Reflection Prompts for Week 5

Monday’s Reading

Nietzsche’ *Genealogy of Morals*

Reread Essay I, pp. 9 – 33 and reflect on the following:

- What is nihilism, according to Nietzsche?
- Would you agree that this was a great danger in the late 19th century? What about today?

Read Essay II, pp. 34-66 and address the following:

- What are the sources of bad conscience, according to Nietzsche?
- What is the source of selflessness or altruistic behavior?
- Do you find Nietzsche genealogical accounts of these fairly universal human moral experiences compelling or not? Defend your answer.

Wednesday’s Reading

Kierkegaard’s *Fear and Trembling*

Read ‘Preamble from the Heart’, pp. 57-82

- This is a freebie. Reflect on whatever strikes your fancy. Just make sure to convince me that you have done the assigned reading.

Friday’s Reading

Read ‘Problema I’ & excerpt from ‘Problema II’, pp. 83-102 and reflect on the following

- In what sense is Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice Isaac a teleological suspension of the ethical? That is, explain the dreadful, paradoxical and absurd manner in which Abraham achieves his highest good and does not sin.
- Describe the difference between the tragic hero and the knight of faith. Do you agree with Silentio’s interpretation of the Abraham story?
- Compare and contrast Kierkegaard’s knight of faith to the Nietzschean Übermensch who transcends the good and evil of 19th century Christian morality (see *GM*, pp. 31-2 & 65-66)