

Nietzsche is my favorite philosopher and this is the finest perspective anyone can offer a young man. Read it until you understand and it will change your life. RLR

**THE GAY¹ SCIENCE
FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE**

The Greatest Weight. -- What, if some day or night a demon were to steal after you into your loneliest loneliness and say to you: "This life as you now live it and have lived it, you will have to live once more and innumerable times more; and there will be nothing new in it, but every pain and every joy and every thought and sigh and everything unutterably small or great in your life will have to return to you, all in the same succession and sequence-- even this spider and this moonlight between the trees, and even this moment and I myself. The eternal hourglass of existence is turned upside down again and again, and you with it, speck of dust!"

Would you not throw yourself down and gnash your teeth and curse the demon who spoke thus? Or have you once experienced a tremendous moment when you would have answered him: "You are a god and never have I heard anything more divine." If this thought gained possession of you, it would change you as you are or perhaps crush you. The question in each and every thing, "Do you desire this once more and innumerable times more?" would lie upon your actions as the greatest weight. Or how well disposed would you have to become to yourself and to life *to crave nothing more fervently* than this ultimate eternal confirmation and seal?

**THUS SPOKE ZARATHUSTA
FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE**

ON THE VISION AND THE RIDDLE: "Behold," I continued, "this moment! From this gateway, Moment, a long, eternal lane leads *backward*: behind us lies an eternity. Must not whatever *can* walk have walked on this lane before? Must not whatever *can* happen have happened, have been done, have passed by before? And if everything has been there before--what do you think, dwarf, of this moment? Must not this gateway too have been there before? And are not all things knotted together so firmly that this moment draws after it *all* that is to come? Therefore--itself too? For whatever *can* walk--in this long lane out *there* too, it *must* walk once more.

"And this slow spider, which crawls in the moonlight, and this moonlight itself, and I and you in the gateway, whispering together, whispering of eternal things--must not all of us have been there before? And return and walk in that other lane, out there, before us, in this long dreadful lane--must we not eternally return?"

ECCLESIASTES (1X, 11–12)

"I returned and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all."

¹ The term "Gay" has nothing to do with today's meaning. In his introduction Walter Kaufmann explains why he did not translate this as "The Cheerful Science". Kaufmann's work is "...one of the major translation enterprises of our time."