



Fear and Trembling (Penguin Classics)

By Soren Kierkegaard

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Fear and Trembling (Penguin Classics) By Soren Kierkegaard

The infamous and controversial work that made a lasting impression on both modern Protestant theology and existentialist philosophers such as Sartre and Camus

Writing under the pseudonym of "Johannes de silentio," Kierkegaard expounds his personal view of religion through a discussion of the scene in Genesis in which Abraham prepares to sacrifice his son Isaac at God's command. Believing Abraham's unreserved obedience to be the essential leap of faith needed to make a full commitment to his religion, Kierkegaard himself made great sacrifices in order to dedicate his life entirely to his philosophy and to God. The conviction shown in this religious polemic—that a man can have an exceptional mission in life—informed all Kierkegaard's later writings. His "teleological suspension of the ethical" challenged the contemporary views of Hegel's universal moral system, and was also hugely influential for both protestant theology and the existentialist movement.

Alastair Hannay's introduction evaluates Kierkegaard's philosophy and the ways in which it conflicted with more accepted contemporary views. This edition also includes detailed notes to complement this groundbreaking analysis of religion, and a new chronology.

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Fear and Trembling (Penguin Classics) By Soren Kierkegaard Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #37488 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 1986-01-07
- Released on: 1986-01-07
- Original language: Danish
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .44" w x 5.10" l, .31 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 160 pages

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Editorial Review

Language Notes

Text: English, Danish (translation)

About the Author

Søren Kierkegaard (1813-55) was born in Denmark and wrote on a wide variety of themes, including religion, psychology, and literature. He is remembered for his philosophy, which was influential in the development of 20th century existentialism.

Alastair Hannay is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Oslo. He is co-editor of the *Cambridge Companion to Kierkegaard* and has translated Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*, *The Sickness unto Death*, *Either/Or*, and *Papers and Journals* for Penguin Classics

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