



PHILOSOPHY  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95064  
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Professor Ronald Gerard Smith  
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Dear Ronald,

I did finally get a chance to view your Zarathustra video. In fact, I watched it twice, once straight through by myself, and once with a small group of students. In the latter case we focused on specific sections (the most famous ones), and compared your production to the text.

On the first viewing I was very impressed with the overall unity that emerged out of the series of vignettes. Your selection of episodes hit all the high points, yet allowed more continuity to emerge than is often apparent from the more cumbersome text. I thought Zarathustra should have had the "white beard" mentioned toward the end of Part IV, and like Kathleen Higgins I missed Part IV, especially the dramatic ending. But Part IV is controversial, and you are certainly justified not to have featured it.

I appreciated the staging and casting. You did a nice job with innovative props and engaging dialogues.

The second viewing with the students convinced me that the video could well be targeted to the college market. Students these days are better at reading videos and films than they are at reading the printed word. My students at least had very shrewd things to say about what they picked up from the video. They perceived visual cues that I missed, especially since I found myself more focused on following along in the text. Anyway, for the college market you might want to look into selling the video with your script-version of the text. Or at least you might want to provide a printed list of the section titles, perhaps keyed to the footage numbers or times of the video. I would have found this useful the second time through.

You have produced an excellent work here, and I am sure that it will find a market. Congratulations! And thanks for letting me hold on so long to this copy of the video, which I enclose. I hope that your European trip is successful as well.

Best regards,

*David*

David Hoy