

Content

1	The riddle of our normality	9
2	The Craft of Life	17
	What is our Zeitgeist?	17
	Concepts of Value	19
	Telling our story	24
	Philosophizing is the craft of life	25
	What is morality?	28
	The emergence of our situation	30
3	Morality and conformity	35
	Becoming a member and remaining independent	35
	The silent power of reflection	38
	How functionaries die	40
	How people stay alive	47
4	The order of prestige	53
	Our self-evident principles and their predecessors	53
	The pressure of centuries	58
	Communication breakdown	61
	The social framework of honor	65
	Respect as a cult of authority	69
	Ascribed Personality	71
	Social Navigation	73
5	Redemption in success?	77
	Distractive stress	79
	Standardized identity: Introducing careers	81
	Religion of the functionary	82
	The Myth of success	87
	The Dignity of profit	92
	The pseudo-moral façade	95

6	How the ‘world of work’ replaces reality	99
	A world of work?	100
	The path to a world of ‘worlds’	103
	Displacement of the real	107
	Rationality and reason	109
	Living in reality	112
7	Professionalism and the management of ‘human capital’	115
	Professionalism as liberating obedience	117
	Leadership is the art of change	124
	Who can lead?	126
	Moral pitfalls of change	129
	The permanent moral crisis of leadership	134
	The Alibi of Relativism	138
8	Ambition and death	145
	Telling the truth	146
	Approaching ambition	148
	The emptiness of honor	151
	Ambition is pseudo-moral madness	155
	The usual fate	159
	A personal way out	164