

Opening Speech

Søren Kierkegaard's Publications of 1843

Martin Kofod

Rector, professors, ladies and gentlemen

It's a great honor and a great pleasure for me to be present today at the opening of the conference, honoring my compatriot Søren Kierkegaard on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the first publishing of his works in 1843.

I wish to thank first and foremost the Universidad Panamericana for organizing this event; I equally wish to thank the illustrious participants for having accepted the University's invitation, thereby honoring the Danish Philosopher, and who, at the same time, came to this prestigious University, this Faculty of Philosophy where such an important research has been taking place.

I might just as well admit it right away. I am certainly not a Kierkegaard scholar; far from it, I had very, very unfortunate upbringing in that sense. When I was small, I had two professors: my professor in Danish Literature, and my professor in Religion. Each of them passed the question of Kierkegaard back and forth between them. Maybe both of them felt that they were not capable of giving us, the students, the right insight to this great man's thinking. Their excuse was that it was highly literature, or religion, and therefore the other one was responsible for our Kierkegaard upbringing! The result was that we got no insight during our formative years.

In spite of this, it has been a joy for me, when living abroad, to see the interest, I will nearly say, affection and love which is shown to Søren Kierkegaard. It is today witnessed by the fact that so many are participating in this conference, since the scholars from so many universities have come and are contributing to this conference.

I wish again to thank you all, particularly you, Mr. Rector, and you, Dr. Guerrero, for giving homage to a man who has meant so much for man's thinking. I wish this conference is for the best. Thank you very much.

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