Abraham's Faith in Kierkegaard's Conception: An Analysis of the “Fear and Trembling” Book

by Mihai Handaric
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Abstract: The author of the article "Abraham's faith in Kierkegaard's conception; an analysis of the books 'Fear and Trembling,'" analyzes the theme of faith from the perspective of the Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard. The philosopher was impressed by the adventure of the faith of Abraham who was challenged to sacrifice his son at the command of Yahweh (Gen. 22). The paper tries to find the explanations of philosophy, with reference to the acceptance of the divine challenge, by Abraham, who seems inhuman and irrational. We will analyze the expression used by Kierkegaard, who calls Abraham the "Knight of the Faith," in what sense, paradoxically, by faith did Abraham win Isaac? What is the significance of the knight of resignation, with reference to the one who refuses the act of faith, and wants to keep the temporality. We will see that from his point of view, the believer cannot accept advice, he will travel alone on this path. The logic of faith, the silence and the fear of faith are analyzed. The relationship between ethics and faith is also discussed. We will discuss the ethics that Kierkegaard refers to, as a set of moral rules shared by a human community - the moral consensus shared by a majority, which seems to be at odds with biblical faith. It also assesses the benefits of faith, in contrast to living by sight, and why Abraham became a guiding star.

Keywords: Faith, Abraham, Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling, Knight of faith

Introduction

Abraham's attitude toward Yahweh, as presented in Genesis 22, was a subject of deep reflection for the Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard. His obsession materialized in the writing of the volume entitled Fear and Trembling, translated into Romanian, as in many other languages. Kierkegaard himself foresaw the importance of the book when he made the statement, "Once I am dead, Fear and Trembling" alone will be enough to immortalize my name. It will be read and translated into foreign languages People will shudder at the terrible paths which the book contains."

The author was impressed by the adventure of faith manifested by Abraham when he was challenged to sacrifice his beloved son, which was common in those days. The philosopher thinks of Abraham's gesture from several perspectives. How was it possible for him to accept the divine challenge after having managed to have this child with great difficulty. What would be the reason for accepting this inhuman challenge to take the knife to stab Isaac?

There are explanations for Abraham's attitude in the sacred text, beyond the original account in Genesis 22. The same book tells us in chapter 15: 6 that Abraham received favor before Yahweh because he believed the promise that his seed would be like the sand of the sea, despite the fact that at that time he had no son, and Sarah's first son, he received after 25 years. "And Abraham believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him for righteousness." The author of the letter to the Hebrews also talks about this event, informing us that Abraham was motivated by his faith in Yahweh. "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he offered his only begotten son. For he thought that God could raise him from the dead: and that he was risen from the dead "(11:17-19). The

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