

**Hellenism and critique of modernity: the relationship with ancient times in Nietzsche's thinking**

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**Abstract:**

In search for the essence of Hellenism, the young Nietzsche still cultivated the idea of a “return” to an original experience that was hidden during the movement of the history of civilization, and to which only the Greeks from the tragic period held the key. However, when Nietzsche begins his fight against platonic-Christian metaphysics, the Greeks hold the place of a cultural “contra-ideal” in order to face the religious and metaphysic view of the world as well as the modern scientific rationalism. Thus, Hellenism will be one of the fundamental elements in Nietzsche's critique of modernity.

**Key-words:** Hellenism; Modernity; Tragedy.

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