

Tragic culture and aesthetics of suffering. A comparative study on the concept of "culture" in Nietzsche and Artaud

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Abstract

This article attempts to achieve an aesthetic definition of the concept of culture through a comparative study of Nietzsche and Antonin Artaud's ideas. What we call "tragic culture" in this article is the result of Nietzsche and Artaud's approaches in finding the aesthetic patterns of ancient Greek tragedies and "theater of cruelty". From the perspective of the authors of this article what drives Artaud and Nietzsche to is the approach that theater evokes in justifying the nature of "suffering" through the tragic and the concept of cruelty. On this basis it can be said for Nietzsche and Artaud theater acts as a model to justify the existence aesthetically. The model, with an aesthetic justification of suffering, transforms it to a source of tragic pleasure and consequently undermines it inside an organic unity. More than anything else this research tries to answer the question as to why does an aesthetic justification of life presents itself in seemingly pessimistic concepts such as pain, misery, conflict and the tragic? But the ultimate goal of this appear is to explore a culture that is on the basis of such a perspective, i.e. the aesthetic justification of life and stands against the culture that tries to reduce life to a partial and ideological and subjective element. So in the end, in addition to a comparative study, we will see that the unity that exists in the modern culture is a false unity imposed by an external element on life and that the true meaning of culture deems an internal unity like the generic unity of the work of art linked to the aesthetic justification of existence. This research is based on library resources and particularly focusing on the books "The Birth of Tragedy" and "the theatre and its double" tries to explain the quality of this culture in the pattern of a form of "Action", "Pluralism" and "Yes Saying" to life and to the "New".

Key words: theatre of cruelty, tragic culture, aesthetics, suffering, Nietzsche, Artaud