

The bachelor's thesis „The Relationship Between Ethics and Faith in Sren Kierkegaard and Emmanuel Lévinas “ deals with the relationship of an individual to other human beings and his or her relationship to God, or transcendence. It closely examines mutual dependence of the two relationships and their existential implications for the individual, who vainly seeks selfunderstanding

and self-fulfillment in the temporality and finiteness of the world. While Kierkegaardian ethics is subordinated to the absolute claim of faith, Lévinas ascribes absolute authority to ethics. Kierkegaard's “teleological suspension of the ethical“ is particularly problematic and Lévinas rejects this notion as immoral. However, the confrontation of their conflicting views reveals numerous analogies and commonalities, which are discussed in more detail below. Both thinkers resist the all-embracing concepts of the Western thought and emphasize the importance of relationship to transcendence, which relates the individual to a higher reality and frees him or her from restraining selfishness of being. The thesis includes Lévinas's objections to Kierkegaard's philosophy and suggests an answer to this critique that the Danish thinker might offer. The connection between duty (ethical or religious) and personal freedom is a recurring theme throughout the work. Both philosophers view the two as closely inter-connected. The final part examines the significant role of love in the fulfillment of those duties; and the relationship between the love for God and an ethical relationship to people, which may possibly be in a conflict according to a certain Kierkegaardian understanding of ethics, while in Lévinas's view, love excludes any violation of ethical principles.