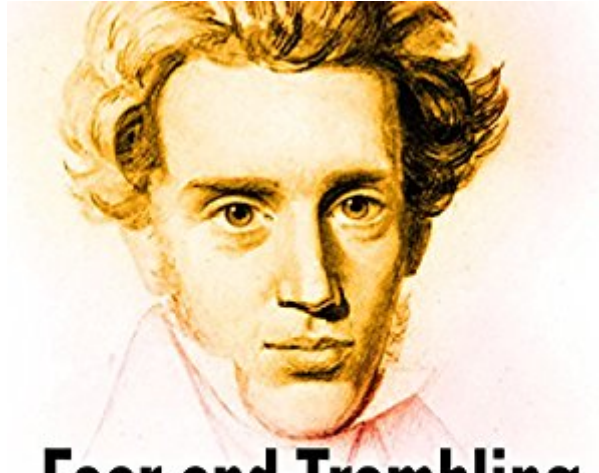




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Fear And Trembling



Fear and Trembling
Soren Kierkegaard



Synopsis

The ethical as such is the universal, and as the universal it applies to everyone, which can be put from another point of view by saying that it applies at every moment. It rests immanently in itself, has nothing outside itself that is its end, but is itself the purpose for everything outside, and when that is taken up into it, it has no further to go. Seen as an immediate, no more than sensate and psychic, being, the single individual is the particular that has its purpose in the universal, and the individual's ethical task is always to express himself in this, to abrogate his particularity so as to become the universal. As soon as the single individual wants to assert himself in his particularity, in direct opposition to the universal, he sins, and only by recognizing this can he again reconcile himself with the universal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sadly puts all of these reviews together so they're hard to tell apart, anyways this is for the everyman edition which also contains the book on alder. Overall this book is very nice and good quality like the rest of the series. As for the two books themselves: Fear and Trembling: I remember once taking someone to church who was perhaps religious but not a christian and had spent their entire life having never heard the story of Abraham and how Yahweh (God) had commanded him to take his son Issac up a mountain and sacrifice him. I remember the pastor preaching with great admiration about how this great sacrifice was required of Abram, and how without hesitation Abram obeyed God, the person with me just had a look of horror, how could this loving and benevolent God require such a thing from his creation, how could anyone look at this story with anything but horror,

this wasn't a story to be admired but to be held with contempt. Of course the story goes right before Abram plunged the knife into Issac an angel stopped him and Abram sacrificed a goat instead (although it seems most atheist books love to mention the fact that Jephthah wasn't stopped, Kierkegaard briefly mentions this, but it seemed to be glossed over). I've thought since then, how odd it is that people like myself quickly read over these stories and never really think about them or what they mean, how would I react if I heard them for the first time and haven't heard them my entire life. In this book Kierkegaard goes into detail about the story of Abram and Issac, what did Abram say, did he take the blame so Issac wouldn't lose faith in God, what did he tell Sarah (his wife) before leaving, is this ethical. I couldn't help wondering if this book was actually a defense from Soren, did he do the same thing as Abram when he ended his engagement and sacrificed the thing he loved most in the world, was he required by God of this? Did he do the right thing? Overall this book was pretty good although Kierkegaard often went on many tangents which sometimes left me confused as to what point he was trying to make, I'll eventually reread this as I assume this is a book which requires several reads to fully grasp.

The Book on Adler: The book on Adler was seemed more cohesive and easier to follow. In this Kierkegaard discusses his meeting with Adler, a man who apparently claimed to have a special revelation from Jesus, where Jesus appeared to him and gave him a special message, from that Adler wrote several book (even publishing 4 at once). It's been a couple of months since I read this and I don't remember at all what this special revelation was, what I do remember is Kierkegaard disproving that Adler had this revelation and that Adler even started to doubt this himself. There was a chapter near the end where Kierkegaard discusses what kind of culture allows for this type of thing to be so easily accepted, I couldn't help wondering what he would think if he saw the events of the Word of Faith movement during the last 50 years and heard the stories of Oral Roberts and his 50 foot Jesus commanding Roberts to build a research center, or of Kenneth Hagin and Jesus supposedly telling him how to be prosperous, it would have been interesting.

How do you 'RANK' one of the all-time classics of Christian philosophy? Kierkegaard set the standard for Christian existentialism, paved the way for a still-growing theologian movement, had tremendous impact on 20th century thought, beyond liberalism to non-denominational evangelicalism to post-modern religious thinking. Having read this book in my first year of college, it deeply shaped my own thinking and later life-long work as a United Methodist pastor. Surpassing Schleiermacher, He moved the discussion of what faith IS beyond doctrine to experienced reality grounded in a primary Old Testament story (Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac), so set up the later work

of Barth, Tillich, Bultmann, Bonhoeffer, and their inheritors. If you've not read this you have missed much.

The description of this kindle book promises the whole text. However, the text from which it is derived is an abridgement consisting of only 1/3 of Fear and Trembling. While the material itself is of high quality this edition failed to meet my expectations. Half of the content was simply a summary of Kierkegaard (greatly resembling the wikipedia entry) instead of the actual text. It's not worth paying money for a public domain author when you don't even receive the whole work.

I know no one to critique Kierkegaard, one of the most astute minds ever. He wrestles mightily with the story of Abraham and Isaac. He ends where he begins, accepting the fear and trembling of genuine faith. This is a classic...even if there were parts I could not grasp!

While I don't agree with Fideism, Kierkegaard is still a remarkable writer. Søren Kierkegaard is an excellent philosopher, I disagree with many of his points on Christianity, but I understand where he is coming from. Fear and Trembling is about the sacrifice taken place in Genesis regarding Abraham (whom he calls the father of faith) and Isaac. Søren calls this event a paradox, as well as many other scenarios in the Holy Bible. This is probably the most important quote from the book: "Infinite resignation is the last stage before faith, so anyone who has not made this movement does not have faith, for only in infinite resignation does an individual become conscious of his eternal validity, and only then can one speak of grasping existence by virtue of faith." I love the story of the princess and of Agnes and the merman which can be interpreted as an autobiography. Here Kierkegaard uses the story of Abraham to aid in his understanding of his relationship with Regine Olsen (his fiancée). As far as his "finitude" went, she was Søren's only Love that he is concerned with and he gave her up. I agree with Kierkegaard on the fact that libertarian free will exists (though I'm open to compatibilism), and that we all have choices in life in which we use our freedom in the process of making these choices that we take throughout our lives on Earth. With the use of Hegel's ethics, Søren comes to the conclusion that the person who lives a morally good life also wishes to be happy in his choice of living this ethical persona that was chosen by his behalf. Now if this choice proves to be not what he thought it would be, then he does not lose heart. This person instantaneously sees his task ahead of himself and that the art is not the wish but to will. This is indeed a masterpiece in Philosophy, one which I highly recommend.

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