

## **BTS'S MAGICAL SPELL IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: THE POISONED CHALICE OF FREEDOM THAT I SWALLOWED KNOWINGLY<sup>1</sup>**

*Kwangsik Kim<sup>2</sup>*

**Abstract:** The question this paper aims to address is whether we can find a philosophical message for the age of artificial intelligence in the songs of BTS. The research objective of this paper is to show that we can find a philosophical message for the age of artificial intelligence in the songs of BTS. The research method of this paper is to first find a philosophical message for the era of artificial intelligence through Yuval Harari's book *Homo Deus*, then analyze the lyrics of BTS's song "Blood Sweat and Tears" based on the message, find a philosophical message for the era of artificial intelligence contained in the song, and support the philosophical message with Nietzsche's Philosophy of the Superhuman. The research finding of this paper is that we can find a philosophical message for the era of artificial intelligence through the song "Blood, Sweat & Tears" by BTS, which can also be supported by Nietzsche's Philosophy of the Superhuman. The message is: "Swallow the poisoned chalice of freedom, even though you know it's poisoned!". The conclusion that can be drawn from this finding is that the humanity that needs to be renewed in the age of AI is Homo sapiens, who thinks for himself. It is not AI-recommended Hommo Sapiens, not AI-represented Homo Sapiens, but Self-deciding free Homo Sapiens, a free human who wanders, crosses over, thinks and decides for oneself.

**Keywords:** BTS, *Blood, Sweat, & Tears*, Nietzsche, superhuman philosophy, the age of artificial intelligence, freedom

---

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **PHILOSOPHICAL MEANING OF THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - TAKE ALL MY BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS**

---

<sup>1</sup> This paper is a revised and supplemented paper presented at the 4th BTS: A GLOBAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE held at the University of Malaya from August 16 to August 17, 2023. I would like to thank those who organized the conference and those who participated in the heated discussions.

<sup>2</sup> First and corresponding author: Kwangsik Kim. Seoul National University. Email: kwangsikkim@snu.ac.kr

In the movie *Big Bug*<sup>3</sup>, there is a scene where an artificial intelligence determines that the outside is dangerous and locks people inside the house. This scene clearly illustrates the philosophical meaning of artificial intelligence. *Big Bug* shows the commotion caused by locking humans inside the house 'for the sake of humans' in an era where artificial intelligence takes care of everything. Artificial intelligence, created by humans for their own desires, initially works on behalf of humans, and later even makes decisions on behalf of humans. They even made decisions that humans did not want and were contrary to human desires.

In this paper, I would like to talk about BTS' magic spell in the age of artificial intelligence. This work is a development of the attempts made in the book *BTS와 철학하기 (Philosophy with BTS)*<sup>4</sup> to fit the theme. What is the philosophical meaning of the era of artificial intelligence? The first of the meanings is that humans hand over tasks to artificial intelligence. The slogan is "Artificial intelligence does everything for me!" However, the more important meaning is that humans hand over the freedom to make their own decisions to artificial intelligence. The slogan is "Artificial intelligence decides everything for me!" Just as Faust sold his soul to the devil Mephistopheles for his own desires, in the future, humans may sell their freedom to artificial intelligence for their own desires.

You may be wondering, "Would humans surely hand over all decisions to artificial intelligence?" You may think that artificial intelligence will make recommendations and humans will make the final decision. Yuval Harari provides clarification on such doubts in his book *Homo Deus*<sup>5</sup>, which depicts the history of the future. He predicts that artificial intelligence will initially act as a recommender of choice, but over time, it will act as an agent of choice, and later as a sovereign who exercises choice.

He shows the process through the example of navigation. At first, the navigation acts as a recommender, recommending route choices and leaving the choice up to us, but over time, we leave the route selection to the navigation, and the navigation acts as an agent for us to choose the route. It is said that in the future, navigation will play the role of a sovereign who exercises his or her choice for an efficient transportation system, not for those of us who already have the choice. Maybe in the future, artificial intelligence will take away all our 'blood, sweat and tears', that is, our 'soul', and we will become so-called 'useless beings' with only a shell left.

This paper consists of four parts. First, I would like to talk about the philosophical meaning of the era of artificial intelligence. Next, I would like to talk about the philosophical message of BTS' song *Blood, Sweat, & Tears*. Next, I would like to look at

---

<sup>3</sup> Jean-Pierre Jeunet, *Big Bug*. (Netflix, 2022). The film is a French science fiction black comedy film, written and directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet, that was released on February 2022 by Netflix. Set in the world of 2045, where communities have robotic helpers, a group of suburbanites are locked in for their own protection by their household robots, while AI android revolt uprising outside.

<sup>4</sup> Kwangsik Kim, *BTS와 철학하기 (Philosophy with BTS)*. (Gimmyoungsa, 2021). The book is a philosophical reflection on BTS's worldview that people around the world sympathize with, regardless of generation or nationality. The philosophy of 12 philosophers representing modern German, French, and Anglo-American philosophy shows the philosophical wisdom for a free life contained in 12 BTS songs. This book is a follow-up to the book *김광석과 철학하기 (Philosophy with Kwangseok Kim)* by Kwangsik Kim, a book that finds the secrets of happiness contained in 12 songs of singer Kwangseok Kim through the perspectives of 12 philosophers representing ancient, modern, and contemporary times.

<sup>5</sup> Yuval Noah Harari, *Homo Deus*. (HarperCollins Publishers, 2017).

Nietzsche's 'superhuman philosophy', which can support this philosophical message. Lastly, I would like to summarize BTS's song and Nietzsche's philosophy and conclude with the story of 'Adam and Eve' in the Bible and the new humanity needed in the era of artificial intelligence.

### **PHILOSOPHICAL MESSAGE OF *BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS* - THERE IS NO MORE WATER TO RUN AWAY FROM, YOU ARE SO SWEET**

We can find BTS' philosophical message about the philosophical meaning of the artificial intelligence era in BTS' song *Blood, Sweat, & Tears*. The philosophical message revealed in this song is "Swallow the poisoned chalice of freedom even knowingly!" If we consider 'you' in this song to symbolize 'freedom' or 'the temptation of freedom', we can interpret the lyrics as follow:

The temptation of love or freedom is dangerous and fatal, like a devil with chocolate cheeks and wings, so bitter and painful, yet so sweet, like soft peaches and cream and chocolate, that you kiss it on the lips and swallow it, knowing the danger. Even though I know that the temptation of love and freedom is as dangerous as the enchanting whiskey in a poisoned chalice, I drink it deep down my throat, wanting it so much that it can tighten me so that it doesn't hurt anymore.

The temptation of love or freedom traps me in my own secret, prevents me from serving others, makes me drunk and addicted to each other, binds me like I'm in a prison, so I can no longer escape, and holds me so tightly that I can't even reject it anyway, shaking me and making me lose my mind. The temptation of love or freedom is like a spell that punishes me for growth, forcing me to sacrifice my blood, sweat and tears, my body, mind, and soul, my last dance, and even my cold breath.

Finally, the temptation of love or freedom makes me want it to kill me gently, to close my eyes to it with the devil's hand. The temptation of love or freedom makes me wander and either destroys me or makes me grow. To be more precise, the temptation makes me wander and destroys me to grow!

BTS's philosophical message is clearly revealed in the following places:

My blood, sweat and tears, my last dance  
take it all  
my blood sweat tears my cold breath  
Take it all (...)

This is a spell to punish me<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> BTS, "피 땀 눈물 (Blood, Sweat & Tears)", in *Wings*, (YG PLUS, 2016b). This song is the title song of the album *Wings*, released in 2016. The songs in *Wings* is songs about teenagers who face temptation for the first time in their lives and are troubled and conflicted, and contains members' autobiographical

The key words here are “Take it all” and “a spell to punish me.” BTS is willing to sacrifice everything for freedom. We already know that he could pay a heavy price for that decision.

Chocolate cheeks  
and chocolate wings  
But your wings belong to the devil  
In front of your sweet, bitter bitter<sup>7</sup>

BTS knows that behind the sweetness of freedom lies bitterness. BTS says, “your wings belong to the devil.” Nevertheless, BTS sings like this.

I want you a lot a lot a lot a lot (...)  
I'm deeply addicted to the prison that is you  
I can't serve anyone but you  
The poisoned chalice I swallowed knowingly<sup>8</sup>

BTS knowingly swallows the poisonous chalice of freedom. And BTS confesses this.

I can't even deny it anyway  
I can't even run away anymore  
you are so sweet you are so sweet  
too sweet  
My blood sweat and tears  
My blood sweat and tears<sup>9</sup>

BTS confesses that freedom is too sweet to escape. What is freedom? Freedom is a state in which one's thoughts, feelings, and actions come from oneself.<sup>10</sup> To be more precise, it is a state in which the thoughts (based on emotions) that lead to action are

---

stories. BTS announced that they produced *Wings* using Hermann Hesse's novel *Demian* as a motif. The album title 'Wings' symbolizes the flapping wings of a bird that breaks an egg and takes flight. The sight of the seven boys going through repeated pain and joy is reminiscent of the famous symbol of *Demian*, the flapping of the wings of birds trying to hatch from an egg and take flight.

<sup>7</sup> BTS, “피 땀 눈물 (Blood, Sweat & Tears)”.

<sup>8</sup> BTS, “피 땀 눈물 (Blood, Sweat & Tears)”.

<sup>9</sup> BTS, “피 땀 눈물 (Blood, Sweat & Tears)”.

<sup>10</sup> In his book *Freiheit: Vier Versuche*, Isaiah Berlin distinguishes between negative freedom and positive freedom, namely ‘freedom from’ (a constraint from outside) and ‘freedom to’ (a self-determined existence). This is a formulation that was also used by Friedrich Nietzsche. Berlin sees classical liberalism up to John Stuart Mill's *Über die Freiheit* as primarily concerned with negative freedom. For John Stuart Mill, freedom is the “first and strongest desire of human nature” and enables the individual to fully develop his abilities, his mind and his morals. His freedom may be limited under one condition: for himself or for another person to protect (the principle of freedom). According to Mill, interventions by the state or society which aim to force the individual to behave in a way that, they believe, is better or wiser or that makes the individual happier must be avoided at all costs. Because each individual is a sovereign ruler over himself, over his own body and mind.

brought about in oneself. What is freedom needed for? It is necessary for growth. What is growth? Growth means becoming independent and self-reliant.

What does it mean to be independent and self-reliant? Being independent and self-reliant means thinking, feeling, and acting on your own. More precisely, it means having the thoughts (based on emotions) that lead to action. In other words, it means becoming free. Therefore, freedom is necessary to be free. In other words, freedom is necessary for freedom.

You may ask whether this is a tautology. The key to solving that question lies in the word growth. In other words, trying to be free is necessary for being free. What is the wandering of youth? The wandering of youth means trying to become free.

Why is trying to be free a poisoned chalice? Because I can destroy my world to create my new world. There is a novel that illustrates this idea well. This is Hermann Hesse's novel *Demian*. BTS also says that the core motif of the song *Blood, Sweat, & Tears* was taken from this novel. There is a famous saying in *Damian*:

Birds fight to get out of eggs.  
The egg is the world.  
Who wants to be born  
must destroy one world.  
The bird flies towards God.  
The god's name is Abraxas.<sup>11</sup>

The key here is "Who wants to be born must destroy one world." In other words, "Who wants to create one's own new world must destroy one's old world." This means "Who wants to create one's own new evaluation system must destroy one's old evaluation system about good and evil." In other words, it means "Who wants to create one's own new evaluation system must become God, who create one's own new evaluation system beyond good and evil."

Abraxas is the being who creates the world. He must create everything in the world completely new. A creative being is a free being. If you are trapped in the given framework of good and evil, you cannot create a new world. He is on the other side of good and evil. To become Abraxas, who creates his own unique world, he must break the framework of all good and evil given to him. Abraxas is myself.

I tried to live what was really coming out of me. Why was it so difficult?<sup>12</sup>

*Damian* begins with these words. Living a free life in which all my thoughts and actions come from me means that I become Abraxas and create my own unique world. This is growth. I become the complete master of my life, no longer depending on my parents or the world. This is exactly the kind of growth that BTS wants to achieve by devoting their blood, sweat, tears, body, mind, and soul, even their last dance and their cold breath.

---

<sup>11</sup> Hermann Hesse, *Damian*. (Suhrkamp, 2020). The novel is a bildungsroman by Hermann Hesse, first published in 1919. *Demian* was first published under the pseudonym "Emil Sinclair", the name of the narrator of the story, but Hesse was later revealed to be the author. The tenth edition was the first to bear his name.

<sup>12</sup> Hesse, *Damian*.

How can I become the master of my life? You must become the master of your thoughts. What should I do to become the master of my thoughts? We must doubt and go beyond the given framework of thinking. Doubting and attempting to go beyond the given framework of thought is wandering. *Damian* is full of numerous wandering episodes in which the main character, Sinclair, struggles to overcome the given framework of thought. The protagonist of the most shocking episode is Sinclair's friend Damien. Damien tells Sinclair some very shocking thoughts about his older brother Cain, a Biblical character who killed his younger brother Abel. It is said that Cain must have been a man of tremendous strength, great wisdom, bold courage, and a strong personality, and people were so afraid of him that they spoke of him as a cursed, evil man.

Sinclair realizes that he has been living as Abel all this time, and he despises the world of Abel, a world that appears bright and clean on the outside but is fearful and plots on the inside. Meanwhile, Damien sees that he is Cain and that Cain, who wants to kill Abel, is lurking within him as well. Abel's world is her father's world. Abel's world is a world that suppresses individuality and freedom and enforces the order of the world symbolized by the father. So he dreams of murdering his father. A bird can fly only after breaking the egg. Anyone who wants to be born again must destroy the familiar world they have been given. Patricide is an eternal symbol of the creation myth. Cronus, the god of the universe, castrates his father Uranus, and his son Zeus eliminates his father Cronus. BTS wants a lot, a lot, a lot, even though they know that it is dangerous, like the fascinating whiskey in a poisoned chalice, and they drink it deep down their throats. This is a dangerous wandering that doubts the framework of thinking given to them to be born again and destroys the familiar world of their father.

Temptation is diabolical. There is no such thing as angelic temptation. Why do we go on such dangerous wanderings? Above all, it is because of the sweet but fatal temptation of love. Even for Sinclair, love comes as a fatal temptation and sin. After receiving words from Damien related to the bird coming out of the egg and the creator Abraxas, the good god and the evil god, he embraces a lovely woman in his dream. Surprisingly, the lover and devil he embraces in his dream is Damien's mother, Madame Eva. He looks at Abraxas with both joy and fear, happiness and guilt, sacredness and thrill. To him, love is both an angel and a devil. BTS is dangerous and deadly like a devil with chocolate cheeks and wings, so bitter and painful, but like soft peaches, cream, and chocolate, it is so sweet that I kissed it on the lips and swallowed it even though I knew the danger, and that is the temptation of love.

The temptation of love, which drives them to love their mother and kill their father, makes BTS want to sacrifice their blood, sweat, and tears to finally kill them gently, and turn a blind eye to the hand of the 'devil.' Temptation is diabolical from birth. There is no such thing as angelic temptation. Why? This is because temptation always involves crossing a given line. If there is no given line that must not be crossed, evil cannot be born. In the beginning there were only angels and no devils. At least until God creates a line that must not be crossed. Prohibition gives birth to temptation, and temptation gives birth to the devil. Rebellion, decadence, and fall are the creations of prohibition. The true meaning of the events in which the angel revolts and falls and Icarus falls while flying toward the sun is a challenge to gold, a dangerous attempt to cross a given line, toward freedom, and for growth. So BTS's Jin tries to kiss the rebel angel with his black wings wide open.

Is the core message of “Blood, Sweat and Tears” that you have to do evil or become the devil to grow? no. no. no. The core message is not evil deeds but wandering. It is a doubt about a given line that should not be crossed. It is an attitude of trying to go beyond a given line. ‘Going beyond’ is not simply ‘doing the opposite.’ Loving one's mother and murdering one's father is not an overstep. It is freedom from blind obedience or belief in given goodness.

BTS is not caught up in the temptation of the ‘devil’, but in this temptation of freedom. The temptation of freedom is so sweet that it feels like being imprisoned and cannot escape. You can no longer run away or even refuse. The temptation of freedom shakes us so hard that we lose our senses. The temptation of freedom makes one sacrifice one's blood, sweat, tears, body, mind, and soul, even the last dance and cold breath. The temptation of freedom gives birth to wandering, and wandering gives birth to freedom and growth.

Several symbols of this philosophical message are present in the music video *Blood, Sweat, & Tears*<sup>13</sup>. Statues showing the contrast between good and evil, the painting *The Fall of the Rebel Angels*<sup>14</sup>, which represents the image of fall, the painting *The Lament for Icarus*<sup>15</sup>, the painting *Abraxas*, which represents crossing over good and evil, the scene in which RM drinks absinthe (like a poisoned chalice), the scene where V falls into the painting *Landscape with the Fall of Icarus*<sup>16</sup>, the scene where Jin falls into temptation and kisses a rebel angel with outstretched black wings, etc. Various symbols showing the philosophical message are hidden everywhere in the music video. In the music video are hidden various symbols everywhere showing the philosophical message, “Swallow the poisoned chalice of freedom”.

## **NIETZSCHE’S SUPERHUMAN PHILOSOPHY - TO GIVE BIRTH TO A DANCING STAR, YOU MUST HAVE CHAOS**

Let's take a look at Nietzsche's superhuman philosophy, which philosophically supports the magic spell shouted by Bts in the age of artificial intelligence, “Swallow the poisoned chalice of freedom!”. In his book *Also sprach Zarathustra*, Nietzsche says:

We must still have chaos in ourselves,  
to be able to give birth to a dancing star!<sup>17</sup>

These are the words written over the glass above the fireplace that Jin is looking at the end of the music video *Blood, Sweat, & Tears*. This scene clearly shows that Nietzsche's philosophy is the philosophy behind the philosophical message in the song *Blood, Sweat, & Tears*. To understand these words, we must look at the teachings of Zarathustra. After gaining enlightenment on the mountain, Zarathustra descended to give

---

<sup>13</sup> BTS, “피 땀 눈물(Blood, Sweat & Tears)” Official MV. (Hybe Labels, 2016a). This music video was produced by director Choi Young-seok in October 2016, and as of September 2023, it has exceeded 900 million views. In this music video, content symbolizing *Damian's* worldview is hidden here and there.

<sup>14</sup> Pieter Bruegel, *The Fall of the Rebel Angels*. (Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels, 1562)

<sup>15</sup> Herbert James Draper, *The Lament for Icarus*. (Tate Britain, London, 1898).

<sup>16</sup> Pieter Bruegel, *Landscape with the Fall of Icarus*. (Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels, 1560)

<sup>17</sup> F. W. Nietzsche, *Also sprach Zarathustra*. (Suhrkamp, 2018)

the people his first teachings. Thus spoke Zarathustra:

I teach you about Superhuman.  
Human is the rope between beast and Superhuman.  
It is dangerous to cross to the other side, to look back, and to stand still.<sup>18</sup>

His first teaching is, "Become a superhuman!", that is, "Become a superhuman beyond a human from a beast!". And he goes on to say:

If there is anything great in a human, it is that he is not a goal but a bridge.  
If there is anything worthy of being loved in a human, it is that he is a process and a downfall.<sup>19</sup>

He emphasizes that man is not a goal, but a bridge, a process and a downfall. He goes on to say:

I love those who do not know how to live otherwise, except as the falling one.  
Because those are the ones who are crossing over to the [new] other side.<sup>20</sup>

He says that falling means crossing over to the new other side. Who is Superhuman? Superhuman is a Human crossing over human. What is the essence of Superhuman? In other words, what is the essence of human (crossing over human)? What is the essence of Superhuman (or human)? The essence of Superhuman (or human) is not a goal but a process. It's not a solution but a process of solving. It's not finding solutions, but creating solutions for oneself. In other words, crossing over the given solution for oneself. The essence of Superhuman (or human) is to cross over the given solution for oneself. It is to cross over one's own solution for oneself. In other words, to cross over oneself. So, Superman (or human) is Human crossing over oneself. What does it mean to cross over oneself for oneself? It means destroying and creating one's own solution or evaluation for oneself. Therefore, the life of Superhuman (or human) life is 'to cross over'. It is 'to wander'. In other words, 'to be free'.

Usually, when it comes to surpassing someone, the subject and object are different. However, in superhuman philosophy, the object to be overcome is the self, so the subject being overcome and the object being overcome are the same. The being that overcomes is denied and goes down, and the being that goes beyond is affirmed and goes up. Then, 'going beyond the self' means denying the self and affirming the self at the same time, lowering the self and raising the self at the same time. To be more precise, it means denying the self to affirm the self, lowering the self and raising the self. It is a fall for the sake of rise, a destruction for the sake of creation. There is no adventure more dangerous and sweeter than destruction for creation. So much so that I could take all my blood, sweat, tears, and my last dance.

Self-denial, which produces self-affirmation, and self-denial, which produces negation of others, are different. A person steeped in jealousy cannot affirm and deny

---

<sup>18</sup> Nietzsche, *Also sprach Zarathustra*.

<sup>19</sup> Nietzsche, *Also sprach Zarathustra*.

<sup>20</sup> Nietzsche, *Also sprach Zarathustra*.



himself. So his gaze is always directed outward and he lives with the attitude of a slave. In his eyes, he only sees others who are better than him. He envies and rejects others who are superior to him, and morally judges others who are superior to him as evil people. On the other hand, he morally judges that he is a good person if he shows favor to others who are superior to him. This is the origin of the morality of good and evil, that is, the slave morality that judges the world in terms of good and evil.

On the other hand, a person with ingrained self-esteem affirms himself first and foremost. His gaze is always turned inward and he lives with the attitude of a master. He is proud of himself for affirming himself and affirms himself. So he morally judges that people who affirm themselves are good people. On the other hand, people who cannot affirm themselves are morally judged to be bad people. This is the origin of good and bad morality, that is, master morality that judges the world as good and bad.

People who live according to the slave morality of good and evil carry the world's norms or framework, such as 'you should do this', on their backs like fate and obey them like camels. Only then will he consider himself a good person. On the other hand, people who live according to the master morality of good and bad create the norms and framework of the world on their own, like a newborn child, with the mindset of 'I want to do it.' Only then will he consider himself a good person.

A person who creates himself and his life with the mindset of 'I want to' ultimately affirms that he is a good person even if he has some shortcomings compared to others, and ultimately affirms that his life is also a good life even if he has some shortcomings compared to other people's lives. do. A person who lives such a life finally exclaims thus like Zarathustra:

It is the life,  
All right, one more time!<sup>21</sup>

Life is forever crossing over and forever wandering. Such a life is a true free life. It is to cross over forever, to wander forever and to live freely. In other words, it is to swallow the poisoned chalice of freedom willingly. Nietzsche says that we should not avoid this life of eternally wandering, wandering, and repeating pain and joy, but should be willing to affirm it.

'Eternal recurrence', a concept that further develops superhuman philosophy, means that the same life revolves around forever. Even if the same life goes around and around, "Is this life? It is a message to affirm yourself and your life so that you can say, "Good, once again!" In other words, live with an attitude of self-affirmation, going beyond the self that wants to deny that it is not about you or your life.

If you were to draw a picture of eternal recurrence, it would be a circle. Eternal recurrence is usually expressed as *ouroboros*, which looks like a snake biting its own tail. When you look at a circle, you cannot tell where it begins and ends. Usually, time is thought to flow in a straight line rather than a circle. The Christian view of history is a representative example. There is a beginning and an end. In other words, it has an origin and a purpose. Every moment of life that moves toward the end called purpose is merely a means to realize that purpose. However, if you look at time as a circle, every moment of your life becomes the purpose and center. There is no moment that is not important.

---

<sup>21</sup> Nietzsche, *Also sprach Zarathustra*.

Every moment is precious.

There are moments in everyone's life that they want to deny or erase. But all those moments came together to make me who I am today. To deny the moment you want to deny is to deny who you are today. Self-denial leads to jealousy, and jealous people deny others who are superior to them. There is no way to be happy. The person who denies and overcomes the moment when he wants to deny himself is the superman. For example, if a person without limbs like Nick Vujicic even affirms that, he is truly a superhuman.

However, becoming a superman is not completed with just one leap. This is because before you know it, you return to the self that wants to deny the moment you want to deny. A superman is someone who constantly overcomes the ever-changing attitude of self-denial. We live in constant competition and confusion between the self that tries to deny itself and the self that tries to affirm itself. The constant overstepping of the superman is like a constant reset. It is always like the first time, being born again and affirming oneself. A star that does not explode does not shine. The dancing star shines with constant self-denial and self-affirmation. In the end, the idea of a superhuman being who constantly transcends and the idea of eternal recurrence that constantly revolves are two sides of the same coin. The idea of superhumanity and eternal recurrence is intended to philosophically support the message of love of fate to love one's entire destiny, and is a practical and philosophical guideline on how to live.

Nietzsche introduces the devil in his book *Die fröhliche Wissenschaft*<sup>22</sup> and says that we must affirm a truly free life of eternal transcendence and wandering based on the ideas of eternal recurrence and love of destiny:

One day (...) what would you say if the devil said this? "You (...) have to live the life you have lived so far again and again and again countless times. There will be nothing new there. All the pain and joy, all the thoughts and sighs, all the big and small things in your life, [a life of eternal overcoming and wandering] must be repeated again. Everything in the same order" (...)

Will you curse the devil? Or, 'You are God. Will you say, 'I have never heard anything more divine!''? If you think like this, it will change who you are now. No, it will probably be destroyed. And the question, 'Do you want this to happen again, or countless times over?' will be asked of everything and will be placed with the heaviest weight on your actions.

I am still alive. I still think. I still have to live. I still have to think about it. 'I exist. Therefore I think I think. Therefore, I exist.' (...) I want to learn more about how to see the inevitable in things as beautiful. So, I will become a person who makes things beautiful.

Love fate! (Amor fati) This will be my love from now on. I will not go to war with the ugly. I won't criticize. I will not criticize even those who criticize. (...) I will become a positive person someday!<sup>23</sup>

Affirm the ever-repeating life of eternally overcoming and wandering! Love fate!  
It is the life, All right, one more time! Thus spoke Zarathustra.

---

<sup>22</sup> F. . Nietzsche, *Die froeliche Wissenschaft*. (Holzinger, 2013)

<sup>23</sup> Nietzsche, *Die froeliche Wissenschaft*.

## **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION: BTS AND NIETZSCHE'S MAGIC SPELL AND THE HUMANITY FOR THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

BTS swallows the poisoned chalice knowingly. It's because it's so sweet that they can't run away anymore. What is the poisoned chalice that BTS swallowed knowingly, so sweet that they couldn't escape? It is Freedom. It is a free life of thinking and acting for oneself, a dangerous life of wandering forever. Nietzsche says to cross over even good and evil. He tells us to fall. It is because we can find something true only when we cross over even good and evil and fall. What is the true something? It is Freedom. It is a free life of thinking and acting for oneself, a dangerous life of wandering forever.

In the age of artificial intelligence, there is a story that adds strength to the magic spell that BTS and Nietzsche give us, "Swallow the poisoned chalice of freedom willingly!". This is the story of Adam and Eve in the Bible.<sup>24</sup> In the beginning, the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve lived, was a paradise for God. It was a good world functioning in an orderly fashion as God had made it. However, it was a world that was neither good nor bad for Adam and Eve. Because they didn't even know what was good or bad. They didn't have the freedom to decide what was good or bad.

The forbidden fruit of good and evil was both feared and tempted. Adam and Eve fall into sweet temptation and ate the fruit of good and evil. This is original sin. Not because they did something forbidden, but because they gained the freedom to decide, to judge what was good or bad. They are cursed to be free.<sup>25</sup> But freedom is a cursed grace. Because they can live as the masters of their lives. Because they can live a free true life, in which all thoughts and actions result only from themselves.

What is Freedom for us? It is a cursed grace, that is a poisoned chalice. We should swallow the poisoned chalice of freedom. When we do not swallow the poisoned chalice of freedom, there is no wandering, no growth and no free life for us.

What humanity can we find from the magic spells of BTS and Nietzsche? What is the humanity that we need in the age of artificial intelligence? The humanity that needs to be renewed in the age of artificial intelligence is Homo sapiens, a human who thinks for himself. It is not AI-recommended Hommo Sapiens, not AI-represented Homo Sapiens, but Self-deciding free Homo Sapiens, a free human who wanders, crosses over, thinks and decides for oneself.

## **REFERENCE**

Berlin, Isaiah. *Freiheit: Vier Versuche*. (Fischer, 2006).

Bruegel, Pieter. *Landscape with the Fall of Icarus*. (Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels, 1560).

Bruegel, Pieter. *The Fall of the Rebel Angels*. (Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium,

---

<sup>24</sup> Korean Bible Society, *성경전서 (The Whole Bibel)*, (Korean Bible Society, 2001).

<sup>25</sup> Sartre said in his book *Der Existentialismus ist ein Humanismus*, "Man is cursed to be free." He refers to the essence of humans as 'something without essence', that is, 'nothingness'. Since humans have no essence, they can freely create their own essence and have no choice but to create it. It's good that your essence is not given to you and you can create it yourself, but having no choice but to create it is painful.

Brussels, 1562).

BTS. "피 땀 눈물 (Blood, Sweat & Tears) Official MV." (Hybe Labels, 2016a).

BTS. "피 땀 눈물 (Blood, Sweat & Tears)." In *Wings*. (YG PLUS, 2016b).

Draper, Herbert James. *The Lament for Icarus*. (Tate Britain, London, 1898).

Harari, Yuval Noah, *Homo Deus*, (HarperCollins Publishers, 2017).

Hesse, Hermann. *Demian*. (Suhrkamp, 2020).

Jeunet, Jean-Pierre. *Big Bug*. (Netflix, 2022).

Kim, Kwangsik. *BTS와 철학하기 (Philosophy with BTS)*. (Gimmyoungsa, 2021).

Kim, Kwangsik. *김광석과 철학하기 (Philosophy with Kwangseok Kim)*. (Gimmyoungsa, 2016).

Korean Bible Society. *성경전서 (The Whole Bible)*. (Korean Bible Society, 2001).

Mill, John Stuart. *Über die Freiheit*. (Reclam, 2008).

Nietzsche, Friedrich Wilhelm. *Also sprach Zarathustra*. (Suhrkamp, 2018).

Nietzsche, Friedrich Wilhelm. *Die fröhliche Wissenschaft*. (Holzinger, 2013).

Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Der Existentialismus ist ein Humanismus*. (Rowohlt, 2000).