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The Noteworthiness of Meteion's Will to Power in Naoki Yoshida's *Final Fantasy XIV: Endwalker*

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Abstract

This paper examines how Meteion's Will to Power, a concept central to Friedrich Nietzsche's philosophy, is manifested within the narrative of Final Fantasy XIV: Endwalker. Meteion is a character from the game Final Fantasy XIV: Endwalker, created by a scientist named Hermes. She and her sisters, known as the Meteia, were made to find the purpose of life but ended up wanting to destroy all existence after seeing too much destruction. Then, how is Meteion's Will to Power reflected in Final Fantasy XIV: Endwalker? Through qualitative method in explorative approach, this study analyzes the relationship between Meteion's actions and Nietzschean nihilism, where the disintegration of values leads to a perception of life as meaningless. Nietzsche's perspective posits the will to power as the primary driving force in humans, emphasizing self-determination and the exertion of one's will on the environment. Meteion's journey, marked by despair and a wish to end all suffering, shows how Nietzsche's idea of the Will to Power can lead to nihilism, moving from a passive to an active form. In conclusion, Meteion's actions highlight Nietzsche's belief that overcoming nihilism needs a reevaluation of values, showing the Will to Power's role in facing existential despair.

Keywords *Final Fantasy XIV, Meteion, Naoki Yoshida, Nietzsche, Will to Power*

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INTRODUCTION

Final Fantasy XIV is a Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game (MMORPG) developed and published by Square Enix in 2010. The game's narrative unfolds through continuous updates and major expansion packs. The fourth expansion, *Final Fantasy XIV: Endwalker*, launched in 2021, further enriches the game's expansive lore and world (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). *Final Fantasy XIV: Endwalker*, the latest expansion of the acclaimed MMORPG, introduces players to the character Meteion, an entelech created by the scientist Hermes. Meteion's narrative arc, driven by despair and a desire to end universal suffering (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). Indeed, the story and the character serve as a profound case study for the effect of Friedrich Nietzsche's concept of the Will to Power on nihilism. This paper focuses on Meteion's indications to will to power and its reflection within the game's universe.

According to Nietzsche, nihilism means that the highest values devalue themselves. Nihilism, then, is the recognition of the long waste of strength, the agony of the "in vain," insecurity, the lack of any opportunity to recover and to regain composure—being ashamed in front of oneself, as if one had deceived oneself all too long (Nietzsche, 1968: 12). The writers imply that nihilism is the idea that the most important values people hold start to lose their meaning. It is like realizing that all the effort and struggle have been for nothing, feeling lost and unsure, with no chance to make things right or find peace again (Hauk, 2022; Leonard, 2019).

It is the feeling of being embarrassed or ashamed because it seems like one has been lying to himself for too long. This viewpoint emerges when a person's core values and beliefs are methodically broken down, resulting in a deep sense of existential hopelessness (Ibrahim, et al., 2023; Pasopati, et al., 2022b). In contrast, the Will to Power is described as an intrinsic force

driving individuals to assert control over their environment and themselves. Furthermore, it is such a response towards the condition of nihilism in which the values are undergone.

Meteion's journey, marked by despair and a quest to end universal suffering, serves as a crucial exploration of Nietzsche's ideas, reflecting a transition from passive to active nihilism (GamerEscape, 2024; Stanford CCRMA, 2023). This paper argues that Meteion's evolution from a being overwhelmed by despair to one actively seeking to end all existence exemplifies Nietzsche's assertion that overcoming nihilism necessitates a revaluation of values. Through Meteion, the story of *Endwalker* engages with the transformative potential of the will to power, presenting a complex interplay between existential despair and the quest for meaning (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024).

By examining Meteion's character and her impact on the world of *Final Fantasy XIV: Endwalker*, this paper aims to highlight the philosophical depth of the game's narrative. It explores how Meteion's will to power, influenced by her encounters with civilizations in ruin. It also embodies the matters of Nietzsche's philosophy, offering insights into the challenges of overcoming nihilism and the potential for redefining values in the face of existential despair (Hauk, 2022; Leonard, 2019).

METHOD

By using qualitative method through explorative approach, certain concepts and written data are analyzed to answer the question in this paper. Written through description, online scripts are used to explain the correlations between Meteion in the *Final Fantasy XIV: Endwalker* and The Will to Power theory of Nietzsche and its relationship to nihilism. The data for this study is drawn from the narrative content of *Final Fantasy XIV: Endwalker*, including in-game dialogue of Meteion that is written on the GamerEscape Wiki. The research process includes the identification and interpretation of key narrative elements that reflect Meteion's will to power and its effects on the game's thematic exploration of nihilism.

The analysis begins with a close reading of the game's text, followed by the coding of data to identify instances where Meteion's will to power is evident. The findings of this qualitative analysis are expected to offer insights into the narrative complexity of *Final Fantasy XIV: Endwalker*, highlighting the role of philosophical concepts in video game storytelling. The study's conclusions will discuss the implications of Meteion's will to power for players' understanding of the game's themes and the potential for video games to engage with existential philosophical inquiries.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Meteion's Indication in Nihilism

Meteion is a character from *Final Fantasy XIV: Endwalker* that wants to bring the final day to Etheiryrs because she finds that there is no meaning in life. After the player alongside with the comrades fought Meteion, Meteion tries to read the player's feelings and emotion (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). The character is important as it shows a matter of interaction as the mode of engagement. the idea relies on how the players could dive in together with what Meteion thinks in order to finish the chapter of the game. by doing so, any condition and even indications of psychological indictment are deeply emphasized here (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). The data is shown as follows.

Meteion: "No expression of regret will undo what my sisters and I have done. Will restore what we have stolen." (GamerEscape, 2024)

Meteion then realizes that the player created the meaning of life together with his or her friends. Meteion regrets her and her sisters' actions. It is interesting how the sentence underlines the matter of regrets. It is not merely such a psychological response, but it is a matter of response to any suffering that surrounds her (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). In this case, the universe has been destroyed and no one may endure that situation. By restoring what is needed, Meteion would like to handle more power not to endure the nihilism, but to surpass it so that following betterment could be reached furthermore.

Meteion: "One day, life will fill the universe again. And Hermes will see this and smile." (GamerEscape, 2024)

Despite the nihilism that once consumed her, Meteion expresses a renewed sense of hope that life will eventually flourish again, and that this will bring joy to her creator, Hermes, who previously tasked her to find the meaning of life in the other stars. The way that she thinks is about reflecting a shift towards a more positive outlook (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). The sentence above is also unique since it comes from a response to nihilism. It is not the way to destroy more, but how to go beyond it. Meteion is in her position of willingness to do more in order to bring the smile back again. Indeed, she needs more power to realize that.

Meteion: “How, I do not know. But I do know that, where there is a will, there is a way.” (GamerEscape, 2024)

Meteion admits uncertainty about the future but affirms the power of will and determination to find solutions. It is exceptionally aligning with Nietzsche’s concept of the will to power as a driving force for overcoming challenges. The main idea is not focusing on the power itself (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). Power is merely a way or even a tool to realize something. It is such a variable that works like a predicate. In the Nietzschean sense, it is a matter of how anything is about a condition. Any solution will follow if people would like to criticize anything in life. That is exactly what Meteion does.

Meteion: “After all, miracles happen every day, do they not?” (GamerEscape, 2024)

Meteion admits she does not know how the future she hopes for will come to pass. However, she believes that determination and willpower can create a path to that future. Meteion exactly would like to say that miracles are about luck, but it will come to those that could really bear that (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). If things are not ready for someone, the power will not sustain either. By stating so, power is something that is not related to any authority. It is merely like a process, an ongoing one that will always last to the one that will work well. Somehow, power also works like a talent that needs to be developed furthermore (Ibrahim, et al., 2023; Yuliastuti & Pasopati, 2022a).

Meteion: “Hold in your heart your desire to return to them, then follow my lead and walk forth.” (GamerEscape, 2024)

Meteion encourages holding onto the player’s desires and taking action to return to his or her comrades. It can be seen as an acknowledgment of the individual’s capacity to shape their destiny (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). It is also related to resonating with the idea of the will to power. What Meteion shows is not only power, but the sense of leadership. It is followed by indications of trust that she wants others to gain in herself. Desire is not in the sense of merely ego, but a powerful one that relates to otherness in the idea of altruism as well (Ibrahim, et al., 2023; Yuliastuti & Pasopati, 2022a). Therefore, leadership is also such will to power shown by what Meteion does.

Meteion: “That hope will surely guide you true.” (GamerEscape, 2024)

Meteion affirms the guiding power of hope can surely lead to truth. In a broader sense, to a meaningful existence, it contrasts with her earlier nihilistic view that life is inherently meaningless. The following interesting points of Meteion are indicated by how she finds hope as a sense of will that will prolong the power that she needs (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). To be true is what she really wants to be. By hoping, truthfulness is desired by her as how her ego is pushed aside to realize a better future for everyone. All of the things that she hopes for are urged by the nihilism that she faces in the universe.

The Prolonging Will to Power

Friedrich Nietzsche’s concept of the will to power stands as one of the most influential and complex ideas within his philosophical oeuvre. Originating from his critical engagement with the philosophies of his predecessors, notably Arthur Schopenhauer’s notion of the Will (Leiter, 2021; Mahendra, 2021). Nietzsche transformed the idea into a foundational principle that underpins his critique of morality, religion, and the essence of life itself. The will so conceived is nothing but the effect of type-facts about the person. This means that the real story of the genesis of an action begins with the type-facts, which explain both consciousness and a person’s actions (Leiter, 2021; Mahendra, 2021).

Nietzsche’s encounter with Schopenhauer’s “The World as Will and Representation” marked a pivotal moment in his philosophical journey. Schopenhauer posited a primal, irrational

force he termed "Will" as the essence of reality, driving existence and suffering (Leiter, 2021; Mahendra, 2021). Nietzsche, initially captivated by this concept, eventually diverged, proposing a more nuanced and life-affirming force: the will to power. Unlike Schopenhauer's pessimistic view, Nietzsche saw the will to power as a dynamic, creative force inherent in all living beings, propelling them towards growth, dominance, and self-overcoming (Huddleston, 2019; Pratt, 2023).

In his works, Nietzsche explores the will to power as a psychological impulse driving individuals to assert their influence over their environment and themselves. Nietzsche (1968: 342) states that "The will to power interprets (—it is a question of interpretation when an organ is Constructed): it defines limits, determines degrees, variations of power. Mere variations of power could not feel themselves to be such: there must be something present that wants to grow and interprets the value of whatever else wants to grow." This drive is not merely about physical or political dominance but encompasses a broader spectrum of human endeavor, including creativity, knowledge, and the revaluation of values (Maden, 2022; Parr, 2020). Nietzsche argues that the will to power is the true motivator behind human actions, desires, and the development of cultures and societies.

Nietzsche occasionally hints at the will to power as a metaphysical principle that underlies all reality. This interpretation suggests that the will to power is not confined to human behavior but is a fundamental characteristic of the universe, influencing the behavior of all entities and phenomena (Metz, 2021; Tongeren, 2018). This perspective positions the will to power as the essence of life itself, driving the evolution and interaction of all forms of existence. "All 'purposes,' 'aims,' 'meaning' are only modes of expression and metamorphoses of one will that is inherent in all events: the will to power. To have purposes, aims, intentions, willing in general, is the same thing as willing to be stronger, willing to grow— and, in addition, willing the means to this (Nietzsche, 1968: 356)."

Friedrich Nietzsche's philosophical concept of the will to power is a central theme that permeates much of his work, offering a complex and nuanced understanding of human motivation and the essence of life itself (Metz, 2021; Tongeren, 2018). Unlike traditional notions of power, which might connote domination or control over others, Nietzsche's will to power is a more profound and intrinsic force that drives individuals towards self-overcoming, mastery, and the creation of values. Nietzsche introduces the will to power as an essential drive within all living beings, surpassing even the will to survive. It is not merely a desire for power in the conventional sense but represents a fundamental force that motivates individuals to assert their essence and expand their influence (Metz, 2021; Tongeren, 2018). For Nietzsche, this drive is the primary source of all human action and ambition, underlying our desires, beliefs, and behaviors.

Nietzsche (1968: 298) stated that "Will to truth is a making firm, a making true and durable, an abolition of the false character of things, a reinterpretation of it into beings. "Truth" is therefore not something there, that might be found or discovered—but something that must be created and that gives a name to a process, or rather to a will to overcome that has in itself no end— introducing truth, as a *processus* in *infinitum*, an active determining—hot a becoming conscious of something that is in itself firm and determined. It is a word for the "will to power."'" The concept of self-overcoming is integral to Nietzsche's vision of the will to power. He challenges individuals to overcome their limitations and societal norms, using their will to power to forge new paths and achieve greatness. This process is essential for the emergence of the *Übermensch* or Overman, a future individual who has realized their will to power, overcoming nihilism and creating new values and meanings (Metz, 2021; Tongeren, 2018).

Will to Power and Meteion's Desire

The Meteion's dialogues emphasize that she would like to gain more power to overcome the condition that surrounds her. The condition is nihilism. In this sense, it is her desire to gain more will to power in order to change the situations. She could not do what she wishes alone, that is why the player's interaction is also needed (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). The following analysis of Meteion's dialogues regarding Nietzschean will to power are indicated as follows.

Meteion: "No expression of regret will undo what my sisters and I have done. Will restore what we have stolen." (GamerEscape, 2024)

From the quotation above, the writers analyze that Meteion's acknowledgment that no amount of regret can reverse her actions or restore what was taken reflects Nietzsche's view on the irreversibility of actions driven by the will to power (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). Her transformation from a being intent on ending all existence to one who acknowledges the possibility of creating meaning reflects the Nietzschean theme of self-overcoming. Through her interactions with the player, Meteion experiences a shift from a nihilistic perspective, where life is deemed meaningless, to a recognition of the will to power as a means to create and affirm new values.

The player's influence on Meteion's realization highlights another Nietzschean theme. It is about the importance of individual agency in the revaluation of values (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). The player, through their actions and relationships with his or her friends and comrades, embodies the will to power in a creative and life-affirming manner, challenging Meteion's nihilistic conclusions. The effort to overcome is also what Nietzsche hopes when people already face such nihilism. People should not regret it, but work to gain more power to surpass the condition of nihilism itself (Metz, 2021; Tongeren, 2018).

Meteion: "One day, life will fill the universe again. And Hermes will see this and smile." (GamerEscape, 2024)

From the quotation above, the writers study that Meteion's statement marks a significant transition from a state of nihilism. She previously saw no meaning in existence, to an affirmation of life's potential for renewal and growth (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). Nietzsche's philosophy contends that nihilism, the belief in the meaninglessness of life, arises when traditional values decay without being replaced. Nihilism is such a prominent truth, but will to power is a process. To state furthermore, the process should always walk together with nihilism itself.

However, the will to power encompasses the capacity to overcome nihilism by creating new values and meanings. Meteion's newfound hope reflects this Nietzschean principle of overcoming nihilism through the will to power, as she envisions a future where life flourishes once more. Meteion's longing to fulfill Hermes' task reflects a deeply personal application of the will to power, where the creation of meaning extends to the happiness of others (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). It is also crucial to see that Meteion personally hopes that will to power must be gained to realize a better future. She does not depend on anyone else. It is her own self that should do it. It is not a matter of being egotistical, but it is a reflection of responsibility in which goodness should always be borne by any leadership whatsoever. It is how she responds to Levinasian ethical invitations from otherness who have suffered more than she could even imagine at all (Maden, 2022; Parr, 2020).

Meteion: "How, I do not know. But I do know that, where there is a will, there is a way." (GamerEscape, 2024)

The writers emphasize the quotation above that Meteion's admission of uncertainty about the future. It is coupled with a steadfast belief in the efficacy of will and determination (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). It also then mirrors Nietzsche's assertion that the will to power is the fundamental driving force behind all human action and the overcoming of challenges. Nietzsche's will to power is not merely about the pursuit of control or dominance. It is actually such a more profound existential force that propels individuals towards self-overcoming and the creation of new values (Maden, 2022; Pasopati, et al., 2022a).

It is this intrinsic drive that motivates individuals to assert themselves and shape their destiny, even in the face of uncertainty and adversity. Meteion's statement indeed embodies this principle by highlighting the role of will and determination in navigating the unknown and forging paths where none seem to exist. By asserting will and way, Meteion taps into the creative and affirmative aspect of the will to power (Maden, 2022; Parr, 2020). This perspective encourages a proactive engagement with the world, where the will to power becomes a source of innovation and renewal, rather than mere survival or domination.

Meteion: "After all, miracles happen every day, do they not?" (GamerEscape, 2024)

From the quotation above, the writers underline that Meteion's statement suggests a recognition of the unexpected and remarkable occurrences in life that defy ordinary expectations (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). From Nietzsche's perspective, the will to power is

the fundamental driving force behind all life, propelling individuals to transcend their limitations and achieve beyond the ordinary. Meteion's allusion to daily miracles resonates with this idea. It exactly tries to exemplify that the force of will and determination can lead to outcomes that might be considered miraculous.

Meteion's statement embodies the Nietzschean principle that the will to power is not confined by the apparent limits of the present or the known. Instead, it is a creative and dynamic force that can open up new possibilities and pathways, even when the means to achieve a desired future are not immediately evident (Maden, 2022; Parr, 2020). Meteion's statement serves as a reminder of the creative and life-affirming nature of the will to power, and its role in shaping a future that, while currently unknown, is ripe with potential for what some may call miraculous.

Meteion: "Hold in your heart your desire to return to them, then follow my lead and walk forth." (GamerEscape, 2024)

The writers actualize the quotation above that Meteion's encouragement for the player to hold onto his or her desire and to move forward is emblematic of this drive (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). It suggests that the player's will is a potent force capable of guiding them through uncertainty and leading them back to their comrades. Meteion's statement to the player encapsulates the essence of Nietzsche's will to power, highlighting the individual's capacity to direct their will towards achieving their desires. It underscores the idea that within each person lies the potential to overcome challenges. It is also such an urge to always actively shape their destiny through the power of their will (Huddleston, 2019; Pratt, 2023).

In this sense, the game itself is not merely a matter of entertainment. It is also a reflection of everyday life where people may always see nihilism condition in her/his life. Rather than rejecting the condition, Meteion could be said as the one who tries to spread the message of preserving hope. It is not done by the powerful one. It could be realized by anyone who desires more power, but not to dominate other living beings (Huddleston, 2019; Pratt, 2023). The power is such a reflection of goodwill that is being used to empower more people and surroundings. By doing so, nihilism could be overcome and even changed with better fundamentals.

Meteion: "That hope will surely guide you true." (GamerEscape, 2024)

From the quotation above, the writers underline that Meteion's statement encapsulates a significant shift from a nihilistic perspective to one that acknowledges the potential of hope as a guiding force towards truth and meaningful existence (Final FantasyWiki, 2023; GamerEscape, 2024). Meteion's earlier nihilistic view that life is inherently meaningless stands in stark contrast to her later affirmation of hope. Nietzsche himself grappled with the problem of nihilism, seeing it as a consequence of the death of traditional values without the creation of new ones. Through the will to power, Nietzsche proposed that individuals could overcome nihilism by reevaluating values and creating new meanings (Huddleston, 2019; Pasopati, et al., 2022a).

Meteion's shift towards hope reflects this Nietzschean idea that hope can serve as a catalyst for overcoming nihilism, guiding individuals towards the creation of new values and a reassertion of life's significance. Thus, hope's guiding power lies in its ability to motivate individuals to pursue their own truths, to question existing values, and to forge new paths that affirm life (Huddleston, 2019; Stanford CCRMA, 2023). This process of seeking truth through hope is inherently linked to the will to power, as it involves the exertion of one's will to shape one's understanding of the world and one's place within it.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the exploration of Meteion's character in *Final Fantasy XIV: Endwalker* through the lens of Friedrich Nietzsche's concept of the will to power offers profound insights into the philosophical underpinnings of her actions and motivations. Meteion's journey from despair to a transformative realization underscores the dynamic nature of the will to power as both a source of existential challenge and a pathway to overcoming nihilism. Her initial descent into nihilism, driven by the overwhelming destruction she witnesses, reflects the destructive potential of the will to power when directed towards the annihilation of existence. However, her eventual shift towards a more hopeful outlook, influenced by her interactions with the player and the recognition of the possibility for new values and meanings, exemplifies Nietzsche's assertion that the will to power can also be a creative force, capable of transcending despair and redefining one's relationship with

the world. Meteion's evolution from a harbinger of destruction to a beacon of hope encapsulates the transformative potential of the will to power, affirming Nietzsche's belief in the necessity of reevaluating values and the inherent capacity of individuals to shape their destiny in the face of life's inherent uncertainties.

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