Sunday 10:30 AM March

A Lecture ON

Thomas J. J. Altizer

death of God theologian.

istory of dialectics.

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LECTURE AND Q AND A.

"...God has died in our time, in our history, in our existence."

Hegel can certainly be known as a theological thinker, and Nietzsche, too, and here the deepest negation is the deepest affirmation, an absolute affirmation finally indistinguishable from an absolute negation. Is this a thinking that can be communicated to the world at large? Surely not in its Hegelian form, but perhaps in its Nietzschean embodiment

Blake is that ultimate visionary who first dialectically and apocayptically enacted a coincidentia oppositorum between Christ and Satan; his is realized in the culmination of that epic voyage here enacted, but Blake is also our first prophetic visionary of the death of God, and he inally envisioned Satan as the dead body of God. That is the body that is incarnate in a uniquely modern abyss, and that is the body which we nitially enter on our voyage, a body which we can know as the White Whale, or as that absolute abyss that a Kafka or a Beckett call forth. So there can be little doubt of its ultimate actuality, but if we can truly know this abyss as the dead and alien body of God, or as that negative pole of the Godhead when it is wholly severed from its contrary or opposite, then we can become open to that absolute Yes which is the absolute opposite of this absolute No. Yet we can become so open only after having passed through that absolute No, hence we must fully and actually know an absolute horror religiosus if we are to become open to a final and apocalyptic Yes. Of course, this is the very path of Nietzsche, just as it is of Joyce, but our calling is to open the way of these great visionaries to all and everyone; this we can do only by enacting this voyage ourselves, doing so in the specific world of theology, and doing so in such a way that a path is thereby established for everybody, for we are Here Comes Everybody.



Professor T.J.J. Oldteaser

the death of god



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