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Making innovative use of Kierkegaard's later religious writings as well as his earlier philosophical works, David Gouwens explores this philosopher's religious and theological thought, focusing on human nature, Christ, and Christian discipleship. He helps the reader approach Kierkegaard as a religious thinker, since Kierkegaard regarded religion as fundamental to his enterprise, and sought to evoke religious dispositions in his audience. Gouwens discusses Kierkegaard's main concerns as an advocate of genuine Christianity; his treatment of religion using the dialectic of "becoming Christian"; and whether the common interpretation of Kierkegaard's religious thought as privatistic and asocial is correct. Gouwens appraises both the edifying discourses and the pseudonymous writings, and studies the particular problems posed by the latter. Situated between foundationalism and irrationalism, Kierkegaard's thought is seen to anticipate the end of "modernity," while standing at the center of the Christian tradition.

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*To Sharon
and
In Memoriam
Arthur H. Jentz, Jr.
(1934–1993)*

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Acknowledgements

Michigan. No Kierkegaardian, he none the less embodied many of the passions discussed in this book – not least a truly Climacean humor. His premature death is a loss to many.

Without the support and love of my wife Sharon, this book could not have been written. Busy enough with her own writing projects in religion and the visual arts, she always gave of her time, attention, and support, and it is to her that I dedicate this book.

Abbreviations

References to Kierkegaard's writings in the footnotes use the sigla given below, followed by page number, for example, *SUD* 14. (Where possible, and with few exceptions, I employ the new Princeton University Press translations, *Kierkegaard's Writings*, 1978– .) Immediately following this reference, and in parentheses, are the corresponding volume and page numbers in the first Danish edition, *Søren Kierkegaard's Samlede Værker* [*The Collected Works of Søren Kierkegaard*], ed. A. B. Drachmann, J. L. Heiberg, and H. O. Lange, 14 volumes (Copenhagen: Gyldendal, 1901-06). For example, *SUD* 14 (*SV* XI 127).

References to Kierkegaard's journals are from *Søren Kierkegaard's Journals and Papers*, ed. and trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, assisted by Gregor Malantschuk, 7 volumes. Bloomington and London: Indiana University Press, 1967–78. The abbreviation is *JP*, followed by the volume and entry numbers. For example, *JP* I 400. This is immediately followed in parentheses by the location in *Søren Kierkegaards Papirer* [*Søren Kierkegaard's Papers*], I–XI³ and XII–XIII, ed. P. A. Heiberg, V. Kuhr, and E. Torsting, 16 volumes. 2nd edn., augmented, Niels Thulstrup. Copenhagen: Gyldendal, 1968-78. The abbreviation is *Pap.* followed by the volume, group, and entry numbers, and finally by the date. For example, *JP* I 400 (*Pap.* x⁴ A 200, n.d., 1851). *JP* followed by a paginated number refers to an editor's note in that volume rather than an entry. For example, *JP* I, p. 100.

OAR *On Authority and Revelation: The Book on Adler, or a Cycle of Ethico-Religious Essays*, trans. Walter Lowrie, introduction to the Torchbook edition by Frederick Sontag. Harper Torchbooks. The Cloister Library. New York: Harper & Row, 1955; 1966.

- CD* *Christian Discourses*, including *The Lilies of the Field and the Birds of the Air* and *Three Discourses at the Communion on Fridays*, trans. Walter Lowrie. Princeton University Press, 1940.
- CA* *The Concept of Anxiety*, trans. Reidar Thomte in collaboration with Albert B. Anderson. Princeton University Press, 1980.
- CI* *The Concept of Irony, together with "Notes on Schelling's Berlin Lectures,"* trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1989.
- CUP* *Concluding Unscientific Postscript*, ed. and trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. 2 volumes. Princeton University Press, 1992.
- COR* *The Corsair Affair, and Articles Related to the Writings*, ed. and trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1982.
- EUD* *Eighteen Upbuilding Discourses*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1990.
- EO* *Either/Or*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. 2 volumes. Princeton University Press, 1987.
- FT* *Fear and Trembling*, in *Fear and Trembling and Repetition*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1983.
- FSE* *For Self-Examination*, in *For Self-Examination and Judge for Yourself!*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1990.
- JC* *Johannes Climacus, or De omnibus dubitandum est*, in *Philosophical Fragments and Johannes Climacus*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1985.
- JP* *Journals and Papers*. See above.
- JFY* *Judge for Yourself!*, in *For Self-Examination and Judge for Yourself!*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1990.
- KAUC* *Kierkegaard's Attack Upon "Christendom" 1854–1855*, trans., with introduction, Walter Lowrie. Princeton University Press, 1944.
- Pap.* *Papirer*. See above.
- PF* *Philosophical Fragments*, in *Philosophical Fragments and Johannes Climacus*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1985.

Abbreviations

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- PV* *The Point of View for My Work as an Author: A Report to History and Related Writings*, trans. Walter Lowrie, newly edited with a preface by Benjamin Nelson. New York: Harper & Row, 1962.
- PC* *Practice in Christianity*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1991.
- R* *Repetition*, in *Fear and Trembling and Repetition*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1983.
- SV* *Samlede Værker*. See above.
- SUD* *The Sickness Unto Death*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1980.
- SUD* *The Sickness Unto Death*, trans. Alastair Hannay. London: Penguin Books, 1989.
- SLW* *Stages on Life's Way*, ed. and trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1988.
- TDIO* *Three Discourses on Imagined Occasions*, ed. and trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1993.
- TA* *Two Ages: The Age of Revolution and the Present Age: A Literary Review*, trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1978.
- UG* "The Unchangeableness of God," in *For Self-Examination and Judge for Yourselves! and Three Discourses 1851*, trans. with introduction and notes, Walter Lowrie. Princeton University Press, 1941.
- UDVS* *Upbuilding Discourses in Various Spirits*, ed. and trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton University Press, 1993.
- WL* *Works of Love: Some Christian Reflections in the Form of Discourses*, trans. Howard and Edna Hong, preface R. Gregor Smith. Harper Torchbooks. The Cloister Library. New York: Harper & Row, 1962.