

## **Nietzsche, Socrate and the notion of “will” in *The birth of tragedy***

Wander Andrade de Paula\*

### **Abstract:**

The character of Socrates is a regular object of Nietzsche's thoughts. In *The birth of tragedy* Socrates is described as the one who in conjunction with Euripides underestimated the value of the substrate of tragedy, that is, ancient Greek music, and brought it to its decline. The junction between the two artistic drives of nature, the apollinian and the dionysian, is dissolved before the alliance between Euripides and Socrates. This occurs, according to Nietzsche, because Socrates wanted to “correct existence” through a deity that was distinct from those who composed ancient Greek tragedy, that is, reason. This view about Euripides and Socrates, which is very popular in secondary literature, seems to be the only one he maintains during his productive years, and particularly in his first book. However, in our point of view it is a mistake to hold that Nietzsche keeps only a negative perspective of Socrates, as he does in *The birth of tragedy*. We believe it to be partial and incomplete.

**Key-words:** Nietzsche; Socrates; Socratism.

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