

Reading Questions: Nietzsche II, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Third Essay

1. What is the ascetic ideal and what sort of person is the ascetic priest?
2. With what sort of metaphysics is the ascetic ideal associated?
3. Why is the ascetic ideal paradoxical and what does it have to do with the preservation of life?
4. What do you make of the passage about perspectives on page 119? What are the implications of Nietzsche's argument there for science?
5. Why does Nietzsche think that the "sick" are a danger to the "healthy" (and what does he mean by "the sick" and "the healthy")?
6. How, according to Nietzsche, did the ascetic ideal develop?
7. Why does Nietzsche equate god with nothingness?
8. Why does Nietzsche think that science and even modern philosophical skepticism are not opposed to the ascetic ideal, but allied with it?
9. What discipline is more fundamentally opposed to the ascetic ideal than science is? Why?
10. Nietzsche thinks that the Christian God has been "conquered" and that morality will now gradually perish. What does he think has "conquered" God and why and how does he think morality will perish?
11. What according to Nietzsche is (are) the meaning(s) of the will to truth and why is the question of the will to truth so important? Is he right?
12. Nietzsche begins and ends the Third Essay with the claim that man would rather will nothingness than not will. What does he mean by this?