Values and Virtue

I. Nietzsche explains that values are not discovered, but created.
   A. Societies are the first creators of values.
      1. Societies exist and distinguish themselves by their self-imposed values.
         a. Social values maintain order and control over the individual.
         b. Whatever a society considers hard to accomplish, or gives it advantages over
            other societies, become its values.
      2. Knowledge of a society's environment and neighbors allows one to predict
         what it will value.
   B. Values are the meaning and significance of human life.
      1. "Valuation," the activity of valuing, conveys meaning.
         a. Valuation is a uniquely human trait ("Man the valuator")
         b. So all value must be human value.
      2. The "human predicament" is that we are valuers by nature, but without any absolute
         or universal perspective to guide our valuing.

II. The Individual emerges from society as a creator of new values.
   A. Nietzsche thinks societies exist before individuals.
      1. One can be an "individual" only in relation to a society.
         a. To be an individual is to be a non-conformist.
         b. Values created by society set the standards of conformity.
         c. Most people conform: Nietzsche calls them "the herd"
      2. An individual stands apart from society by creating new values.
   B. A creator of new values is necessarily a destroyer of old values.
      1. Nietzsche sees all values in conflict, as expressions of controlling powers.
      2. Successful individuals destroy old values, adopting new standards of conformity.
   C. Nietzsche values the destroyer of values because they are also value creators.
      1. The conformist "herd" is always stagnant, an impediment to human progress.
      2. The true expression of humanit
         y is the creation of values.
   D. The Many values of different societies can be united in the One value of humanity:
      Humanity's meaning or value is what it can become: the Superman.

III. The highest virtue is the "Bestowing Virtue,"
   A. The creator of new values bestows gifts to humanity.
      1. Standards of value imply virtues or valued qualities in those who conform; just as
         gold has many valued qualities.
      2. But the most valued quality is the value-creator's creative power; just as what makes
         gold valuable is our valuing it.
   B. Alas, the paradoxes:
      1. How can value-creation be a virtue? If virtues are created by value-creation, then
         value-creation would have to create itself(?).
      2. Zarathustra's advice to his followers is self-defeating: "I advise you. ..guard yourself
         against Zarathustra."
         a. How to encourage people not to take your advice? If they don't take your
            advice, then they take your advice.
         b. How to value individualism? Individualism becomes a standard of conformity.
1. Nietzsche thought that values arise first from:
   A) social groups
   B) individuals
   C) nature
   D) artistic creation

2. Before leaving his disciples, Zarathustra advised them:
   A) to beware of Kryptonite
   B) to guard themselves against Zarathustra
   C) to wait for the Superman
   D) to form a just society