

The Relationship between Friedrich Nietzsche's Dream and Intoxication: Through Analyzing the "Steppenwolf" by Hermann Hesse

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Abstract : This essay mainly analyses the representation of the Apollo and Dionysus spirits in Hermann Hesse's novel "Steppenwolf." This analysis adopts a theoretical approach based on Friedrich Nietzsche's theory of the two separate art worlds, dream and intoxication, which corresponds to the two art deities, Apollo and Dionysus. The essay will discuss Friedrich Nietzsche's art and aesthetic theory of dream and intoxication in the first part. Then the essay will elaborate on the representation of the Apollo spirit and dream in "Steppenwolf" in the second section from two aspects: (1) Harry Haller's (the main character) self-recognition and semblance with Hermina. (2) The realization of Hermina's prophecy of the dream. Then the essay will analyze the representation of the Dionysus spirit and the intoxication in the third part by demonstrating Harry Haller's self-forgetting and melting into the crowd. The essay will combine the two spirits in the fourth section and discuss the relationship between dream and intoxication as the stimulator (dream) and the realizing (intoxication). This essay takes Nietzsche's theory as the basic foundation while also drawing sources from psychological analysis theories and other literature sources.

Keywords : dream, intoxication, Nietzsche, Steppenwolf

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