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DESTINY DOMESTICATED

The Rebirth of Tragedy out of the Spirit of Technology

Jos de Mul

With translation assistance from Bibi van den Berg

D*estiny Domesticated* investigates three approaches Western civilization has tried to tame fate: the heroic affirmation of fate in the tragic culture of the Greeks, the humble acceptance of divine providence in Christianity, and the abolition of fate in modern technological society. Against this background, Jos de Mul argues that the uncontrollability of technology introduces its own tragic dimension to our culture.

Considering a range of literary texts and contemporary events, and drawing on twenty-five centuries of tragedy interpretation from philosophers such as Aristotle, Hegel, Nietzsche, and Heidegger, literary critics George Steiner and Terry Eagleton, and others, de Mul articulates a contemporary perspective on the tragic, shedding new light on philosophical topics such as free will, determinism, and the contingency of life.

Jos de Mul is Full Professor of Philosophy at Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. He is the author of *Cyberspace Odyssey: Towards a Virtual Ontology and Anthropology*; *The Tragedy of Finitude: Dilthey's Hermeneutics of Life*; and *Romantic Desire in (Post)modern Art and Philosophy*, also published by SUNY Press.

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