

## Abstract

### Kierkegaard in Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*

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Wittgenstein's newly discovered diary, MS183, reveals that he was an ardent reader of Kierkegaard's work between 1930 and 1937. Since the diary's publication in 1997, scholars have tended to overestimate Kierkegaard's influence on Wittgenstein's philosophy. In this paper, I wish to focus on Wittgenstein's main early work, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, and consider how much of Kierkegaard's influence, if any, is discernible therein. I argue that, although it is possible that Wittgenstein read Kierkegaard before and while he worked on *Tractatus*, it is true that Wittgenstein does not mention Kierkegaard anywhere in his scripts written during this period, and that his ethical thought in *Tractatus* can be interpreted without reference to Kierkegaard. Therefore, we should not insist on Kierkegaard's influence in Wittgenstein's *Tractatus*, as long as we obey the principle of Occam's razor.