 11/15/21.

<sup>18</sup>Deepl.com,

<https://www.deepl.com/translator#de/en/Ich%20gehe%20nicht%20euren%20Weg%20ihr%20Ver%C3%A4chter%20des%20Leibes!%20Ihr%20seid%20mir%20keine%20Br%C3%BCcken%20zum%20%C3%9Cbermenschen>, translation accessed on 10/26/22.

<sup>19</sup>The Portable Nietzsche (1988) (Edited and Translated by Walter Kaufmann). Penguin Books. <https://archive.org/details/ThePortableNietzscheWalterKaufmann>.

<sup>20</sup>Nietzsche, F. (2005) *Thus Spoke Zarathustra: A Book for All and None* (G. Parkes, Trans.). Oxford University Press.

## Continued

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|--|---|
| <p>So fremd seid ihr dem Grossen mit eurer Seele, dass euch der Übermensch <i>furchtbar</i> sein würde in seiner Güte!<br/>         Und ihr Weisen und Wissenden, ihr würdet vor dem Sonnenbrande der Weisheit flüchten, in dem der Übermensch mit Lust seine Nacktheit badet!</p> <p>6 Ihr höchsten Menschen, denen mein Auge begegnete! das ist mein Zweifel an euch und mein heimliches Lachen: ich rathe, ihr würdet meinen Übermenschen—Teufel heissen!<br/>         Ach, ich ward dieser Höchsten und Besten müde: aus ihrer “Höhe” verlangte mich hinauf, hinaus, hinweg zu dem Übermenschen!</p> | <p>So foreign are you to the Great with your soul, that the superman would be terrible to you in his goodness!<br/>         And you wise and knowing, you would flee from the sunburn of wisdom, in which the superman bathes with pleasure his nakedness!<br/>         You highest men, whom my eye met! this is my doubt about you and my secret laughter: I guess, you would call my superhuman devil!<br/>         Alas, I was tired of these highest and best: from their “height” I longed up, out, away to the superman!</p> |
| <p>Wohlan! Wohlauf! Ihr höheren Menschen! Nun erst kreisst der Berg der Menschen-Zukunft. Gott starb: nun wollen <i>wir</i>;—dass der Übermensch lebe.</p>   | <p>Come on! Come on! You higher people! Only now the mountain of man’s future circles. God died: now we want, -that the superman lives.</p>   |

## 8. The “Superhuman” and “Superman” Translations

Some such as Thomas Common have translated Übermensch as superhuman or superman.<sup>21, 22, 23, 24</sup> This translation should be disregarded for several reasons. First, *über* is a *preposition* in High German, not an adjective. Secondly, it makes it sound as though an Übermensch is *still* a Mensch and this is clearly contrary to what Nietzsche intended, as shown by lines saying things like what is an ape to a human being? We are clearly separate for apes, after all. There’s also the line of humans being in the middle of a rope tied between apes and Übermensch, clearly indicating that Nietzsche sees Übermensch as being separate from human beings.

The only reason a “superhuman” or “superman” translation of Übermensch can make sense is because of words like *überglücklich*, which is sometimes translated as “overjoyed” or “super happy,” and *überfreundlich*, which is sometimes translated as “super friendly.” As discussed earlier, however, these words can also be translated as “beyond happy” and “beyond friendly,” respectively. And given the just discussed obviousness of Nietzsche’s view of Übermenschen as being separate from humans and *über*’s usage in German as a preposition, the “superman” and “superhuman” translations should be discarded. A superman is still a man, after all, just like a funny person is still a person.

<sup>21</sup>Nietzsche, F. (2016). *Thus Spoke Zarathustra: A Book for All and None*. (T. Common, Trans., originally translated in 1909). Kindle ed., Digireads.com.

<sup>22</sup>Nietzsche, F. (2006). *Thus Spoke Zarathustra: A Book for All and None*. (A. Del Caro, Trans., edited by A. Del Caro & R.B. Pippin). Kindle ed., Cambridge University Press.

<sup>23</sup>Nietzsche, F. (2003). *Thus Spoke Zarathustra: A Book for All and None* (T. Wayne, Trans.). Algora Publishing.

<sup>24</sup>Nietzsche, F. (1969). *Thus Spoke Zarathustra: A Book for All and None*. (R.J. Hollingdale, Trans.). Kindle ed., Penguin Books.

## 9. “Beyond” in English

“Beyond” is a common English word and it is sometimes used to refer to outer space and things from it. Marvel Comics has a character named “The Beyonder” who does not come from Earth (Marvel Database|Fandom<sup>25</sup>). There was also a science fiction television show named “Space: Above and Beyond” that aired in the mid 90s and documentaries such as “Space: Into the Great Beyond” (IMDB<sup>26</sup>; Reality Entertainment<sup>27</sup>). It thus makes sense to translate *Übermensch* with “beyond” given Nietzsche’s sentences mentioning the stairs of the *Übermensch*.

## 10. Conclusion

Nietzsche’s “*Übermensch*” has been translated frequently through the years. Given parts of “Thus Spoke Zarathustra” such as someone “being no bridge to the *Übermensch*,” any translation that only translates *über* in a vertical way should be discarded. Any translation that *discards* any sense of direction when translating *Übermensch* should be ignored given all the passages in “Thus Spoke Zarathustra” that indicate traveling or getting to the *Übermensch*. And for reasons already stated, translating *Übermensch* as “superhuman” should also be gotten rid of. Therefore, and including all the reasons previously stated, *Übermensch* should be translated as “Beyond Human.”

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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<sup>25</sup>Marvel.fandom.com, [https://marvel.fandom.com/wiki/Beyonder\\_\(Earth-616\)](https://marvel.fandom.com/wiki/Beyonder_(Earth-616)).  
[https://marvel.fandom.com/wiki/Beyonder\\_\(Earth-616\)](https://marvel.fandom.com/wiki/Beyonder_(Earth-616)).

<sup>26</sup>IMDB, <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1398737/>.

<sup>27</sup>Reality Entertainment,  
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## Appendix

### Table with All Mentions of *Übermensch* in “Thus Spoke Zarathustra”

Nietzsche's original words	deepl.com translation on 1/11/21	Google Translate translation on 1/13/21
Ich lehre euch den Übermenschen. Der Mensch ist Etwas, das überwunden werden soll. Was habt ihr gethan, ihn zu überwinden?	I teach you the superman. Man is something that is to be overcome. What have you done to overcome him?	I teach you the superman. Man is something to be overcome. What did you do to overcome it?
Was ist der Affe für den Menschen? Ein Gelächter oder eine schmerzliche Scham. Und ebendas soll der Mensch für den Übermenschen sein: ein Gelächter oder eine schmerzliche Scham.	What is the monkey for man? A laughter or a painful shame. And this is what man is supposed to be for the superman: a laughter or a painful shame.	What is the monkey to man? A laugh or a painful shame. And that is exactly what man should be for the superman: a laugh or a painful shame.
Seht, ich lehre euch den Übermenschen! Der Übermensch ist der Sinn der Erde. Euer Wille sage: der Übermensch sei der Sinn der Erde!	Behold, I teach you the superman! The superman is the sense of the earth. Let your will say: the superman is the meaning of the earth!	See, I am teaching you the superman! The superman is the meaning of the earth. Your will say: superman is the meaning of the earth!
Seht, ich lehre euch den Übermenschen: der ist diess Meer, in ihm kann eure grosse Verachtung untergehn.	Look, I teach you the superman: he is this sea, in him your great contempt can sink.	See, I teach you the superman: this is this sea, in it your great contempt can get lost.
Seht, ich lehre euch den Übermenschen: der ist dieser Blitz, der ist dieser Wahnsinn!—	Behold, I teach you the superman: he is this lightning, he is this madness!	See, I teach you the superman: it is this lightning, it is this madness! -
Der Mensch ist ein Seil, geknüpft zwischen Thier und Übermensch,—ein Seil über einem Abgrunde.	Man is a rope, tied between animal and superhuman,-a rope over an abyss.	Man is a rope, tied between animal and superman—a rope over an abyss.
Ich liebe Die, welche nicht erst hinter den Sternen einen Grund suchen, unterzugehen und Opfer zu sein: sondern die sich der Erde opfern, dass die Erde einst der Übermenschen werde. Ich liebe Den, welcher lebt, damit er erkenne, und welcher erkennen will, damit einst der Übermensch lebe. Und so will er seinen Untergang. Ich liebe Den, welcher arbeitet und erfindet, dass er dem Übermenschen das Haus baue und zu ihm Erde, Thier und Pflanze vorbereite: denn so will er seinen Untergang.	I love those who do not look for a reason behind the stars to perish and to be victims: but who sacrifice themselves to the earth, so that the earth once becomes the superman. I love the one who lives, so that he recognizes, and who wants to recognize, so that once the superman lives. And so he wants his downfall. I love him who works and invents, that he may build the house of the superman, and prepare for him earth, beast and plant: for thus he wills his destruction.	I love those who do not first look for a reason to go under and to be victims behind the stars: but who sacrifice themselves to the earth so that the earth will one day become the superman. I love him who lives so that he may know and who wants to know so that the superman may one day live. And so he wants his downfall. I love him who works and invents to build the house for the superman and prepare earth, animals and plants for him: for this is how he wants his downfall.
Seht, ich bin ein Verkündiger des Blitzes und ein schwerer Tropfen aus der Wolke: dieser Blitz aber heisst Übermensch.	Behold, I am a herald of lightning, and a heavy drop out of the cloud: but this lightning is called the superman.	See, I am a herald of lightning and a heavy drop from the cloud: but this lightning is called Superman.



## Continued

<p>Und hier endete die erste Rede Zarathustra's, welche man auch "die Vorrede" heisst: denn an dieser Stelle unterbrach ihn das Geschrei und die Lust der Menge. "Gieb uns diesen letzten Menschen, oh Zarathustra,—so riefen sie—mache uns zu diesen letzten Menschen! So schenken wir dir den Übermenschen!" Und alles Volk jubelte und schnalzte mit der Zunge. Zarathustra aber wurde traurig und sagte zu seinem Herzen:</p>	<p>And here ended the first speech of Zarathustra, which is also called "the preface": for at this point the shouting and the lust of the crowd interrupted him. "Give us this last man, O Zarathustra,—so they cried—make us these last men! Thus we give thee the superman!" And all the people rejoiced and clicked their tongues. But Zarathustra became sad and said to his heart:</p>	<p>And this is where Zarathustra's first speech ended, which is also called "the preface": because at this point he was interrupted by the shouting and the lust of the crowd. "Give us these last people, O Zarathustra,—so they cried—make us these last people! So we give you the supermen!" And all the people cheered and clicked their tongues. But Zarathustra was sad and said to his heart:</p>
<p>Ich will die Menschen den Sinn ihres Seins lehren: welcher ist der Übermensch, der Blitz aus der dunklen Wolke Mensch.</p>	<p>I will teach people the meaning of their being: which is the superman, the lightning from the dark cloud man.</p>	<p>I want to teach people the meaning of their being: who is the superman, the lightning from the dark cloud man.</p>
<p>Den Schaffenden, den Erntenden, den Feiernden will ich mich zugesellen: den Regenbogen will ich ihnen zeigen und alle die Treppen des Übermenschen.</p>	<p>I will join the creators, the reapers, the celebrators: I will show them the rainbow and all the stairs of the superman.</p>	<p>I want to join the creators, the harvesters, the celebrants: I want to show them the rainbow and all the stairs of the superman.</p>
<p>Ich gehe nicht euren Weg, ihr Verächter des Leibes! Ihr seid mir keine Brücken zum Übermenschen!—</p>	<p>I do not go your way, you despisers of the body! You are not bridges to the superhuman for me!</p>	<p>I am not going your way, you despisers of the body! You are no bridges to the superman for me! -</p>
<p>Es ist nicht genug, dass ihr euch mit Dem versöhnt, den ihr tödtet. Eure Traurigkeit sei Liebe zum Übermenschen: so rechtfertigt ihr euer Noch-Leben!</p>	<p>It is not enough that you reconcile yourselves with the one you killed. Let your sadness be love for the superman: thus you justify your still life!</p>	<p>It is not enough that you are reconciled to the one you killed. Your sadness be love for the superman: this is how you justify your still-life!</p>
<p>Dort, wo der Staat <i>aufhört</i>,—so seht mir doch hin, meine Brüder! Seht ihr ihn nicht, den Regenbogen und die Brücken des Übermenschen?—</p>	<p>There, where the state ends,—so look at me, my brothers! Do you not see it, the rainbow and the bridges of the superman?</p>	<p>Where the state ends, look at me, my brothers! Do you not see him, the rainbow and the bridges of the superman?</p>
<p>Du kannst dich für deinen Freund nicht schön genug putzen: denn du sollst ihm ein Pfeil und eine Sehnsucht nach dem Übermenschen sein.</p>	<p>You cannot prettify yourself enough for your friend: for you shall be to him an arrow and a desire of the superhuman.</p>	<p>You cannot clean yourself nicely enough for your friend: for you should be an arrow to him and a longing for the superman.</p>
<p>Nicht den Nächsten lehre ich euch, sondern den Freund. Der Freund sei euch das Fest der Erde und ein Vorgefühl des Übermenschen.</p>	<p>I do not teach you the neighbor, but the friend. Let the friend be to you the feast of the earth and a foreshadowing of the superman.</p>	<p>I do not teach you your neighbor, but your friend. The friend is to you the festival of the earth and a foretaste of the superman.</p>
<p>Die Zukunft und das Fernste sei dir die Ursache deines Heute: in deinem Freunde sollst du den Übermenschen als deine Ursache lieben.</p>	<p>Let the future and the farthest things be the cause of your today: in your friend you shall love the superman as your cause.</p>	<p>Let the future and the most distant be the cause of your today: in your friends you should love the superman as your cause.</p>

## Continued

Der Strahl eines Sternes glänze in eurer Liebe!  
Eure Hoffnung heisse: “möge ich den  
Übermenschen gebären!”

Bitterniss ist im Kelch auch der besten Liebe: so  
macht sie Sehnsucht zum Übermenschen, so  
macht sie Durst dir, dem Schaffenden!  
Durst dem Schaffenden, Pfeil und Sehnsucht  
zum Übermenschen: sprich, mein Bruder, ist  
diess dein Wille zur Ehe?

Ihr Einsamen von heute, ihr Ausscheidenden,  
ihr sollt einst ein Volk sein: aus euch, die ihr  
euch selber auswähltet, soll ein auserwähltes  
Volk erwachsen:—und aus ihm der  
Übermensch.

Und das ist der grosse Mittag, da der Mensch auf  
der Mitte seiner Bahn steht zwischen Thier und  
Übermensch und seinen Weg zum Abende als  
seine höchste Hoffnung feiert: denn es ist der  
Weg zu einem neuen Morgen.

Alsdä wird sich der Untergehende selber segnen,  
dass er ein Hinübergehender sei; und die Sonne  
seiner Erkenntniss wird ihm im Mittage stehn.

“Todt sind alle Götter: nun wollen wir, dass der  
Übermensch lebe.”—diess sei einst am grossen  
Mittage unser letzter Wille!—

Einst sagte man Gott, wenn man auf ferne Meere  
blickte; nun aber lehrte ich euch sagen:  
Übermensch.

Gott ist eine Muthmaassung; aber ich will, dass  
euer Muthmaassen nicht weiter reiche, als euer  
schaffender Wille.

Könntet ihr einen Gott *schaffen*?—So schweigt  
mir doch von allen Göttern! Wohl aber könntet  
ihr den Übermenschen schaffen.

Nicht ihr vielleicht selber, meine Brüder! Aber  
zu Vätern und Vorfahren könntet ihr euch  
umschaffen des Übermenschen: und  
Diess sei euer bestes Schaffen!—

Des Übermenschen Schönheit kam zu mir als  
Schatten. Ach, meine Brüder! Was gehen mich  
noch—die Götter an!—

The ray of a star shine in your love!  
Your hope is: “May I give birth to the  
superman”!

Bitterness is in the cup even of the best  
love: so it makes longing to the  
superhuman, so it makes thirst to  
you, the creator!

Thirst for the creator, arrow and  
longing for the superman: say, my  
brother, is this your will for marriage?

You lonely ones of today, you who  
have left, you shall one day be a  
people: from you, who chose  
yourselves, shall grow a chosen  
people:—and from it the superman.

And that is the great noon, when man  
stands in the middle of his course  
between animal and superhuman and  
celebrates his way to the evening as his  
highest hope: for it is the way to a new  
morning.

There the sinking man will bless  
himself that he is a passing man; and  
the sun of his knowledge will stand for  
him in the noon.

“All the gods are dead: now we want  
the superman to live”—this will be our  
last will and testament at the great  
noon!

Once one said God when one looked at  
distant seas; but now I teach you to say  
Übermensch.

God is a measure of courage; but I do  
not want your measure of courage to  
reach further than your creative will.  
Could you create a god?—so keep silent  
to me about all gods! But you could  
create the superman.

Not perhaps you yourselves, my  
brothers! But to fathers and ancestors  
you could re-create the superman: and  
this be your best creation!

The superman’s beauty came to me as  
a shadow. Ah, my brothers! What else  
do the gods concern me?

Shine the ray of a star in your  
love! Your hope is: “may I give  
birth to the superman!”

There is bitterness in the chalice  
of even the best love: this is how  
longing makes you superman,  
how it makes you thirsty, the  
creator! Thirst for the creative,  
arrow and longing for the  
superman: speak, my brother, is  
this your will to marriage?

You lonely people of today, you  
departing, you shall one day be a  
people: out of you, who have  
chosen yourselves, a chosen  
people shall grow: and out of  
them the superman.

And that is the great noon, when  
man stands in the middle of his  
path between animal and  
superman and celebrates his way  
to evening as his highest hope: for  
it is the way to a new morning.

Then the person who goes under  
will bless himself that he is a man  
who passes over; and the sun of  
his knowledge will stand him at  
noon. “All gods are dead: now we  
want the superman to live.”—this  
is our last will one day at big  
noon!—

Once you said God when you  
looked at distant seas; but now I  
have taught you to say: Superman.  
God is a presumption; but I want  
your conjecture to go no further  
than your creative will.

Could you create a god?—So keep  
silent about all gods! But you  
could create the superman.

Perhaps not you, my brothers!

But you could transform  
yourselves into fathers and  
ancestors of the superman: and let  
this be your best work!—

The beauty of the superman came  
to me as a shadow. Oh my  
brothers! What concern of  
me—the gods! —

## Continued

Niemals noch gab es einen Übermenschen.  
Nackt sah ich Beide, den grössten und den  
kleinsten Menschen:—

Und sie sollen es auch nicht werden! Was wäre  
denn meine Liebe zum Übermenschen, wenn  
ich anders spräche?

Wahrlich, immer zieht es uns hinan—nämlich  
zum Reich der Wolken: auf diese setzen wir  
unsre bunten Bälge und heissen sie dann Götter  
und Übermenschen:—

Sind sie doch gerade leicht genug für diese  
Stühle!—alle diese Götter und Übermenschen.

Denn dass dem Übermenschen sein Drache  
nicht fehle, der Über-Drache, der seiner würdig  
ist: dazu muss viel heisse Sonne noch auf  
feuchten Urwald glühen!

So fremd seid ihr dem Grossen mit eurer Seele,  
dass euch der Übermensch *furchtbar* sein würde  
in seiner Güte!

Und ihr Weisen und Wissenden, ihr würdet vor  
dem Sonnenbrande der Weisheit flüchten, in  
dem der Übermensch mit Lust seine Nacktheit  
badet!

Ihr höchsten Menschen, denen mein Auge  
begegnete! das ist mein Zweifel an euch und  
mein heimliches Lachen: ich rathe, ihr würdet  
meinen Übermenschen—Teufel heissen!

Ach, ich ward dieser Höchsten und Besten  
müde: aus ihrer "Höhe" verlangte mich hinauf,  
hinaus, hinweg zu dem Übermenschen!

Dort war's auch, wo ich das Wort "Übermensch"  
vom Wege auflas, und dass der Mensch Etwas  
sei, das überwunden werden müsse,

Also rathe ich allen Redlichen; und was wäre  
denn meine Liebe zum Übermenschen und zu  
Allem, was kommen soll, wenn ich anders riethe  
und redete!

—dass ich wieder das Wort spreche vom grossen  
Erden- und Menschen-Mittage, dass ich wieder  
den Menschen den Übermenschen künde.

Never yet there was a superhuman.  
Naked I saw both, the biggest and the  
smallest man: —.

And they shall not become it either!  
What then would be my love for the  
superhuman if I spoke differently?

Truly, we are always drawn to the  
realm of the clouds: on these we place  
our colorful brats and then call them  
gods and supermen.

They are just light enough for these  
chairs!—all these gods and supermen.

For that the superhuman does not lack  
his dragon, the superdragon worthy of  
him: for this much hot sun must still  
glow on damp primeval forest!

So foreign are you to the Great with  
your soul, that the superman would  
be terrible to you in his goodness!

And you wise and knowing, you would  
flee from the sunburn of wisdom, in  
which the superman bathes with  
pleasure his nakedness!

You highest men, whom my eye met!  
this is my doubt about you and my  
secret laughter: I guess, you would call  
my superhuman devil!

Alas, I was tired of these highest and  
best: from their "height" I longed up,  
out, away to the superman!

It was there that I picked up the word  
"superman" from the path and that  
man was something that had to be  
overcome,

So I advise all the righteous; and what  
would my love for the superman and  
for all that is to come be if I advised  
and spoke otherwise!

—that I again speak the word of the  
great earth and human midday, that I  
again proclaim the superman to the  
people.

There has never been a  
superman. Naked I saw both the  
tallest and the smallest person: —

And they shouldn't be either!  
What would my love for the  
superman be if I spoke  
differently?

Truly, we are always drawn to the  
realm of the clouds: on these we  
put our colored skins and then  
call them gods and superman Are  
they just light enough for these  
chairs! —All these gods and  
supermen.

Because that the superman is not  
lacking its dragon, the  
supra-dragon, who is worthy of it:  
for this a lot of hot sun has to  
glow on the damp jungle!

Your soul is so alien to the great  
that the superman would be  
terrible to you in his goodness!

And you wise and knowing, you  
would flee from the sunburn of  
wisdom in which the superman  
bathes his nakedness with  
pleasure!

Dearest people my eye met! This  
is my doubt about you and my  
secret laugh: I advise you would  
be called my superhuman—  
devil! Oh, I got tired of these  
highest and best: from their  
"height" I longed to go up, out,  
away to the superman!

It was there that I read the word  
"Übermensch" off the path, and  
that man was something that had  
to be overcome

So I advise all who are honest;  
and what would my love for the  
superman and for everything that  
should come if I advised and  
spoke differently!

That I again speak the word of  
the great earth and human  
midday, that I again proclaim the  
people to the superman.

## Continued

Wohlan! Wohlauf! Ihr höheren Menschen! Nun erst kreisst der Berg der Menschen-Zukunft. Gott starb: nun wollen *wir*;—dass der Übermensch lebe.

Der Übermensch liegt mir am Herzen, *der* ist mein Erstes und Einziges,—und *nicht* der Mensch: nicht der Nächste, nicht der Ärmste, nicht der Leidendste, nicht der Beste—

Diese Herrn von Heute überwindet mir, oh meine Brüder,—diese kleinen Leute: *die* sind des Übermenschen grösste Gefahr!

“Der Mensch muss besser und böser werden” —so lehre *ich*. Das Böseste ist nöthig zu des Übermenschen Bestem.

Come on! Come on! You higher people! Only now the mountain of man’s future circles. God died: now we want,-that the superman lives.

The superman is close to my heart, he is my first and only thing, and not man: not the neighbor, not the poorest, not the most suffering, not the best-.

These gentlemen of today overcome me, O my brothers,-these little people: they are the superman’s greatest danger!

“Man must become better and more evil”—so I teach. The most evil is necessary for the best of the superhuman.

Well! Well run! You higher people! Only now does the mountain of the human future circle. God died: now we want - that the superman live.

The superman is close to my heart, he is my first and only, and not the person: not the next, not the poorest, not the most suffering, not the best

I overcome these gentlemen of today, oh my brothers, these little people: they are the greatest danger of the superman!

“Man must get better and worse”—that’s how I teach. The worst is necessary for the best of the superman.