

The thing that distinguishes Soren Kierkegaard from others philosophers is his idea of human's duty. Kierkegaard's idea of philosophy or human's duty is to face with the sadness and hopeless situation. When humans are in those situations, they will gain their conciseness and understand the meaning of life. Soren Kierkegaard is considered to be the first existentialism philosopher. His works are mainly on an individual human being existence. As theologian his works are mainly on Christian critic. Soren Kiekegaard's most important gift to mankind is the foundation of existentialism and idea of Protestant theology.

First, to understand Kierkegaard's work of existentialism and how it's contributed to the mankind is to understand his life, because his life is the foundation of his works. Soren Kierkegaard was born in Copenhagen, Denmark on 5 May 1813 and died on 11 November 1855 at the age of 42. He was born in the wealthy family, his father Michael Pedersen Kierkegaard is a wealthy hosier and his mother Ane Sørensdatter Lund was a former household maid. Kierkegaard was a last out of seven child of the family. Soren Kierkegaard started his education at the school of civic virtue, where he studied Latin, history and other subjects. In 1830 he attended in the University of Copenhagen, where he studied theology and later on broadened to literature and philosophy. His teachers at Copenhagen University whose later on will have great influenced to Kierkegaard philosophy literature development are F.C. Sibbern and Poul Martin Møller; who both are the philosophers.¹ After his mother died in 1834 he decided to be a writer.² His father died in 1838, left him with significant amount of money to live on without working, this

¹ McDonald, William, "Søren Kierkegaard", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Summer 2009 Edition)*, Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2009/entries/kierkegaard/>>

² McDonald, William, "Søren Kierkegaard", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Summer 2009 Edition)*, Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2009/entries/kierkegaard/>>

help him to continue his journey without any struggle. However, it is enough for living alone not for a person with family.³ This can be the reason why Kierkegaard broke his engagement with his fiancée Regine Osley, whose he met when he moved away from his home in 1840. The broke up of engagement between Kierkegaard and Olsen has great influenced on Kierkegaard work; his view of relationship, love, and faith to God. His first book *Either/Or* is an example of how Olsen influenced to Kierkegaard work.⁴ Not only Oslen that has influenced on Kierkegaard's work but also his father, which has a great influenced on Kierkegaard's view about religion; Christianity. Most Kierkegaard's works have a foundation from his life; most of them got an influenced on people he know, family and his lover.⁵

One of Kierkegaard's most important gifts to human kind is foundation of existentialism. Soren Kierkegaard was well known as the father of existentialism. Existentialism is a kind of philosophy involved in the idea of individual's uniqueness. This kind of philosophy believes in freedom of individual, individual must accept the consequence of their own doing, and their choice. Existentialism philosophers give an important to the subjectivity, and viewing human's life exist on the world where nothing special and full with the uncertain things.⁶ The works of Kierkegaard that can be best to

³ Wikipedia contributors. "Regine Olsen", *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 19 October 2010. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regine_Olsen

⁴ "Kierkegaard." 2012. Biography.com 14 Feb 2012, 09:15 <http://www.biography.com/people/s%C3%B8ren-kierkegaard-9364560>

⁵ Wikipedia contributors. "Regine Olsen", *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 19 October 2010. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regine_Olsen

⁶ "Existentialism Is a Humanism." *Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica Online*. Encyclopædia Britannica Inc., 2012. Web. 14 Feb. 2012. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/198165/Existentialism-Is-a-Humanism>.

represent the idea of existentialism are Either/Or which are about aesthetic and ethical.⁷ In Either/Or Kierkegaard separated the life's point of view into two point, one is aesthetic and another one is Ethical.⁸ Aesthetic point of view was written in an essay form talking about music, drama, beauty, art and taste.⁹ Ethical point of view was written in the form of letter which is about moral issue, marriage.¹⁰ The core of this book is related to the Aristotle's question that asked how people should to live.¹¹ Kierkegaard's idea from Either/Or will later on be the foundation of the existentialism philosophy; Kierkegaard never mention his idea as existentialism.¹² His foundation works on existentialism will later on has a great influenced on many notable philosophers such as Jean-Paul Sartre an existentialism philosopher who got a Nobel Prize in years 1964 for literature, and Albert Camus who was awarded the 1957 Nobel Prize in literature.¹³ This can be explained that why foundation of existentialism philosophy is one of the Kierkegaard most important gift to humankind.

⁷ Crowell, Steven, "Existentialism", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Winter 2010 Edition)*, Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2010/entries/existentialism/>>.

⁸ SparkNotes Editors. "SparkNote on Søren Kierkegaard (1813–1855)." SparkNotes.com. SparkNotes LLC. 2005. Web. 16 Jan. 2012.

⁹ SparkNotes Editors. "SparkNote on Søren Kierkegaard (1813–1855)." SparkNotes.com. SparkNotes LLC. 2005. Web. 16 Jan. 2012.

¹⁰ SparkNotes Editors. "SparkNote on Søren Kierkegaard (1813–1855)." SparkNotes.com. SparkNotes LLC. 2005. Web. 16 Jan. 2012.

¹¹ " Kierkegaard." 2012. Biography.com 14 Feb 2012, 09:15<http://www.biography.com/people/s%C3%B8ren-kierkegaard-9364560>

¹² McDonald, William. "Søren Kierkegaard" *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* . 30 June 2005. <http://www.iep.utm.edu/kierkega/>

¹³ McDonald, William. "Søren Kierkegaard" *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* . 30 June 2005. <http://www.iep.utm.edu/kierkega/>

Third, another Kierkegaard's most important gift to mankind is the idea of Protestant theology. During year 1848 – 1855, many of Kierkegaard works is about religion issue, for example Practice in Christianity, Fear and Trembling, Works of Love. Most of his religion work is against the public church of Denmark, which he seem corrupted and represent the Christendom; which Kierkegaard think it curse individual to be became faithless in religion.¹⁴ Theme in his religion works are mostly on faith, paradox, despair and sin. His works that represent the faith in religion are concept of anxiety, which he use the word leap of faith and knight of faith. For paradox them, in his book Fear and Trembling, he write about the Abraham, who was going to kill his son because of god order, however the angel told him to stop. For Kierkegaard he felt the paradox in this bible story, if Abraham is truly Christian he should believe in god's order and kill his son.¹⁵ However Abraham stopped and did not kill his son Isaac. In his work about despair and sin, he writes about the freedom of an individual to make their own choice. He believed that his individuals are not fully in consciousness then they were in despair.¹⁶ From his work Kierkegaard want to made a people who though they are Christian, but do not know what is truly Christian is, to awake and doing what they should do for Christ.¹⁷ This contributed to his idea as the second most important gift to humanity that help people to truly understand what is truly Christian.

¹⁴ " Kierkegaard." 2012. Biography.com 14 Feb 2012, 09:15<http://www.biography.com/people/s%C3%B8ren-kierkegaard-9364560>

¹⁵ McDonald, William, "Søren Kierkegaard", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Summer 2009 Edition)*, Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2009/entries/kierkegaard/>>.

¹⁶ McDonald, William, "Søren Kierkegaard", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Summer 2009 Edition)*, Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2009/entries/kierkegaard/>>.

¹⁷ McDonald, William, "Søren Kierkegaard", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Summer 2009 Edition)*, Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2009/entries/kierkegaard/>>.

Soren Kierkegaard is philosopher, theologian, who mostly known as the father of existentialism, and his grate critic on religion issue. Most of his on existentialism is the foundation for the next generation of existentialism philosopher. Also, his works on theology contributed to awaken of Christian in Denmark that what truly Christian should be.