JAN-OLAV HENRIKSEN

Psychology in Nietzsche's Criticism of Religion

Religion in Philosophy and Theology 121

Mohr Siebeck

Religion in Philosophy and Theology

Edited by

HELEN DE CRUZ (St. Louis, MO) · ASLE EIKREM (Oslo) HARTMUT VON SASS (Berlin) · HEIKO SCHULZ (Frankfurt a.M.) JUDITH WOLFE (St Andrews)

121



Jan-Olav Henriksen

Psychology in Nietzsche's Criticism of Religion

On Splitting and Loss of Orientation

Mohr Siebeck

Jan-Olav Henriksen, born 1961; 1990 Dr. theol.; 2002 Dr. philos.; since 1994 Professor of the Philosophy of Religion at MF School of Theology, Religion and Society in Oslo; 2002–20 part time professor of contemporary religion at Agder University, Kristiansand; research and visiting scholarships in Durham, Princeton, Amsterdam, and Oxford. orcid.org/0000-0002-6812-1840

ISBN 978-3-16-161791-1 / eISBN 978-3-16-161821-5 DOI 10.1628/978-3-16-161821-5

ISSN 1616-346X / eISSN 2568-7425 (Religion in Philosophy and Theology)

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie; detailed bibliographic data are available at *http://dnb.dnb.de*.

© 2022 Mohr Siebeck Tübingen, Germany. www.mohrsiebeck.com

This book may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, in any form (beyond that permitted by copyright law) without the publisher's written permission. This applies particularly to reproductions, translations and storage and processing in electronic systems.

Printed in Germany.

You will never pray again, never adore again, never again rest in endless trust; you refuse to let yourself stop to unharness your thoughts before any ultimate wisdom, goodness, or power; you have no perpetual guard and friend for your seven solitudes; you live without the view of a mountain-range with snow-capped peaks and fire in its heart; there is no avenger for you anymore, no final corrector of the text of your life; there is no more reason in what happens, no love in what will happen to you; no more resting place stands open for your heart in which to find and no longer seek; you arm yourself against any ultimate peace; you will the eternal recurrence of war and peace.

(Nietzsche, The Gay Science, 285).

Table of Contents

Abbreviations of Nietzsche's worksXI
Chapter 1: Introduction: The Task1
Chapter 2: Psychological Theories for Interpreting Nietzsche's Philosophy of Religion
2.1 Attachment Theory
Chapter 3: A Context of Discovery: Nietzsche's Early Years22
Chapter 4: The Split
4.1 The Zarathustra Narrative on the Split
4.2 The Split as a Red Thread throughout Nietzsche's Work
Chapter 5: The Death of God – the Loss of Attachment and Orientation
5.1 How it All Hangs Together
5.2 God as Self-symbol
5.3 The Genealogical Erosion of Belief in God – and its Continuous Impact
5.4 The Negative Psychological Effect of Theodicy Revisited60

<i>5.5 The Death of God</i>
5.6 Atheism as a Psychological Reaction and Position73
5.7 God and Morality
5.8 Conclusion: The Lasting Relevance of Nietzsche's Criticism of God79
Chapter 6: The Ambiguous Ideal: Jesus and the Split85
6.1 A Reconstruction of Jesus' Teachings
Chapter 7: Preserving the Split: Morality95
7.1 Morality and Metaphysics in the Self's Idealized Pole95
7.2 Morality and Religion101
7.3 The Contents of Morality – and its Effects106
7.4 Genealogy
7.5 Against the Morality of Compliance
7.6 Alternative Moralities
7.7 The Effects of (Christian) Morality
Chapter 8: Nietzsche's Anti-Metaphysics: Psychological
Consequences
8.1 The Will to Power and the Split
8.2 The World as We Determine it: No God's Eye View
8.3 The Eternal Recurrence – the Heroic Affirmation of Life141
8.4 The Transformation and Elimination of Religious Objects: Narcissistic Grandiosity143
8.5 Concluding Remarks146
Chapter 9: Human Beings and Their Religion148

9.1 Religion Emerges from the Need to Deal with Emotions	148
9.2 On Human Origin and Religion's Lack of Orientation	152
9.3 The Human Condition: Sinfulness	153
9.4 On Prayer	155
9.5 The Sacrifices Demanded by Religion: on Cruelty, Weakness, Suffering	158
9.6 The Workings of Belief	162
9.7 Christianity's Psychology: Some Final Remarks	164

Chapter 10: Overcoming Dependence on others: Compassion,	
Love or Charity, and Ressentiment	
10.1 Compassion and Charity	171
10.2 Ressentiment	
10.3 A Note on Shame	
10.4 Concluding Remarks	179

Chapter 11: Acknowledging and moving beyond Nietzsche's psychological Criticism of Religion	
Bibliography	
Indexes	193

Abbreviations of Nietzsche's works

HH	Human, All-too Human
HH-WS	The Wanderer and his Shadow
D	Daybreak
GS	The Gay Science
Ζ	Thus spoke Zarathustra
BGE	Beyond Good and Evil
GM	On the Genealogy of Morality
TI	Twilight of the Idols
AC	Anti-Christ
EH	Ecce Homo

Chapter 1

Introduction: The Task

In The History of Western Philosophy, Bertrand Russell sets forth the following claim about Friedrich Nietzsche's relationship with religion: "Nietzsche is not interested in the metaphysical truth of either Christianity or any other religion; being convinced that no religion is really true, he judges all religions entirely by their social effects."¹ We can rephrase Russell's statement in two directions: First of all, from a philosophical point of view, it need not matter if God exists or if there is any truth in religion. Given that God's existence remains impossible to decide, a more relevant approach will be to focus on the consequences of religion and faith for human life, self-understanding, conduct, agency, and social formation, including morality. Whether a religion is true or not, its elements impact human life and shape the human mind. Hence, an approach that considers such impact might be commended. Second, and against Russell, not the social effects are at the forefront of Nietzsche's criticism of religion, but its *psychological* conditions, manifestations, and consequences.² In this regard, Russell emphasizes the social, whereas Nietzsche is primarily interested in the individual psychological dimension. The point in question comes to the fore in Nietzsche's own words in Human. All-too Human II, where he writes:

A Christian who happened upon forbidden paths of thought might well ask himself on some occasion whether it is really necessary that there should be a God, side by side with a representative Lamb, if faith in the existence of these beings suffices to produce the same influences? If they do exist after all, are they not superfluous beings? For all that is given by the Christian religion to the human soul, all that is beneficent, consoling, and edifying, just as much as all that depresses and crushes, emanates from that faith and not from the objects of that faith.³

³ HH II, 225. One can also see this statement against the backdrop of Nietzsche's genealogical method, which he uses to show how faith emerged and gained significance:

¹ See Bertrand Russell, *History of Western Philosophy: And Its Connection with Political and Social Circumstances from the Earliest Times to the Present Day* (London: Routledge, 1961), 793.

² This approach allows for a more functional perspective on religion. Werner Stegmaier speaks, therefore, about "die Funktionalisierung der Religion" in Nietzsche. Religion is no longer anything unconditional but exists under specific conditions – a point that is strongly underscored in Nietzsche's perspectivism, but also in his psychological approach to religion. See Werner Stegmaier, "Nietzsches Religionsprojekt: Seine Kritik, Analyse und Funktionalisierung der Religion," *Nietzscheforschung* 27, no. 1 (2020): 55–74.

Chapter 1

Given that we can bracket the question about religion's truth, the case for investigating Nietzsche's critique of religion can be articulated in terms of a *pragmatic* approach, as we ask: In what ways, and to what extent, does religious imagery, symbols and practices make a difference in human life, and how are we to assess the conditions of religion in the human psyche and its consequences for the same psyche? Such a pragmatic approach is very much in accordance with Nietzsche's own; he has often been seen as a philosophical ally of pragmatism.⁴

Friedrich Nietzsche has always invited psychological interpretations. His vocabulary and frequent and varied psychological considerations provide rich opportunities for a psychological approach to his *oeuvre*. He is a keen, insightful, and pointed observer of the human psyche. It is also a profound interconnection between his psychological insights and his criticism of religion, especially Christianity. This book attempts to read Nietzsche as a psychologist of religion and thereby also as a critic of it. To do so is a task that several others have also taken on, so it is appropriate to identify new or original ideas in the current approach: Unlike many of his previous interpreters, I read him from the point of view of elements in a post-Freudian theoretical perspective. More on this approach below.

To read Nietzsche in this way is not meant to be exclusive: Nietzsche is a philosopher also when he does psychology, and the philosophical aspects of his interpretations of religion are, therefore, the basis for the following. Hence, the aim is to take seriously his philosophy of religion as an attempt to understand religion's preconditions and effects in the human psyche and to interpret his approach in light of recent psychological contributions that go beyond those that emerged in his cultural context. Thereby, the following study will make an assessment as to the lasting insights of Nietzsche, as well as pointing to elements in his thinking that need criticism.

Consequently, it is essential to underscore that the following is not an attempt to provide an analysis of Friedrich Nietzsche's psychological dispositions or to give an account of the wounds and traumas of his psyche. Although knowledge of his biography can provide some insights into, and motivate, further analysis of this type, his writings' content as an object for systematic and critical analysis, and not his psyche stands at the center of the present investigation. However, no study of Nietzsche is possible without considering elements in his biography that can shed light on where he gained his insights. The point is to read his criticism of religion and religious symbols

Like many others, he seems to think that to the extent that one can demonstrate the origin of faith, any proof of the non-existence of God becomes unnecessary. Cf. D, 95.

⁴ Cf. e.g., Jürgen Habermas, "On Nietzsche's Theory of Knowledge: A Postscript from 1968." In: B.E. Babich, (ed.) *Nietzsche, Theories of Knowledge, and Critical Theory.* Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, vol 203 (Dordrecht: Springer, 1999): 209–23.

such as "God" and the concomitant ideals that he sees in some versions of morality from a psychological point of view. The systematic aspect in the present task entails that I am more concerned with reconstructing selected and psychological themes and patterns in his work than providing a comprehensive and detailed overview of all relevant texts.⁵ Hence, this is not a book about the development of Nietzsche's criticism of religion. It considers what he said about different topics that we can address as relevant for the psychology of religion.

However, contrary to many previous interpreters, and as indicated above, I will interpret his work from a psychological point of view not developed by Nietzsche's own theoretical reflections. It means that the analysis in the following entails that he is read against himself. Contrary to his and others' focus on drives, post-Freudian psychology of religion is not so much interested in conflicting drives but in how the human psyche develops due to relationships with others.

The chosen psychological approach is nevertheless challenging: On the one hand, a reading of Nietzsche's critique may shed light on how he views the impact of religious symbols and practices on the human psyche. On the other hand, his views concerning these matters call for a critical assessment, insofar as they are shaped by his highly individualistic and naturalistic approach to human psychology. Hence, we need to ask: What kind of human being does Nietzsche directly or indirectly advocate through his critique? Is his ideal human adequate and healthy from a psychological point of view?

Such questions, and the task ahead, emerge out of a shift in the psychology of religion: The Freudian approach to psychology – to which strand also many of Nietzsche's insights might be referred and most easily interpreted⁶ – has been supplemented (or corrected) by a more relational approach. The latter sees the inner world of the human as constituted fundamentally by its relationships with significant others. Hence, the present task is to consider Nietzsche's psychology of religion based on a theoretical approach he was not familiar with or aware of – and thus to interpret his critique of religion from a different angle than those who have seen him in line with a traditional, drive-based or drive-

⁵ Accordingly, the present study is not genealogical in any sense: it reconstructs themes and topics across Nietzsche's oeuvre, without paying any respect to where in his works they appear. Moreover, one of the limitations of this approach is that I concentrate on his works from *Human*, *All-too Human* until *Anti-Christ*. I do not go into his early or unpublished writings.

⁶ Cf. e.g., Paul-Laurent Assoun, *Freud and Nietzsche* (London; New York: Continuum, 2002). See also for obvious parallels between Freud and Nietzsche, despite differences, the analysis in Katrina Mitcheson, "Techniques of Self-Knowledge in Nietzsche and Freud." *Journal of Nietzsche Studies* 46, no. 3 (2015): 328–48. The latter work also emphasizes the relational aspect of psychology in a manner similar to what I do in the following.

oriented mode of psychology of religion.⁷ Thus, contemporary psychology, which sees drives as shaped by relational attachments, entails that understanding their activity seems to require exploring them in the context of the relationships with others towards which they point us.⁸

What, then, about Nietzsche's own psyche? Is it possible to write on his psychology of religion and his criticism of religion without taking it into consideration? In principle, this should be possible and even recommended. His insights can stand on their own feet without being traced back to his personal, psychological dispositions. However, bracketing all biographical information from a project like the following might also seem problematic because it would mean ignoring one important contextual dimension for the following study. Therefore, I have decided to provide some biographical information about Nietzsche's early life, insofar as I think it provides a backdrop and a context of discovery for some of the psychological theory that I employ when I offer an alternative interpretation of his psychology of religion to the one provided by Freudian-based approaches. To view his biography as a possible context of discovery has two purposes: It can make visible to what extent the theoretical approach may be related to an interpretation of Nietzsche's life, without claiming that it is the only relevant interpretative tool, and without trying to attempt a complete psychological analysis of his biography.⁹ Thus, his psychology of religion will not be addressed from an arbitrary point of view but from a perspective integrated with his own life experience. In turn, I argue, this will strengthen the case for the chosen theoretical approach. Hence, it is possible to see Nietzsche's criticism of religion as related to and shaped by his own experiences with religion.

Thus, the approach chosen can be understood as a twist on the quote from Bertrand Russell above. The focus is not on the reality of Nietzsche's psyche, but on how his attack on Christianity reflects his perception of religion in its relationship to the self – not understood in terms of a Freudian, drive-oriented understanding of psychology (of religion) but in terms of how it sheds light on attachment and the formation of the self. Accordingly, the focus in the following chapters is shaped by attachment theory and insights from selfpsychology, especially as the latter is developed in the wake of Heinz Kohut's research.

⁷ Sampsa Saarinen's approach is somewhat parallel to mine, insofar as he explores Nietzsche's criticism of religion in the light of his communication of mood. However, his analysis is not based on a theoretical basis similar to the one I develop and employ in the following. See Sampsa Saarinen, *Nietzsche, Religion, and Mood*, Monographien und Texte zur Nietzsche-Forschung (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2019).

⁸ Cf. Mitcheson, "Techniques of Self-Knowledge in Nietzsche and Freud," 328.

⁹ A similar choice, not keeping the two topics fully apart, is also visible in Jacob Golomb, Weaver Santaniello, Ronald Lehrer, eds. *Nietzsche and Depth Psychology* (Albany: SUNY, 1999).

Chapter 2

Psychological Theories for Interpreting Nietzsche's Philosophy of Religion

Nietzsche invites psychological reflections. It is impossible to ignore those invites if one engages fully with his work. The result is that many have taken up the gauntlet and written about his psychology – and either assessed his contributions by themselves or as related to or compared with those of others. These attempts to deal with his own psychology or his contributions to the psychology discipline (which is not the same) started already before his death.¹ Consequently, a bibliographic search for "Nietzsche and Freud" will reveal a considerable amount of comparative contributions, as will more historical studies of influence.² Much of the comparison with Freud is due to Nietzsche's repeated references to drives as the causes for human action.³ There exist,

¹ For the former, see already Lou Andreas-Salomé and Siegfried Mandel, *Nietzsche* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2001), and Max Riedmann, *Friedrich Nietzsche als Psychologe* (Leipzig: Kortkamp, 1911). For the latter, see H. Aschkenasy, "Voluntaristische Versuche in der Religionspsychologie," *Zeitschrift für Philosophie und philosophische Kritik* 135, no 2 (1909): 129–49, and Walter Kaufmann, "Nietzsche als der erste große Psychologe," *Nietzsche-Studien* 7, no. 1 (1978): 261–87. Saarinen, *Nietzsche, Religion and Mood* discusses these latter contributions critically, stating that "taking an acceptance of his self-interpretation as a standard of judging whether a scholar has recognized Nietzsche as a psychologist can only result in a distorted picture of the history of scholarship" (34).

² See, e.g., Paul-Laurent Assoun, *Freud and Nietzsche*, Bernard Lauret, *Schulderfahrung und Gottesfrage bi Nietzsche und Freud* (München: Chr. Kaiser, 1977); and Golomb, Santaniello, and Lehrer, *Nietzsche and Depth Psychology*. The major work on Freud's acquaintance with Nietzsche is the monumental work by Reinhard Gasser, *Nietzsche und Freud* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 1997).

³ For the lack of a coherent theory about the drives in Nietzsche's work, see T. O. M. Stern, "Against Nietzsche's Theory of the Drives," *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 1, no. 1 (2015): 121–40. This theoretical insufficiency makes it hard to develop any comprising theoretical comparison with Freud's contribution. Accordingly, Stern claims that "Nietzsche did not have anything like a coherent account of 'the drives' according to which the self, the relationship between thought and action, or consciousness could be explained." (121). Related to this fact is that Nietzsche's view on the self also leads to various interpretations, as is apparent in the literature referenced in R. Lanier Anderson, "The Psychology of Perspectivism: A Question for Nietzsche Studies Now," *Journal of Nietzsche Studies* 49, no. 2 (2018): 224.

however, notable exceptions to historical and comparative studies, with clear systematic aspirations.⁴

Sampsa Saarinen's recent and valuable work on Nietzsche's communication of mood provides valuable resources for the historical reception of his psychological contributions and the present stance of scholarship on Nietzsche and psychology.⁵ I refer to that work for more extensive elaborations on these matters. However, in that work, there is no mention of the psychological theoretical approaches that I employ in the present book, and which are presented below.

If Nietzsche clarifies one thing, it is that religion has a place in relation to the self and that, consequently, it is essential to see both the self and religion as dynamic entities that cannot be understood in isolation from one another. Religion does something to human beings, and human beings do something with religion. Accordingly, we cannot understand religion to be experienced merely as an object separate from the self; it is an experience for the self and of the self. On the other hand, how religion is experienced as dependent upon the experiencing self. These distinctions cannot be ignored, as this point also builds on the fact that religion exists and is constructed continuously as part of - and in the interaction between - the social and the inner/internal world of the self. Moreover, the impact of religion and religious symbols, such as "God," on the development of the self may vary enormously, given the various preexisting developmental conditions of the self in its emotional and social environment and primary relationships.⁶ The following presentation of psychological theories selected as analytic tools serves to elaborate these points further. It will allow for a theoretical approach to the psychology of religion behind Nietzsche's criticism of religion that takes this insight seriously. The theories will allow us to understand some of the experiences that shaped his

⁴ Among them, Graham Parkes, *Composing the Soul: Reaches of Nietzsche's Psychology* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996). However, Parkes mainly focuses on Nietzsche's account of the drives, which is why I do not engage thoroughly with his work in the following. The present chapter offers the explanation for this choice. Also, Brian Leiter, *Nietzsche on Morality* (London: Routledge, 2015) focuses on the role of the drives. For a critical discussion of the latter, see Saarinen, *Nietzsche, Religion, and Mood*, 42ff.

⁵ Saarinen, *Nietzsche, Religion, and Mood*, 31ff. Saarinen also refers – relevant for the present study – Lou von Salomé's claim that "any serious study of Nietzsche's philosophy would essentially have to be a study in the psychology of religion" (3). His own approach to this claim is to specify it in terms of saying that "Nietzsche constructs religion in a way that inevitably leads him to ask questions about mood, if he indeed constructs religion in terms of a desire for another world" (15). Cf also ibid., 16.

⁶ Cf. for theoretical underpinning of this claim Ana-Maria Rizzuto, *The Birth of the Living God: A Psychoanalytic Study* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979), and further, Martha Jane Reineke and David M. Goodman, *Ana-María Rizzuto and the Psychoanalysis of Religion: The Road to the Living God* (Lexington: Lanham, 2017).

criticism of religion without claiming that it is exclusively his individual and personal experiences that manifest themselves in this criticism.

To use psychological theories that emphasize the relational dimension in the psyche's development in my interpretation of Nietzsche also has a more philosophical backdrop. From a philosophical point of view, these theories resonate with a fundamental Hegelian insight: that human identity, experience, and self-perception are fundamentally shaped by interaction with other humans in the social world. Among the main contributions of these theories is the fact that they entail a "deconstruction of the cornerstone of Freud's theoretical architecture, i.e., the primacy of drive for forming initial relationships and in their subsequent development."7 This deconstruction manifests a theoretical paradigm shift that can be formulated as a change from an individualist and economical to a relational and socially based conception of the self. Whereas the first sees the biological drive as the basis for any understanding of the psyche, the relational and dynamic mode of understanding the psyche sees attachment, which is "rooted in the child's need to be close to its initial object" as manifesting "the matrix for its subsequent psycho-affective development and relational potential."8 Attachment theory thus contributes to a psychodynamic approach that moves the "center of gravity from the core (with drive) to the periphery (with attachment)."9 An essential consequence of this, which will have relevance for an assessment of Nietzsche's position, is that it thereby sees humans as fundamentally and constitutionally social beings. They are not only considered from an individual, biological point of view.¹⁰ Hence, focusing on individual drives appears as limiting.¹¹

A similar point can be made about the contribution of self-psychology, which I will present in the next section of this chapter. This theoretical approach emphasizes the role of others for the development and formation of the self and that others contribute to shaping the self's experiences of both itself and the world. Hence, the self's development is not only determined by how intra-psychic drives and conflicts manifest themselves, which is the main focus of Freud and his followers. Self-psychology also opens up to constructive perspectives on narcissism, a topic often discussed in relation to Nietzsche and his works.

⁷ Pascal Roman, "Clinical and Psychopathological Research on Attachment: The Contribution of the Psychic Envelopes Model," *Mental health, religion, and culture* 17, no. 8 (2014): 767.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Cf. ibid.

¹¹ The limitations come clearly to the fore in Kjær's study of Nietzsche's relationship with his mother. See Jørgen Kjær, *Friedrich Nietzsche: Die Zerstörung der Humanität durch "Mutterliebe"* (Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag, 1990), 20 et passim. Kjær's study represents an important step towards a more relational approach.

Chapter 2

Hence, the paradigm shift in psychology mentioned above may also shed some light on the understanding of religion. James W. Jones formulates it succinctly when he writes that "When Fairbairn, Winnicott, and Kohut shift the focus of psychoanalysis from instinctual control to the quality of experience, this shift parallels the difference between a religion oriented toward law and obedience and a religion oriented towards the transformation and expansion of consciousness."¹²

It should be added here that some have suggested the possibility of bridging elements between the two theoretical approaches represented by a driveoriented and a relation-oriented theory: It seems problematic to consider the drive system without simultaneously considering that towards which it is directed. Accordingly, the argument goes, drive satisfaction "is inseparable from the response of an *other*, at the risk of exhausting the subject's relations and affective potential."¹³ However, this attempt at bridging cannot account for the fact that the fundamental perception of the psyche remains different in the ego-psychology of Freud and more relational-theoretical theories. In the first, the psychological developments and conflicts are perceived as situated within an intact psychic structure, whereas the latter focuses on disturbances and defects in the structure itself.¹⁴

2.1 Attachment Theory

Against the backdrop of these initial considerations, the focus in the present section is on attachment theory. It will concentrate on contributions to this theoretical approach that addresses the role of religion. Attachment theory focuses on the individual's need for security and protection. To achieve these aims, she needs to develop an attachment to a significant other to meet this need. The other represents the site and the resources to provide what is needed. Already at this point, we see the other's relevance for the self's emotional content and experience: the feeling of safety and security depends on and is constituted by the relationship with the other.

Two things are noteworthy here: First, that the need for security and protection is the basis for attachment, and second, that attachment may take on

¹² James William Jones, *Religion and Psychology in Transition: Psychoanalysis, Feminism, and Theology* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996), 68.

¹³ Roman, "Clinical and Psychopathological Research on Attachment," 768, with reference to André Green, *The Fabric of Affect in the Psychoanalytic Discourse* (London: Routledge, 1999).

¹⁴ Cf. Sigmund Karterud, *Fra narsissisme til selvpsykologi: En innføring i Heinz Kohuts forfatterskap* (Oslo: Ad notam Gyldendal, 2009), 40.

different forms, depending on to what extent the caregiver is experienced as able to meet these needs.

Attachment is "as an affective bond, which the individual forms with a specific person who is approached in times of distress."¹⁵ The bond is understood as persistent and emotionally significant and associated with a desire for close proximity to the attachment figure. In cases of involuntary separation, it causes distress. Hence, the attachment relationship's positive consequences are manifest in that it provides a *secure base* that enables the individual to explore his/her environment. Such exploration allows the individual to develop and gain independence.¹⁶ Moreover, attachment also provides a *safe haven* to which s/he can return after these explorations.

Thus, the primacy of the need for attachment is at the root of the need for a secure base that shapes all psychic life: This base allows for "identifying specific modes of psychic development on the one hand, and the subject's resources enabling him to overcome various obstacles on the other." Psychic life is constructed on the basis of the child's experience with the periphery, i.e., with the caretaker(s), and thus in the interplay between the infant and representatives of the external world.¹⁷ So-called attachment behaviors, which can be defined as any form of behavior that results in regaining or retaining contact with the attachment figure, are triggered by environmental threats, distress, illness, or fatigue.

Attachment to the other, and accordingly, to the external world in general, is fundamentally shaped by the relationship with caregivers, such as parents. This relationship, in turn, also shapes the relationship that the individual might develop with a spiritual figure. Religious attachment is modeled on the basis of attachment to other persons early in life. The psychology of religion that builds on attachment theory focuses on the individual's need and search for protection by spiritual figures that take on the functions that caregivers had, or should have had, in earlier periods of his/her development.

An attachment figure can be absent for many reasons: one reason may be poor sensitivity to the child's needs and a corresponding lack of attention and response.¹⁸ But the attachment figure may also be physically absent or dead. It is also important to note that attachment figures may not always provide the

¹⁵ Cf. Pierre-Yves Brandt, "Attachment, Psychopathology, and Religion: Introduction to This Special Section of Mental Health, Religion, and Culture," *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture* 17, no. 8 (2014): 762.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Roman, "Clinical and Psychopathological Research on Attachment," 767-68.

¹⁸ Note how this phenomenon is also at the center of the development of narcissism, as discussed in the next section.

necessary safety and security simply because the stressors with which one needs to cope are too overwhelming.¹⁹

Accordingly, the response from the attachment figure is crucial for the child's further development, including its relationship with religion. Whereas a secure child can explore the world by using the attachment as a secure base and return to the person who constitutes a safe haven, insecurely attached children can develop in two directions: either they can become avoidant, which means that they try to minimize the relationship with the attachment figure, or they can develop an ambivalent/resistant attachment. In both cases, the "internal working models" that determine the relationship between self and others shape insecure attachment and make it negative and incoherent. Research suggests that children with insecure attachment may have an increased motivation to find surrogate attachment figures.²⁰ In such cases, the surrogate attachment can be developed by the resources found in religious traditions, and religious attachment might then serve as compensation for other types of attachment.²¹ In such cases, religion will have a reparative effect on challenging relationship experiences.²² This is, however, not the only function that religion can have, according to attachment theory. Religious symbols and resources may also correspond to the positive attachments that aid secure people in their ability to flourish further and be an additional secure base for exploration and growth.23

An individual might seek protection and security in his/her attachment to various spiritual figures: God, divinities, figures of saints, and the like. Religious attachment activates the bonds with such figures. According to the theoreticians of religious attachment,²⁴ the transposition of bonds of attachment to spiritual figures can be formulated via a hypothesis that takes form along the lines suggested above: religious attachment either works as *compensation* for or in *correspondence* with previous attachments.

The compensation hypothesis entails that attachment to a spiritual figure benefits the individual who finds a secure base in the spiritual figure, which compensates for the insecure attachment previously formed with the early caregivers. The spiritual figure functions as a surrogate attachment figure.

¹⁹ Pehr Granqvist, "Mental Health and Religion from an Attachment Viewpoint: Overview with Implications for Future Research," *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture* 17, no. 8 (2014): 778f.

²⁰ Cf. ibid., 779.

²¹ Cf. ibid., 785.

²² Cf. ibid., 787.

²³ Ibid., 785.

²⁴ Pehr Granqvist, Mario Mikulincer, and Phillip R. Shaver, "Religion as Attachment: Normative Processes and Individual Differences," *Personality and Social Psychology Review* 14, no. 1 (2010): 49–59; Lee Kirkpatrick, "Attachment, Evolution, and the Psychology of Religion," *Archive for the Psychology of Religion* 28, no. 1 (2006): 3–47.

Name Index

Berry, Jessica 45 Bragan, Kenneth 16, 18 Bucher, Rainer 45 Butler, Judith 183

Calvin, Jean 76

Dilman, Ilham 19, 20

Evans, John Charles 93

Fairbairn, Ronald 8 Feuerbach, Ludwig 53, 56 Förster–Nietzsche, Elisabeth, 26 Freud, Sigmund 2–8, 81, 167

Granqvist, Pär 11, 12

Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich 7, 169, 182–185 Heidegger, Martin 97

Jesus 64, 85–94 Jones, James W. 8, 167, 169, 170, 185

Kiesel, Dagmar 52 Kirkpatrick, Lee 11 Kohut, Heinz 4, 8, 12–16, 18–20, 167 Magnus, Bernd 90, 93, 94 McDargh, John 47 Mitcheson, Katrina 100

Nietzsche, Joseph (brother) 29 Nietzsche, Ludwig (father) 30

Pattison, Stephen 81, 83 Paul, Apostle 85, 90

Reginster, Bernhard 176 Riis, Ole 71, 73 Rizzuto, Ana–Maria 46–47, 59, 81 Russell, Bertrand 1, 4

Saarinen, Sampsa 6 Schopenhauer, Arthur 29, 79, 171 Shea, John 81–83 Solomon, Robert 177, 181–182 Stegmaier, Werner 86, 151 Stern, Daniel 26

von Salomé, Lou 29, 33

Wagner, Richard 29, 31, 33 Williams, Robert R. 184–185 Winnicott, Donald 8, 169 Woodhead, Linda 71, 73

Subject Index

Adaptation 28, 82, 103 Affirmation 13, 15-17, 19, 21, 31, 41, 52, 53, 58, 77, 84, 112, 125, 127, 141, 142–144, 146, 165, 169–172, 182 Ambiguity 35, 88 Ambition, ambitions 14, 15, 18, 19, 59, 112 Ambivalence, ambivalent 10, 74 Amor fati 51–52, 92, 93, 141, 182 Anger 26, 51, 57, 62, 123, 153, 176 Animal 17, 41, 98, 105, 138 Anti-nature 111, 127, 130 Atheism, Atheist 63, 73–74, 103 Attachment, Attachment figure 4, 7, 8-12, 18, 23, 26, 28, 29, 32, 33, 45, 46, 49-51, 53, 58, 63, 65-69, 71, 74-76, 79-81, 85, 93, 96, 100, 104-106, 128, 130, 151, 155–159, 164, 167– 169, 174, 181-183 Attachment theory, see attachment Authentic, authenticity 13, 16, 31, 33, 39, 44, 46, 62, 73, 98, 103–106, 113, 115, 141, 146, 149, 162, 164, 165, 170, 172, 176, 182–186 Authority 28, 48, 83, 101 Benevolence, benevolent 51, 57, 82, 102, 173 Body 42, 77, 84, 99, 156, 168 Care 16, 47, 60, 74, 106, 116, 121, 140, 160, 177 Caregiver 9-12, 14, 19, 20, 33, 47, 181 Causation 90, 136, 165 Charity 37, 58, 78, 102, 103, 122, 149, 167, 170, 171, 172, 174–178 Commands, see Divine Command Theory

Communication (God's) 49, 50 Community 41, 56, 59, 100, 116, 151, 156, 175, 177, 185, 186 Compassion 37, 76, 78, 86, 119, 122, 132, 149, 166, 167, 170–178, 180, 185 Compensation 10, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 57, 57, 58, 103, 128, 163, 176 Contact-shunning 18, 33 Control 8, 14, 20, 21, 31, 46, 52, 59, 61, 67, 73, 75, 83, 95, 113, 129–137, 149, 154, 157, 169–171, 176, 177 Coping 12, 32, 50, 112 Cruelty, cruel 50, 63, 76, 104, 106, 154, 158-159, 170, 181-182 Debt (towards God) 105 Decadence 45, 46, 79, 93, 113, 114, 133 Denial (of reality) 19, 98, 104, 119, 143, 156, 159, 160 Denigration, (self-denigration) 18, 109, 120 Desire 9, 17, 29, 31, 38, 41, 59, 62, 75, 76, 78, 83, 93, 107, 112, 115, 120, 123, 125, 130, 140, 156, 157, 159, 163, 167, 179, 182–185 Dishonesty 176, 177 Divine Command Theory 48–49 Doctrine, religious 22, 76, 78, 85, 87-90, 93, 98, 102, 123, 124, 126, 146, 148, 153, 164, 165 Drive, drives 3–5, 7–8, 17, 30, 31, 40, 42, 99–100, 104–106, 111, 117, 123, 137, 166–167, 169, 173, 175 Duty 42, 49, 58 Ego-psychology 8, 15

Egoism 107, 109, 115, 153, 174–175

Embodiment, embodied 42, 72, 98, 99, 176 Emotion, emotional 6, 9, 14, 16, 17, 22, 25-33, 34, 38-43, 47, 48, 51, 52, 54, 57-59, 61-62, 70-73, 75, 83, 92, 93, 102, 104, 106, 112–116, 119, 143, 148-149, 151, 154, 162, 166, 167, 170, 173, 176, 178, 180, 181, 182, 184, 185 Emotion regulation 62 Empathy 16, 19, 21, 31, 120, 168-169 Evaluations (moral) Existence, God's 1, 61, 63, 65, 69, 81, 144 Freedom 83, 104, 105, 108, 109, 119, 120, 136, 137, 170, 184-186 Frustration, optimized 15, 20, 21, 26, 30, 144, 164, 184 Genealogy, genealogical 59, 98, 99, 101, 108-109 God as father 64, 74, 76, 91, 105, 155, 157 Grandiosity 13-21, 31, 32, 120, 143-144 Greek religion 53, 54, 56 Guilt 54, 82, 87, 89, 90, 105-106, 137, 149, 165 Hate, hatred 41, 54, 55, 111, 146, 149 Hegelian 7, 69 Honesty 43, 51, 101, 138 Hunger, ideal-hunger 18, 29, 33, 130, 131, 144 Idealization Illusion 109, 110, 133, 151, 171 Imagery, religious 2, 34, 45, 53, 60, 80, 102, 148, 150, 154, 182, 185 Imagination 17, 45, 54, 81, 109, 149, 150, 153, 180 Justice 75, 87, 107, 109, 139, 143, 153, 159, 182 Law, divine 8, 75, 82, 83, 103, 134, 178 Libido, libidinal 16, 17, 20

Lonely, loneliness 33, 35, 36, 72, 142, 162, 167, 184 Love, see Charity

- Mirror, mirroring 13–15, 17–21, 28–35, 41, 46, 47, 51–54, 56–58, 62, 65, 75, 76, 82, 84, 85–87, 95, 104, 106, 125, 127, 133, 137, 145, 153, 164, 165, 167
- Narcissism, narcissistic 7, 14, 17–21, 31, 32, 35, 52, 120, 123, 133–134, 137, 143–144, 164, 165, 184
- Naturalism, naturalist 3, 78, 80, 99, 101, 109, 111, 114, 131, 136, 139–141, 168
- Noble, nobility 44, 53, 96, 118–121, 140, 175,176
- Obedience 8, 27, 39, 48, 49, 75, 82, 83, 116, 117, 129, 133, 170
- Pity 31, 76, 86, 118–120, 123, 131, 132, 166, 173 Pleasure 56, 62, 104–107, 109, 130,
- 134, 147, 150, 156, 161, 164, 168, 173

Poles (of self) 13-16, 18, 20, 26, 95, 96, 125, 126, 151, 156 Positivism, positivist 98, 99, 109, 135, 139, 163 Power, see also Will to power Pragmatic, pragmatism 2, 96, 98, 133, 135, 138, 139, 148, 154 Prayer 11, 29, 38, 89, 90, 155-158, 162 Primary relationships, see attachment figure Punishment, divine 25, 65, 87, 89, 104, 106, 107, 147, 149, 150, 153, 165 Rejection 18, 21, 33, 41, 69, 79, 80, 84, 88, 98, 145 Representatives (God's) 9, 42, 48, 49, 75,98 Responsibility, responsible 68, 83, 87, 108, 109, 137, 154, 170, 179

Ressentiment 34, 94, 166-167, 171, 175 - 178Ritual 155-156 Sacrifice 31, 56, 58, 107, 119, 122, 158-159, 170, 173, 177 Safe haven 9, 10, 28, 128, 138 Safety 8, 10, 13, 14, 26, 28, 46, 47, 68, 79, 81, 99, 206, 130, 151, 155, 158, 163, 184 Sea (as symbol) 35, 36, 66-69, 71 Second nature 40, 43, 60, 114-117 Secure base 9, 10, 11, 28, 53, 99, 128, 130, 131, 157 Self-esteem 14, 15, 20, 21, 31, 77, 104, 105, Selflessness 119 Self-object 16-18, 20, 21, 33, 74, 130, 131, 151 Self-psychology 7, 12, 18, 21, 23, 28, 33, 41, 46, 62, 95, 96, 104, 106, 110, 114, 115, 125, 130, 165, 185 Self-symbol 21, 28, 42, 51, 52-54, 59, 70, 71, 76, 82, 154 Sensual, sensuality 42, 112, 125 Separation 9, 21, 25, 46, 48, 72, 75, 110, 118, 130, 164, 184, 185

Shame 18, 20, 31, 62, 76, 77, 82, 84, 125, 178-179 Sin, sinfulness 53, 54, 55, 65, 75, 79, 86-90, 126, 147, 150, 153, 154, 155, 165 Slave (morality) 96, 118, 120, 176 Socialization - see Second nature Split, splitting 21, 24, 32, 34-45, 48, 49, 56, 58, 64, 65, 68, 73, 88, 89, 92, 96, 114, 116, 118, 129, 132, 134, 152, 168, 175, 176, 182, 185 Theodicy 29, 50, 60-62, 141, 161 Trauma, traumatic 2, 16, 19, 21, 26, 32, 34, 35, 46, 181, 185 Twinship 13, 15, 27, 29, 30, 85, 115, 130, 159, 167 Validation 26, 27, 51, 61, 62, 73, 74, 86 Vulnerable, vulnerability 21, 29, 78, 100, 132, 142, 143, 145, 154, 160-161, 164, 171, 179, 185 Will to power 52, 58, 59, 96, 99, 129-136, 146, 167, 169, 171, 172, 184

196