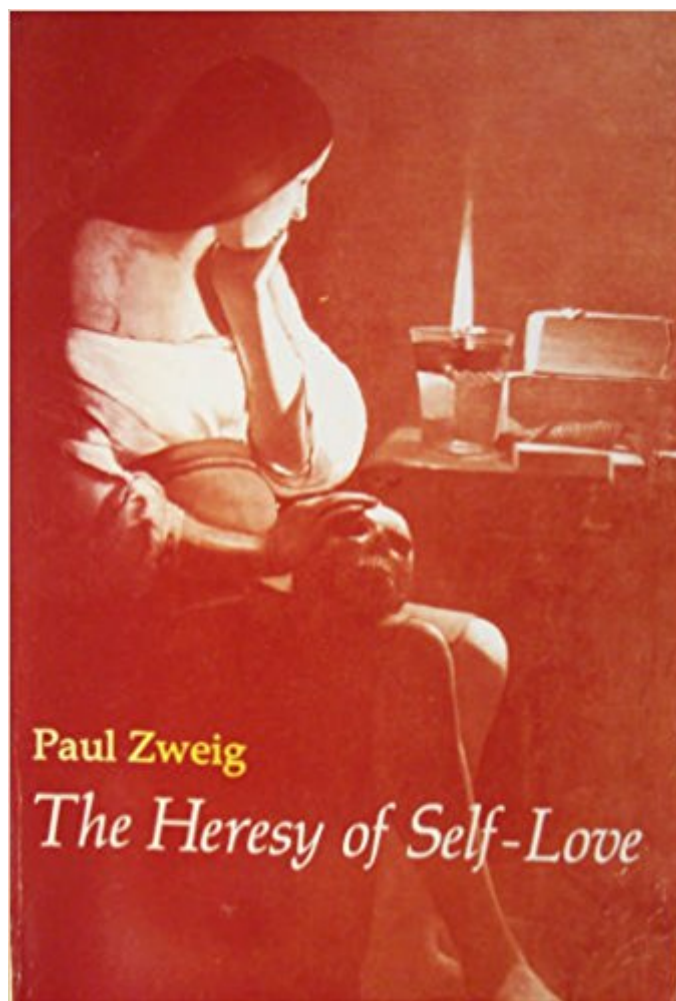


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The Heresy Of Self-Love: A Study Of Subversive Individualism



Synopsis

The Description for this book, *The Heresy of Self-Love: A Study of Subversive Individualism*, will be forthcoming.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Originally published in 1968 and reissued now with a new preface and conclusion, this work explores versions of Narcissus that have powerfully shaped the attitudes of our culture. Ranging from the Gnostics of the second century A.D. through mediaeval mysticism, courtly love, Tristan and Isolde, Shakespeare's Sonnets, Milton, Descartes, Spinoza, and Rousseau' to Kierkegaard, Herman Melville, Boudelaire, de Tocqueville, Marx, and the contemporary world, Paul Zweig attempts to dramatize and clarify this experience to self-cultivation and self-exaltation.--- from book's back cover

I have owned this book for a long time. I do not use it as a reference on the large number of thinkers it covers because the kind of reversal of meaning which is a standard part of each analysis is murky in my mind. For an example, consider a few lines from a quotation of Alfred North Whitehead's book, *Science and the Modern World*: bodies are perceived as with qualities . . . which in fact are purely the offspring of the mind. Nature is a dull affair, soundless, scentless, colorless; merely the hurrying of material, endlessly, meaninglessly. Science tries to analyze nature in a manner which "became not only dull and meaningless, it became terrifying." Paul Zweig dwells in "The anxiety

produced by such conflicting attitudes characterized the intellectual life of the century. Images of chaos and disintegration lay close to the surface of thought, as in Donne's Anniversary Poems or Shakespeare's Troilus."It is possible to be amused at what has been achieved in ways that can be mined for ludicrous entertainment. Quoting Donne:Every man alone thinkes he has got . . .

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