

## **Immanenticity, Vitality and Interpretation**

Eli Eilon

Nietzsche perceived this with great force: - that we live inside a closed prison that defines our world, which we cannot break out of, and yet is our own creation. But what does Nietzsche mean by describing reality as a prison of metaphors? Does he imply a virtual reality within which we are imprisoned, or, perhaps he means, quite to the contrary, that there lurks something foundational beyond the lattices with which we have imprisoned ourselves? The analysis of the metaphor of 'prison of metaphors' exposed the indeterminacy as to the subjective and the objective pole of the interpretation of the world, hence it also exhibited an ambiguity of the ontological status of both Nietzsche's world and creator. Thus that powerful metaphor itself is imperfect.

In order to give Nietzsche's striking metaphor of reality a plausible (if not necessarily clear of contradiction) interpretation, in this paper I undertake the project of rehabilitating Nietzsche's conception of reality. I present Nietzsche's conception of reality, as immanentist, dynamic, and multi-layered. I point out what I believe are the key concepts in this context, namely, the concepts of vitality, of physiology, and of praxis, all of which are involved in the creation of our abstract world, according to Nietzsche. I will thereby show how Nietzsche tried to turn us away from the literary text towards the actual from which the abstract expression originated. By so doing my reconstruction will also be deployed against Alexander Nehamas' interpretation of Nietzschean principle of reality in terms of literary coherence.