

The Übermensch

aka

The Overman or The Superman

To philosopher Friederich Nietzsche, the Übermensch was the ideal man, the man who threw off the petty comforts society offered and scorned the punishments society dealt him to become what no one else dared to be, the master of his own fate.

- People have a dark side and a light side—not good and evil—dark and light.
- The light side, represented in Greek mythology by Apollo, loves order, reason, and harmony. It seeks to get along.
- The dark side, represented in Greek mythology by Dionysus, is passion; it spurns order, reason, and harmony and could care less about society. What it wants is power. It is, in Nietzsche's words, "the will to power."
- Society conspires with threats and bribes to tame the dark side and thwart "the will to power."
- To ignore the dark side is to deny half of our being. Without it, we live a false life.
- The *übermensch* is the only person who can embrace the dark side, harness its power, and go beyond society to become, in effect, the master of his own fate.
- The *übermensch* can be a leader, or at least an example, to us all.