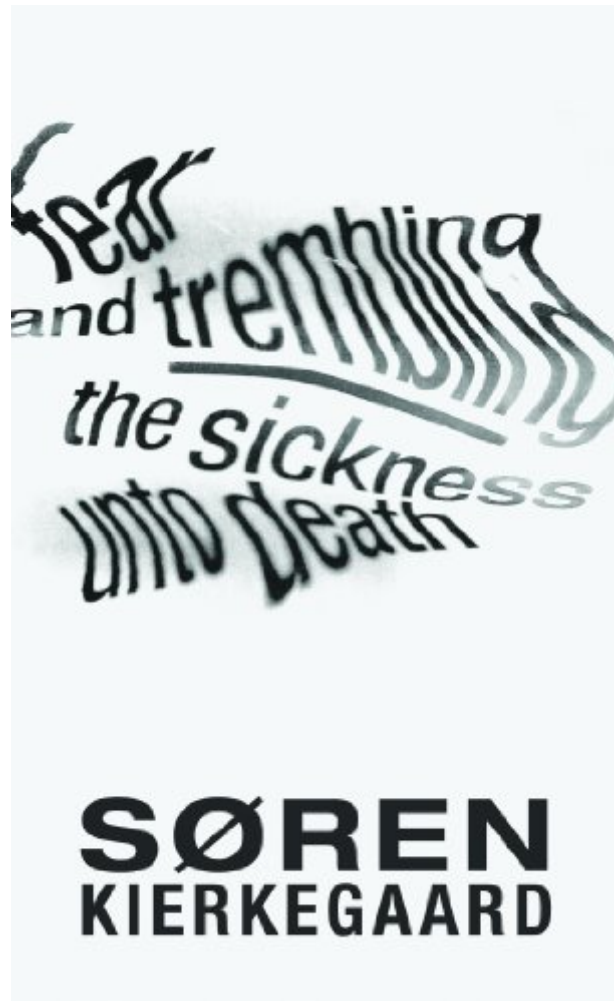


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Fear And Trembling And The Sickness Unto Death



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

File Size: 3049 KB

Print Length: 476 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press; With a New introduction by Gordon Marino edition (April 21, 2013)

Publication Date: April 21, 2013

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00DPJ8F5U

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #707,463 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #102

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy >

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Customer Reviews

Kierkegaard (1813-1855) was a Danish philosopher, theologian, poet, social critic, and religious author, who was the first existentialist philosopher. He wrote many other books, including Philosophical Fragments, Concluding Unscientific Postscript, Attack upon Christendom, etc. [NOTE: page numbers refer to the 278-page Anchor paperback edition.] The Translator's Note states, "In the individual introductions... I have quoted enough from Kierkegaard's journals to inform the reader of the situation in which these poetical books were produced. When 'Fear and Trembling' was first published in Denmark, no one could have the least suspicion that it depicted a crisis in the editor's life. Such a book may be interesting, even enthralling... but it gains immensely in pathos when one knows that it is a transcription, however poetical, of the author's agonizing reflections upon a problem which was gnawing at his viscera." He adds of 'Fear and Trembling' and its companion 'Repetition' that "both recount his desperate struggle in renouncing every hope of earthly happiness when he gave up the prospect of marriage with the woman he loved [i.e., his broken engagement to Regina Olson].

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