



Love and Anxiety: Tension and Transformation

Amanda Houmark

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Psychology Building Room 226

Abstract

In Kierkegaard's *Works of Love* from 1847, love is emphasized as a primary concern of human and Christian existence. I would like to explore the thoughts presented in this work on love's relation to subjectivity and the radicality of the Christian commandment of neighbor love. I will argue that a commitment to the command entails a transformation of the self, which inevitably is challenged by the co-existence of anxiety and despair, concepts central in Kierkegaard's anthropology. This talk will then highlight both our human, all too human ways of loving and despairing about love and the Christian answer to these problems and touch upon the consequences this answer has for subjectivity in Kierkegaard.

Biography

Amanda Houmark is a Master's student at the Department of Philosophy at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. She is co-founder of the student journal *Kierkegaard in Process* and student assistant at the Søren Kierkegaard Research Center. Her main interests are in the field of Philosophy of Religion, Kierkegaard, Existential philosophy, Plato and the Philosophy of Love. She is currently working on her Master's thesis on Kierkegaard and the concept of transformative love in *Works of Love*.

