

kierkegaard fear and trembling

kierkegaard fear and trembling is one of the most influential philosophical works in the realm of existentialism and religious thought. Written by Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard in 1843, the book delves into the complex relationship between faith, ethics, and individuality. This article provides a comprehensive exploration of Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*, covering its historical background, core philosophical themes, and lasting impact on existentialism and modern thought. Readers will discover an in-depth analysis of the "teleological suspension of the ethical," the concept of the "knight of faith," and how Kierkegaard's ideas challenge traditional views on morality and religion. Whether you are a student, philosopher, or someone intrigued by existential questions, this article offers valuable insights into Kierkegaard's masterpiece and its enduring relevance.

- Historical Context of Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*
- Summary of *Fear and Trembling*
- Key Philosophical Concepts in *Fear and Trembling*
- The Teleological Suspension of the Ethical
- The Knight of Faith and the Knight of Infinite Resignation
- Faith, Paradox, and the Individual
- Impact and Legacy of *Fear and Trembling*

Historical Context of Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*

To understand the significance of Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*, it is important to consider the cultural and philosophical climate of 19th-century Europe. Kierkegaard wrote during a period marked by rapid changes in society, growing secularism, and the influence of German idealism, particularly the philosophy of Hegel. The prevailing attitudes towards religion and ethics were being challenged by rationalism and scientific progress. Within this context, Kierkegaard sought to address the nature of true faith and its relationship to reason and morality. His work stands as a response to both the established church and philosophical systems that, in his view, failed to capture the subjective and personal dimension of religious experience.

Summary of *Fear and Trembling*

Fear and Trembling is structured as a meditation on the biblical story of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac. Kierkegaard, writing under the pseudonym Johannes de Silentio, uses this story to explore the nature of faith, ethics, and the individual's relationship with the divine. The book

is divided into several sections, including a preface, an exordium (introduction), and a series of philosophical reflections. Kierkegaard contrasts the tragic hero, who acts for the greater good within the ethical sphere, with the knight of faith, who acts in absolute obedience to God, even when such actions appear irrational or unethical by human standards. Through this narrative, Kierkegaard examines the tension between universal ethical principles and personal religious conviction.

Key Philosophical Concepts in Fear and Trembling

Faith and the Absurd

One of the central themes in Kierkegaard *Fear and Trembling* is the concept of faith as a leap beyond reason, often described as a “leap of faith.” Kierkegaard argues that true faith involves believing in the absurd—that is, holding to a belief that defies logical explanation. Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice Isaac, despite the apparent contradiction with moral law, exemplifies this paradoxical faith. For Kierkegaard, faith is not a matter of intellectual certainty but of passionate commitment in the face of uncertainty and doubt.

The Role of Anxiety and Dread

Kierkegaard introduces the concepts of anxiety (*angst*) and dread as fundamental to the experience of faith. The individual, when confronted with the possibility of acting outside universal ethical norms for the sake of a higher divine command, experiences intense inner conflict. This “fear and trembling” is not simply fear of punishment but a profound realization of the weight of responsibility and the isolation that comes with authentic faith.

The Teleological Suspension of the Ethical

A pivotal concept in Kierkegaard *Fear and Trembling* is the “teleological suspension of the ethical.” This idea proposes that there are circumstances in which the ethical—understood as universal moral law—may be suspended for a higher, divine purpose (*telos*). In the story of Abraham, the ethical command not to kill is suspended by a direct command from God. Kierkegaard argues that, while the ethical is usually the highest duty, faith sometimes requires the individual to transcend ethics in obedience to God. This creates a paradox: the individual becomes a “knight of faith” only by placing their relationship with the divine above all human standards.

- The ethical: Universal moral principles shared by all.
- The religious: The individual's direct relationship with God.
- Suspension: Temporarily setting aside the ethical for a higher purpose.
- Paradox: Acting against the ethical while remaining justified by faith.

The Knight of Faith and the Knight of Infinite Resignation

The Knight of Infinite Resignation

Kierkegaard distinguishes between two types of individuals: the knight of infinite resignation and the knight of faith. The knight of infinite resignation is someone who gives up all hope of attaining their deepest desires in this world, finding peace in the acceptance of loss. This resignation is seen as a noble but ultimately limited form of spiritual life. The knight accepts their fate and finds meaning in the act of surrender.

The Knight of Faith

The knight of faith, by contrast, goes beyond resignation. This individual not only gives up what they desire but also believes, by virtue of the absurd, that it will be restored by God. Abraham exemplifies the knight of faith because he is willing to sacrifice Isaac, yet believes against all reason that he will still receive Isaac back. The knight of faith lives in full engagement with the world, trusting in the impossible without rational reassurance. Kierkegaard uses this concept to illustrate the uniqueness and difficulty of genuine faith.

Faith, Paradox, and the Individual

The Subjectivity of Truth

A major contribution of Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling* is the emphasis on subjectivity in matters of truth and faith. Kierkegaard argues that religious truth is not a matter of objective proof or universal reason but a deeply personal commitment. The individual must make a solitary leap into faith, accepting the paradox that what is true for them may appear absurd or unethical to others. This focus on subjectivity laid the groundwork for later existentialist philosophers.

Individual versus the Universal

Kierkegaard explores the tension between the individual and the universal. While ethics demand conformity to universal laws, faith sometimes compels the individual to act outside these norms. This creates a profound sense of isolation, as the individual can neither justify their actions to society nor rely on social validation. The knight of faith stands alone, accountable only to God, which underscores the radical and often unsettling nature of authentic religious experience.

Impact and Legacy of Fear and Trembling

Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling* has had a lasting impact on philosophy, theology, and literature. Its exploration of faith, ethics, and individuality influenced existentialist thinkers such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Martin Heidegger, and Karl Jaspers. The book challenged both religious authorities and secular philosophers to reconsider the meaning of faith and the limits of reason. In contemporary discussions, *Fear and Trembling* is still studied for its insights into the nature of belief, the role of paradox, and the existential challenges of making authentic choices. The work remains a foundational text for understanding the complexities of faith and the dynamics between the individual, society, and the divine.

Q: What is the central theme of Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*?

A: The central theme is the nature of true faith, especially as it relates to the story of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac. Kierkegaard explores how faith can require an individual to transcend universal ethical norms in obedience to a higher divine command.

Q: What does Kierkegaard mean by the "teleological suspension of the ethical"?

A: This concept refers to the idea that, in some instances, ethical principles may be suspended for a higher divine purpose. In Abraham's case, his willingness to sacrifice Isaac represents temporarily setting aside universal ethics to fulfill God's command.

Q: Who is the "knight of faith" in *Fear and Trembling*?

A: The knight of faith is an individual who, through absolute trust in God, is able to act beyond ethical constraints and believe in the impossible. Abraham is presented as the archetype of the knight of faith.

Q: How does Kierkegaard distinguish between the knight of infinite resignation and the knight of faith?

A: The knight of infinite resignation gives up hope of attaining their deepest desires and finds peace in loss, while the knight of faith goes further by believing, against reason, that they will receive what they have given up through faith in God.

Q: Why does Kierkegaard use the story of Abraham and Isaac?

A: Kierkegaard uses this biblical story to illustrate the paradoxes and demands of true faith, highlighting the conflict between ethical duty and religious obedience.

Q: What role does paradox play in Kierkegaard's philosophy?

A: Paradox is central to Kierkegaard's philosophy, especially in the context of faith. He argues that true faith often involves believing in what seems impossible or absurd from a rational or ethical perspective.

Q: How did Fear and Trembling influence existentialist philosophy?

A: The work profoundly influenced existentialist thinkers by highlighting the importance of individual experience, subjectivity, and the challenges of authentic choice in the face of uncertainty and paradox.

Q: What is meant by the "subjectivity of truth" in Fear and Trembling?

A: Kierkegaard asserts that religious truth is subjective and personal. It cannot be proven objectively but must be embraced inwardly by the individual through a leap of faith.

Q: Is Fear and Trembling only relevant to religious readers?

A: While rooted in religious themes, Fear and Trembling addresses broader existential questions about meaning, individuality, and ethical dilemmas, making it relevant to both religious and secular readers.

Q: What is the lasting significance of Kierkegaard Fear and Trembling?

A: The book remains a foundational text for discussions on faith, ethics, and individuality, and continues to influence philosophical, theological, and literary thought around the world.

Kierkegaard Fear And Trembling

Find other PDF articles:

<https://fc1.getfilecloud.com/t5-goramblers-09/files?dataid=UxI52-2753&title=the-one-and-only-ivan-questions-and-answers.pdf>

Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling: A Deep Dive into Faith and the Absurd

Introduction:

Søren Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling* isn't your typical beach read. This philosophical masterpiece, published anonymously in 1843, plunges into the heart of faith, exploring the paradoxical relationship between the ethical and the religious. It's a text that challenges, provokes, and ultimately compels readers to confront their own understanding of belief. This blog post will delve into the core arguments of *Fear and Trembling*, unpacking its complexities and exploring its enduring relevance in contemporary thought. We will dissect Kierkegaard's central concepts, examining the Knight of Faith, the teleological suspension of the ethical, and the inherent absurdity of faith. Prepare to have your assumptions challenged.

Understanding the Knight of Faith: A Paradoxical Figure

At the heart of *Fear and Trembling* lies the figure of Abraham, the biblical patriarch commanded by God to sacrifice his son Isaac. Kierkegaard doesn't present Abraham as a moral paragon; rather, he is a Knight of Faith, a figure who transcends the ethical realm to enter a realm of purely religious commitment. This is where the "fear and trembling" comes into play – the intense emotional struggle Abraham endures as he wrestles with the seemingly impossible command.

The Ethical and the Religious: An Irreconcilable Conflict?

Kierkegaard establishes a crucial distinction between the ethical and the religious. The ethical realm, governed by universal moral principles, demands consistency, rationality, and the well-being of others. Abraham's act, however, appears to directly contradict these principles. To sacrifice Isaac, his beloved son, seems utterly unethical. This conflict, this apparent impossibility, is precisely what makes Abraham's faith so compelling (and terrifying) for Kierkegaard.

Teleological Suspension of the Ethical: A Leap of Faith

Kierkegaard introduces the concept of the "teleological suspension of the ethical," arguing that the Knight of Faith transcends ethical considerations in obedience to a higher, transcendent will. This isn't a rejection of ethics altogether; rather, it's a recognition that the religious realm operates on a different plane, beyond the reach of ordinary human understanding. It's a "leap of faith," a radical commitment that defies rational justification.

The Absurdity of Faith: Embracing the Paradox

The core of Kierkegaard's argument hinges on the inherent absurdity of faith. Faith, he argues, is not a matter of rational proof or logical deduction. It's a commitment to something that cannot be rationally understood or justified. Abraham's act is absurd precisely because it defies all ethical and rational expectations. Yet, it is within this absurdity that Kierkegaard finds the true essence of faith.

Beyond Reason: The Passion of Faith

The Knight of Faith doesn't simply believe; they believe passionately. Their faith is not a dry intellectual assent, but a deeply felt, existential commitment. This passionate engagement with the absurd is what distinguishes the Knight of Faith from a mere believer who accepts religious doctrines without truly grappling with their implications.

The Enduring Relevance of Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling

Fear and Trembling remains relevant today because it grapples with fundamental questions about faith, belief, and the nature of human existence. In a world increasingly dominated by rationalism and scientific inquiry, Kierkegaard's exploration of the irrational aspects of faith continues to challenge our assumptions and force us to confront the limits of human understanding. His work prompts us to consider the nature of our own commitments, our willingness to embrace paradox, and the potentially transformative power of faith.

Conclusion

Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling is not a simple treatise on faith; it is a profound exploration of the human condition. It challenges our assumptions about morality, reason, and the nature of religious belief, leaving us grappling with the paradoxes at the heart of existence. It is a work that demands repeated readings and careful consideration, rewarding the reader with a deeper understanding of both faith and the complexities of the human spirit.

FAQs

1. Is Fear and Trembling only relevant to religious believers? No. While the text directly addresses religious faith, its themes of commitment, ethical dilemmas, and the nature of human existence resonate with individuals of all belief systems (or lack thereof). The central idea of a leap of faith can be applied to any profound commitment in life.
2. What is the significance of the "single individual" in Kierkegaard's work? Kierkegaard emphasizes the importance of the individual's subjective experience in relation to faith. The "single individual" represents the person who engages directly with the existential challenges presented by faith, rather than relying on societal norms or collective beliefs.
3. How does Fear and Trembling relate to Kierkegaard's other works? Fear and Trembling builds upon and expands on themes found in other Kierkegaard works, particularly his exploration of subjectivity and the relationship between the individual and the divine. It's part of a larger philosophical project exploring the nature of existence and faith.
4. Is Abraham a positive or negative example in Fear and Trembling? Kierkegaard presents Abraham as a complex figure, neither purely positive nor negative. He is a figure who embodies the paradoxical nature of faith, highlighting both its potential for greatness and its inherent ethical challenges. He is a character for deep contemplation, not simple emulation.
5. Where can I find more information about Kierkegaard's philosophy? Numerous resources are available, including biographies of Kierkegaard, scholarly articles on his works, and online resources dedicated to existentialist philosophy. Exploring secondary sources alongside Fear and Trembling will enhance your understanding of his complex thought.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: [Kierkegaard's 'Fear and Trembling'](#) Clare Carlisle, 2010-07-01 Søren Kierkegaard was without question one of the most important and influential thinkers of the nineteenth century. Fear and Trembling is a classic text in the history of both philosophical and religious thought that still challenges readers with its original philosophical perspective and idiosyncratic literary style. Kierkegaard's 'Fear and Trembling': A Reader's Guide offers a concise and accessible introduction to this hugely important and notoriously demanding work. Written specifically to meet the needs of students coming to Kierkegaard for the first time, the book offers guidance on: - Philosophical and historical context - Key themes - Reading the text - Reception and influence - Further reading

kierkegaard fear and trembling: [Kierkegaard: Fear and Trembling](#) Søren Kierkegaard, 2006-07-20 This book, first published in 2006, presents an English translation of one of the most important and influential of Kierkegaard's works.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling Daniel Conway, 2015-02-19 Featuring new, original essays on Fear and Trembling, this collection casts new interpretive light on Kierkegaard's most influential work.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: [Kierkegaard's Writings, VI, Volume 6](#) Søren Kierkegaard, 2013-04-21 Presented here in a new translation, with a historical introduction by the translators, Fear and Trembling and Repetition are the most poetic and personal of Søren Kierkegaard's pseudonymous writings. Published in 1843 and written under the names Johannes de Silentio and Constantine Constantius, respectively, the books demonstrate Kierkegaard's transmutation of the personal into the lyrically religious. Each work uses as a point of departure Kierkegaard's breaking

of his engagement to Regine Olsen--his sacrifice of that single individual. From this beginning Fear and Trembling becomes an exploration of the faith that transcends the ethical, as in Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac at God's command. This faith, which persists in the face of the absurd, is rewarded finally by the return of all that the faithful one is willing to sacrifice. Repetition discusses the most profound implications of unity of personhood and of identity within change, beginning with the ironic story of a young poet who cannot fulfill the ethical claims of his engagement because of the possible consequences of his marriage. The poet finally despairs of repetition (renewal) in the ethical sphere, as does his advisor and friend Constantius in the aesthetic sphere. The book ends with Constantius' intimation of a third kind of repetition--in the religious sphere.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: *Fear and Trembling* Søren Kierkegaard, 2013-01-18 In our time nobody is content to stop with faith but wants to go further. It would perhaps be rash to ask where these people are going, but it is surely a sign of breeding and culture for me to assume that everybody has faith, for otherwise it would be queer for them to be . . . going further. In those old days it was different, then faith was a task for a whole lifetime, because it was assumed that dexterity in faith is not acquired in a few days or weeks. When the tried oldster drew near to his last hour, having fought the good fight and kept the faith, his heart was still young enough not to have forgotten that fear and trembling which chastened the youth, which the man indeed held in check, but which no man quite outgrows. . . except as he might succeed at the earliest opportunity in going further. Where these revered figures arrived, that is the point where everybody in our day begins to go further.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: *Fear and Trembling by Søren Kierkegaard* Søren Kierkegaard, 2021-04-13 Fear and Trembling is a philosophical work by Søren Kierkegaard, published in 1843. The title is a reference to a line from Philippians 2:12, ...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. Kierkegaard wanted to understand the anxiety that must have been present in Abraham when God tested and said to him, take Isaac, your only son, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him as a burnt offering on the mountain that I shall show you. Abraham had a choice to complete the task or to refuse to comply with God's orders. He resigned himself to the three-and-a-half-day journey and to the loss of his son. He said nothing to Sarah, nothing to Eliezer. Who, after all, could understand him, for did not the nature of temptation extract from him a pledge of silence? He split the firewood, he bound Isaac, he lit the fire, he drew the knife. Because he kept everything to himself and chose not to reveal his feelings he isolated himself as higher than the universal. Several authorities consider the work autobiographical. It can be explained as Kierkegaard's way of working himself through the loss of his fiancée, Regine Olsen. Abraham becomes Kierkegaard and Isaac becomes Regine in this interpretation. A True Classic for all Lovers of Philosophical Works!

kierkegaard fear and trembling: *Fear and Trembling: A New Translation* Søren Kierkegaard, 2021-11-30 This newly translated Fear and Trembling, a foundational document of modern philosophy and existentialism, could not be more apt for our perilous times. First published in 1843 under the pseudonym Johannes de silentio ("John of Silence"), Søren Kierkegaard's richly resonant Fear and Trembling has for generations stood as a pivotal text in the history of moral philosophy, inspiring such artistic and philosophical luminaries as Edvard Munch, W. H. Auden, Walter Benjamin, and existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre. Now, in our era of immense uncertainty, renowned Kierkegaard scholar Bruce H. Kirmmse eloquently brings this classic work to a new generation of readers. Retelling the biblical story of the binding of Isaac, Fear and Trembling expounds on the ordeal of Abraham, who was commanded by God to sacrifice his own son in an exceptional test of faith. Disgusted at the self-certainty of his own age, Kierkegaard investigates the paradox underlying Abraham's decision to allow his duty to God to take precedence over his duties to his family. As Kierkegaard's narrator explains, the story presents a difficulty that is not often considered—namely, that after the ordeal is over and Isaac has been spared at the last moment, Abraham is capable of receiving him again and living normally, even joyfully, for the rest of his days.

Almost inexplicably, "Abraham had faith and did not doubt." Deftly tracing the autobiographical threads that run throughout the work, Kirmmse initially, in his lucid and engaging introduction, demystifies Kierkegaard's fictive narrator, Johannes de silentio, drawing parallels between Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son and the author's personal "sacrifices." Ultimately, however, Kirmmse reveals *Fear and Trembling* as a fiercely polemical volume, designed to provoke the reader into considering what is actually meant by the word "faith," and whether those who consider themselves "true believers" actually are. With a vibrancy almost never before seen in English, and "a matchless grasp of the intricacies of Kierkegaard's writing process" (Gordon Marino), Kirmmse here definitively demonstrates Kierkegaard's enduring power to illuminate the terrible wonder of faith.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: *Fear and Trembling* Søren Kierkegaard, 2013-01-18 In our time nobody is content to stop with faith but wants to go further. It would perhaps be rash to ask where these people are going, but it is surely a sign of breeding and culture for me to assume that everybody has faith, for otherwise it would be queer for them to be . . . going further. In those old days it was different, then faith was a task for a whole lifetime, because it was assumed that dexterity in faith is not acquired in a few days or weeks. When the tried oldster drew near to his last hour, having fought the good fight and kept the faith, his heart was still young enough not to have forgotten that fear and trembling which chastened the youth, which the man indeed held in check, but which no man quite outgrows. . . except as he might succeed at the earliest opportunity in going further. Where these revered figures arrived, that is the point where everybody in our day begins to go further.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: *Fear and Trembling* Søren Kierkegaard, 1985-08-29 Writing under the pseudonym of Johannes de silentio, Kierkegaard uses the form of a dialectical lyric to present his conception of faith. Abraham is portrayed as a great man, who chose to sacrifice his son, Isaac, in the face of conflicting expectations and in defiance of any conceivable ethical standard. The infamous and controversial 'teleological suspension of the ethical' challenged the contemporary views of Hegel's universal moral system, and the suffering individual must alone make a choice 'on the strength of the absurd'. Kierkegaard's writings have inspired both modern Protestant theology and existentialism.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: *Fear and Trembling* Søren Kierkegaard, 1994 Now recognized as one of the nineteenth century's leading psychologists and philosophers. Kierkegaard was among other things the harbinger of existentialism. In *FEAR AND TREMBLING* he explores the psychology of religion, addressing the question 'What is Faith?' in terms of the emotional and psychological relationship between the individual and God. But this difficult question is addressed in the most vivid terms, as Kierkegaard explores different ways of interpreting the ancient story of Abraham and Isaac to make his point.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: *Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling* David Mills Daniel, 2013-01-08 *Fear and Trembling* is one of Kierkegaard's earliest works, which he wrote under the pseudonym Johannes de Silentio. Kierkegaard had been a student of theology in Copenhagen, and had come to hate the Danish Church. He produced hundreds of leaflets against the Church during his lifetime. However his writing was largely ignored, and he was not a popular or well-regarded thinker in his own time. Hegel's writing largely dominated philosophical thought throughout Kierkegaard's life. Hegel believed that the highest goal for a person should be to lose oneself in the Universal. One should put aside his personal goals and ambitions and be motivated exclusively by the general interests of all. Kierkegaard regarded the individual above all else and so was repelled by Hegel's communitarian ethic. His *Fear and Trembling* is a sustained response to Hegel's ideas. It uses the story of Genesis 22, 1-18, where Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac without question, and only faith, to put across his own ideas and philosophy. *Fear and Trembling* is a required text on the UK A level syllabus.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: *Fear and Trembling* Søren Kierkegaard, 1946

kierkegaard fear and trembling: *Fear and Trembling* Søren Kierkegaard, 1968 Translation

of: Frygt og bven and of Gjentagelsen.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: An Analysis of Soren Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling Brittany Pheiffer Noble, 2017-07-05 Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard's 1843 book *Fear and Trembling* shows precisely why he is regarded as one of the most significant and creative philosophers of the nineteenth century. Creative thinkers can be many things, but one of their common attributes is an ability to redefine, reframe and reconsider problems from novel angles. In Kierkegaard's case, he chose to approach the problems of faith and ethics in a deliberately artful and non-systematic way. Writing under the pseudonym "John the Silent," he declared that he was "nothing of a philosopher," but an "amateur," wanting to write poetically and elegantly about the things that fascinated him. While *Fear and Trembling* is very much the work of a philosopher, Kierkegaard's protests showed his intent to take a different path, approaching his topic like no one else before him. The book goes on to ask what the real nature of our personal relationship with God might be, and how faith might interact with ethics. What, Kierkegaard asks, can we make of God asking Abraham to sacrifice his only son, and of Abraham obeying? Arguing the unorthodox position that in following God's incomprehensible will Abraham had acted ethically, Kierkegaard set out the parameters of a moral argument that remains strikingly novel over a 150 years later.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: *Fear and Trembling and the Sickness Unto Death* Søren Kierkegaard, Gordon Marino, 2013-04-28 Walter Lowrie's classic, bestselling translation of Søren Kierkegaard's most important and popular books remains unmatched for its readability and literary quality. *Fear and Trembling* and *The Sickness Unto Death* established Kierkegaard as the father of existentialism and have come to define his contribution to philosophy. Lowrie's translation, first published in 1941 and later revised, was the first in English, and it has introduced hundreds of thousands of readers to Kierkegaard's thought. Kierkegaard counted *Fear and Trembling* and *The Sickness Unto Death* among the most perfect books I have written, and in them he introduces two terms--the absurd and despair--that have become key terms in modern thought. *Fear and Trembling* takes up the story of Abraham and Isaac to explore a faith that transcends the ethical, persists in the face of the absurd, and meets its reward in the return of all that the faithful one is willing to sacrifice, while *The Sickness Unto Death* examines the spiritual anxiety of despair. Walter Lowrie's magnificent translation of these seminal works continues to provide an ideal introduction to Kierkegaard. And, as Gordon Marino argues in a new introduction, these books are as relevant as ever in today's age of anxiety.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: *Kierkegaard: Fear and Trembling* C. Stephen Evans, Sylvia Walsh, 2006-07-20 In this rich and resonant work, Søren Kierkegaard reflects poetically and philosophically on the biblical story of God's command to Abraham, that he sacrifice his son Isaac as a test of faith. Was Abraham's proposed action morally and religiously justified or murder? Is there an absolute duty to God? Was Abraham justified in remaining silent? In pondering these questions, Kierkegaard presents faith as a paradox that cannot be understood by reason and conventional morality, and he challenges the universalist ethics and immanent philosophy of modern German idealism, especially as represented by Kant and Hegel. This volume, first published in 2006, presents the first new English translation for twenty years, by Sylvia Walsh, together with an introduction by C. Stephen Evans which examines the ethical and religious issues raised by the text.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: *Penguin Classics Fear and Trembling* Søren Kierkegaard, 2014-10-22 *Fear and Trembling*, Søren Kierkegaard's great work of religious anxiety portraying Abraham's sacrifice of his son Isaac, argues that true understanding can only be attained by making a personal 'leap of faith.'

kierkegaard fear and trembling: *Fear and Trembling* Johannes De Silentio, Søren Kierkegaard, 2018-01-22 Regarded as the father of Existentialism, Søren Kierkegaard transformed philosophy with his conviction that we must all create our own nature. In *Fear and Trembling* he argues that a true understanding of God can only be attained by making a personal 'leap of faith.' This revised edition of the standard English translation of *Fear and Trembling* updates some of the more archaic language and presents this landmark philosophical work in modern American English.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Fear and Trembling Søren Kierkegaard, 2011-04 Søren Kierkegaard was a Danish philosopher, theologian and religious author interested in human psychology. He is regarded as a leading pioneer of existentialism and one of the greatest philosophers of the 19th Century. In FEAR AND TREMBLING, Kierkegaard wanted to understand the anxiety that must have been present in Abraham when God commanded him to offer his son as a human sacrifice. Abraham had a choice to complete the task or to forget it. He resigned himself to the loss of his son, acting according to his faith. In other words, one must be willing to give up all his or her earthly possessions in infinite resignation and must also be willing to give up whatever it is that he or she loves more than God. Abraham had passed the test -- his love for God proved greater than anything else in him. And because a good and just Creator would not want a father to kill his son, God intervened at the last moment to prevent the sacrifice.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Fear and Trembling and The Book on Adler Søren Kierkegaard, 1994-05-10 Now recognized as one of the nineteenth century's leading psychologists and philosophers, Kierkegaard was among other things the harbinger of existentialism. In Fear and Trembling he explores the psychology of religion, addressing the question 'What is Faith?' in terms of the emotional and psychological relationship between the individual and God. But this difficult question is addressed in the most vivid terms, as Kierkegaard explores different ways of interpreting the ancient story of Abraham and Isaac to make his point. Søren Kierkegaard not only transformed Protestant theology but also anticipated twentieth-century existentialism and provided it with many of its motifs. Fear and Trembling and The Book on Adler--addressed to a general audience--have the imaginative excitement and intense personal appeal of the greatest literature. Only Plato and Nietzsche have matched Kierkegaard's ability to give ideas so compellingly vivid and dramatic a shape. Translated by Walter Lowrie

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Kierkegaard: Fear and Trembling C. Stephen Evans, Sylvia Walsh, 2006-07-20 In this rich and resonant work, Søren Kierkegaard reflects poetically and philosophically on the biblical story of God's command to Abraham, that he sacrifice his son Isaac as a test of faith. Was Abraham's proposed action morally and religiously justified or murder? Is there an absolute duty to God? Was Abraham justified in remaining silent? In pondering these questions, Kierkegaard presents faith as a paradox that cannot be understood by reason and conventional morality, and he challenges the universalist ethics and immanentist philosophy of modern German idealism, especially as represented by Kant and Hegel. This volume, first published in 2006, presents the first new English translation for twenty years, by Sylvia Walsh, together with an introduction by C. Stephen Evans which examines the ethical and religious issues raised by the text.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: George Anderson: Notes for a Love Song in Imperial Time Peter Dimock, 2012 For over twenty-five years, ghost-writer Theo Fales has been helping retired generals and CIA directors justify their decisions in the first-person. One day, however, hearing a song at a colleague's memorial service, Theo has a vision, sensing in the music a completely different way to live. How can he reconcile this revelation with his professional allegiance to power? Is he mad, or has history itself lost its way? Theo Fales is a one-time historian turned book editor who specializes in ghostwriting the memoirs of leading American policy-makers. For over twenty-five years, Theo has been helping retired generals and CIA directors justify their decisions in the first-person. One day, however, hearing a song at a colleague's memorial service, Theo has a vision: he senses, in the music, a completely different way to live. He becomes obsessed by a need to align musical time with the metre of his own life and prose. Theo's method opens onto two seemingly contradictory interior landscapes: one, a rage of identification with a college classmate who has written and signed the legal document justifying the use of torture by the US; the other, a love for the singer best known for her interpretations of the composer who wrote that vital song. Theo commits himself to the idea that only through his method will he be able to save himself. Is he mad, or has history itself lost its way?

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Fear and Trembling Amelie Nothomb, 2007-04-01 According to ancient Japanese protocol, foreigners deigning to approach the emperor did so only

with fear and trembling. Terror and self-abasement conveyed respect. Amélie, our well-intentioned and eager young Western heroine, goes to Japan to spend a year working at the Yumimoto Corporation. Returning to the land where she was born is the fulfillment of a dream for Amélie; working there turns into comic nightmare. Alternately disturbing and hilarious, unbelievable and shatteringly convincing, *Fear and Trembling* will keep readers clutching tight to the pages of this taut little novel, caught up in the throes of fear, trembling, and, ultimately, delight.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Knights of Faith and Resignation Edward F. Mooney, 1991-01-01 *Knights of Faith and Resignation* brings out the richness of Kierkegaard's creative invention, the contemporary relevance of his contrasts between resignation and faith, and his probing conceptual analysis of aesthetic, moral, and religious psychology and life-perspectives. And in tracing Kierkegaard's analysis of objectivity, subjectivity, virtue ethics, passion, dilemmas, commitment, and self-reflection, Mooney brings out a striking convergence between Kierkegaard and analytic philosophy -- the tradition of Socrates, Kant, and Wittgenstein, and its more contemporary practitioners, writers like Charles Taylor, Thomas Nagel, Stanley Cavell, Bernard Williams, and Harry Frankfurt.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: The Cambridge Companion to Kierkegaard Alastair Hannay, Gordon Daniel Marino, 1998 Accessible guide to Kierkegaard available serving as a reference to students and non-specialists.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: FEAR AND TREMBLING - S. Kierkegaard Søren Kierkegaard, 2024-02-07 Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, born in Copenhagen in 1813 and deceased in 1855, was a Danish philosopher, theologian, poet, and social critic, widely regarded as the first existentialist philosopher. Throughout his career, he wrote critical texts on organized religion, Christianity, morality, ethics, psychology, and philosophy of religion, showing a particular fondness for figures of speech such as metaphor, irony, and allegory. The work *Fear and Trembling* is one of the most well-known and esteemed among Søren Kierkegaard's vast production. In this work, Kierkegaard does not deny his Christian past; rather, he asserts that this religious doctrine must be internalized by the individual according to their own subjective demands. The analysis contained in *Fear and Trembling* is based on parameters that are still fully relevant for contemporary reflection on religious conduct.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Sickness Unto Death Søren Kierkegaard, 2013-01-28 *Man is spirit. But what is spirit? Spirit is the self. But what is the self? The self is a relation which relates itself to its own self, or it is that in the relation [which accounts for it] that the relation relates itself to its own self; the self is not the relation but [consists in the fact] that the relation relates itself to its own self. Man is a synthesis of the infinite and the finite, of the temporal and the eternal, of freedom and necessity; in short, it is a synthesis.*

kierkegaard fear and trembling: The Ethics of Authenticity Charles Taylor, 2018-08-06 "Charles Taylor is a philosopher of broad reach and many talents, but his most striking talent is a gift for interpreting different traditions, cultures and philosophies to one another...[This book is] full of good things." —New York Times Book Review Everywhere we hear talk of decline, of a world that was better once, maybe fifty years ago, maybe centuries ago, but certainly before modernity drew us along its dubious path. While some lament the slide of Western culture into relativism and nihilism and others celebrate the trend as a liberating sort of progress, Charles Taylor calls on us to face the moral and political crises of our time, and to make the most of modernity's challenges. "The great merit of Taylor's brief, non-technical, powerful book...is the vigor with which he restates the point which Hegel (and later Dewey) urged against Rousseau and Kant: that we are only individuals in so far as we are social...Being authentic, being faithful to ourselves, is being faithful to something which was produced in collaboration with a lot of other people...The core of Taylor's argument is a vigorous and entirely successful criticism of two intertwined bad ideas: that you are wonderful just because you are you, and that 'respect for difference' requires you to respect every human being, and every human culture—no matter how vicious or stupid." —Richard Rorty, *London Review of Books*

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Reading Kierkegaard I Paul Martens, 2017-01-20 In his posthumously published Journals and Papers, Kierkegaard boldly claimed, Oh, once I am dead, Fear and Trembling alone will be enough for an imperishable name as an author. Then it will be read, translated into foreign languages as well. The reader will almost shrink from the frightful pathos in the book. Certainly, Fear and Trembling has been translated into foreign languages, and its fame has ensured Kierkegaard's place in the pantheon of Western philosophy. Today, however, most shrink from the book not because of its frightful pathos but because of its fearsome impenetrability. In this first volume of a Reading Kierkegaard miniseries, Martens carefully unfolds the form and content of Kierkegaard's celebrated pseudonymous text, guiding and inviting the reader to embrace the challenge of wrestling with it to the end. Throughout, Martens demonstrates that Fear and Trembling is not merely a book that contains frightful pathos; it is also an entree into Kierkegaard's vibrant and polyphonic corpus that is nearly as restless as the faith it commends.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Kierkegaard on Faith and Love Sharon Krishek, 2009-07-23 Kierkegaard's writings are interspersed with remarkable stories of love, commonly understood as a literary device that illustrates the problematic nature of aesthetic and ethical forms of life, and the contrasting desirability of the life of faith. Sharon Krishek argues that for Kierkegaard the connection between love and faith is far from being merely illustrative. Rather, love and faith have a common structure, and are involved with one another in a way that makes it impossible to love well without faith. Remarkably, this applies to romantic love no less than to neighbourly love. Krishek's original and compelling interpretation of the Works of Love in the light of Kierkegaard's famous analysis of the paradoxicality of faith in Fear and Trembling shows that preferential love, and in particular romantic love, plays a much more important and positive role in his thinking than has usually been assumed.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Repetition Søren Kierkegaard, 1961

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Fear and Trembling Søren Kierkegaard, 2024-09-06 Faithful to the original Danish text and eminently readable, Jech's translation of Fear and Trembling admirably communicates the literary qualities of Kierkegaard's text, as well as his occasional fits of inspiration. Jech displays an unusual sensitivity not only to the literary/linguistic qualities of Kierkegaard's prose, but also to his (often realized) aspirations to philosophical precision. As presented by Jech, Kierkegaard is not simply a gifted writer and speculative theologian dabbling in philosophy, but a philosopher concerned to limn the optimal role of philosophical reflection, and to do so experimentally, especially with respect to matters of morality and faith. The translation is furthermore supplemented by very helpful explanatory notes that convey Kierkegaard's own erudition and the multiple influences upon his thinking. The Historical Glossary will become a valuable reference tool for students and scholars of Kierkegaard's writings. It is likely to play a welcome role in encouraging an improved understanding of what Kierkegaard means when he employs his idiosyncratic categories, allusions, and vocabulary. —Daniel Conway, Professor of Philosophy and Humanities, Texas A&M University

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Fear and Trembling (Unabridged) Søren Kierkegaard, Johannes De Silentio, 2013-08-05 As one of Søren Kierkegaard's most widely read works, Fear and Trembling presents careful arguments about important biblical topics. Most notably, Kierkegaard acts more-or-less as a defense attorney for Abraham for his even contemplating the murder of his son. In the book, Kierkegaard considers whether Abraham was not subject to the ethical laws of the everyday universe that the rest of us live by every day--when he was acting under the direction of God (e.g. when God asked him to kill his own son). For a complete explanation and polemics of Kierkegaard's views, this book is highly recommended. That the subject matter of Fear and Trembling greatly disturbed Kierkegaard becomes readily obvious in the first pages. If the arguments presented are examined carefully, it is a topic whose implications may very well shock the modern-day theologian as well.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Collected works of Søren Kierkegaard - FEAR AND TREMBLING, DIAPSALMATA, PREPARATION FOR A CHRISTIAN LIFE and others Søren

Kierkegaard, Søren Kierkegaard, 2021-05-12 Søren Kierkegaard's witty sayings and deep observations never cease to astound and challenge us. In addition to being the founder of religious existentialism, Kierkegaard was a Danish philosopher, psychologist, and writer. His concepts are simultaneously paradoxical and graceful. He once stated that it is impossible to approach God using reason, as human thought is neither capable of comprehending nor explaining the religious aspect of our existence. Kierkegaard's philosophical position rests on his conviction of absolute individual freedom and freedom of choice. This illustrated tome contains one of the most complete collections of Kierkegaard's known writings. Contents: INTRODUCTION I DIAPSALMATA IN VINO VERITAS (THE BANQUET) FEAR AND TREMBLING PREPARATION FOR A CHRISTIAN LIFE THE PRESENT MOMENT Søren Kierkegaard, *kierkegaard writings*,

kierkegaard fear and trembling: God, Human, Animal, Machine Meghan O'Gieblyn, 2022-07-12 A strikingly original exploration of what it might mean to be authentically human in the age of artificial intelligence, from the author of the critically-acclaimed *Interior States*. • At times personal, at times philosophical, with a bracing mixture of openness and skepticism, it speaks thoughtfully and articulately to the most crucial issues awaiting our future. —Phillip Lopate “[A] truly fantastic book.” —Ezra Klein For most of human history the world was a magical and enchanted place ruled by forces beyond our understanding. The rise of science and Descartes's division of mind from world made materialism our ruling paradigm, in the process asking whether our own consciousness—i.e., souls—might be illusions. Now the inexorable rise of technology, with artificial intelligences that surpass our comprehension and control, and the spread of digital metaphors for self-understanding, the core questions of existence—identity, knowledge, the very nature and purpose of life itself—urgently require rethinking. Meghan O'Gieblyn tackles this challenge with philosophical rigor, intellectual reach, essayistic verve, refreshing originality, and an ironic sense of contradiction. She draws deeply and sometimes humorously from her own personal experience as a formerly religious believer still haunted by questions of faith, and she serves as the best possible guide to navigating the territory we are all entering.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: How To Read Kierkegaard John D. Caputo, 2014-04-03 Søren Kierkegaard is one of the prophets of the contemporary age, a man whose acute observations on life in nineteenth-century Copenhagen might have been written yesterday, whose work anticipated fundamental developments in psychoanalysis, philosophy, theology and the critique of mass culture by over a century. John Caputo offers a compelling account of Kierkegaard as a thinker of particular relevance in our postmodern times, who set off a revolution that numbers Martin Heidegger and Karl Barth among its heirs. His conceptions of truth as a self-transforming 'deed' and his haunting account of the 'single individual' seemed to have been written with us especially in mind. Extracts include Kierkegaard's classic reading of the story of Abraham and Isaac, the jolting theory that truth is subjectivity and his ground-breaking analysis of the concept of anxiety.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Kierkegaard Stephen Backhouse, 2016-08-09 An accessible, expert introduction to one of the greatest minds of nineteenth century. Whether you're completely new to him, or if you're already familiar with his work, *Kierkegaard: A Single Life* presents a fresh understanding of his life and thought. Kierkegaard was a brilliant and enigmatic loner whose ideas permeated culture, shaped modern Christianity, and influenced people as diverse as Franz Kafka and Martin Luther King Jr. Though few people today have read his work, that lack of familiarity with the real Kierkegaard is changing with this biography by scholar Stephen Backhouse, who clearly presents the man's mind as well as the acute sensitivity behind Kierkegaard's books. Drawing on biographical material that has newly come to light, *Kierkegaard: A Single Life* introduces his many guises—the thinker, the lover, the recluse, the writer, the controversialist—in prose as compelling and fluid as a novel and pursues clarity to long-standing questions about him: What made this Danish theologian so controversial and influential? Why were so many people drawn to his books, even if they didn't understand what they were reading? Can his complicated relationship with the Church and religion be untangled? Or, for that matter, what about his complicated—at times almost paradoxical—relationship with every sphere of life from politics to

poetry? To be considered everything from a great intellect to a dandy, from a martyr to a false messiah is no mean feat, and this biography sheds light on Søren Kierkegaard as he was with empathy and humor. Included is an appendix presenting an overview of each of Kierkegaard's works, for the scholar and lay reader alike.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Kierkegaard's Writings, VII, Volume 7 Søren Kierkegaard, 2013-04-21 This volume contains a new translation, with a historical introduction by the translators, of two works written under the pseudonym Johannes Climacus. Through Climacus, Kierkegaard contrasts the paradoxes of Christianity with Greek and modern philosophical thinking. In *Philosophical Fragments* he begins with Greek Platonic philosophy, exploring the implications of venturing beyond the Socratic understanding of truth acquired through recollection to the Christian experience of acquiring truth through grace. Published in 1844 and not originally planned to appear under the pseudonym Climacus, the book varies in tone and substance from the other works so attributed, but it is dialectically related to them, as well as to the other pseudonymous writings. The central issue of Johannes Climacus is doubt. Probably written between November 1842 and April 1843 but unfinished and published only posthumously, this book was described by Kierkegaard as an attack on modern speculative philosophy by means of the melancholy irony, which did not consist in any single utterance on the part of Johannes Climacus but in his whole life. . . . Johannes does what we are told to do--he actually doubts everything--he suffers through all the pain of doing that, becomes cunning, almost acquires a bad conscience. When he has gone as far in that direction as he can go and wants to come back, he cannot do so. . . . Now he despairs, his life is wasted, his youth is spent in these deliberations. Life does not acquire any meaning for him, and all this is the fault of philosophy. A note by Kierkegaard suggests how he might have finished the work: Doubt is conquered not by the system but by faith, just as it is faith that has brought doubt into the world!.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: Irony on Occasion Kevin Newmark, 2012 What is it about irony - as an object of serious philosophical reflection and a literary technique of considerable elasticity - that makes it an occasion for endless critical debate? This book responds to that question by focusing on several key moments in German romanticism and its afterlife in twentieth-century French thought and writing. Rather than provide a history of irony, it examines particular occasions of ironic disruption, thus offering an alternative model for conceiving of historical occurrences and their potential for acquiring meaning.

kierkegaard fear and trembling: The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air Søren Kierkegaard, 2018-04-03 A masterful new translation of one of Kierkegaard's most engaging works. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells his followers to let go of earthly concerns by considering the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. Søren Kierkegaard's short masterpiece on this famous gospel passage draws out its vital lessons for readers in a rapidly modernizing and secularizing world. Trenchant, brilliant, and written in stunningly lucid prose, *The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air* (1849) is one of Kierkegaard's most important books. Presented here in a fresh new translation with an informative introduction, this profound yet accessible work serves as an ideal entrée to an essential modern thinker. *The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air* reveals a less familiar but deeply appealing side of the father of existentialism—unshorn of his complexity and subtlety, yet supremely approachable. As Kierkegaard later wrote of the book, Without fighting with anybody and without speaking about myself, I said much of what needs to be said, but movingly, mildly, upliftingly. This masterful edition introduces one of Kierkegaard's most engaging and inspiring works to a new generation of readers.

Back to Home: <https://fc1.getfilecloud.com>