- The existing individual strives to achieve the authentic mode of existence. In the opinion of Kierkegaard, the religious stage is the highest or the authentic mode of existence. Faith and commitment are the most important elements of this stage. For Kierkegaard, each person is in possession of the essential self which is fixed by the very fact that man must become related to God.
- For Kierkegaard, existence is not simply just 'being there' or being a part of an anonymous crowd. Rather existence for him is to live passionately by choosing one's existence and committing oneself to a certain way of life. This thinking of Kierkegaard, marked the beginning of the 'philosophy of existence' or more appropriately 'existentialism'.



10.8 FURTHER READINGS

1. Bali, D.R: *Introduction to Philosophy,* Sterling Publishers Private Ltd, 1984

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3. Gates, J: *The Life and Thought of Kierkegaard for Everyman,* Philadelphia, Westminster Press, 1960.

4. Howard, S.A: *A Re-Appraisal of Kierkegaard,* University Press of America, 1995.

5. Price, G: *The Narrow Pass: Study of Kierkegaard's Concept of Man,* London, Hutchinson Publication, 1963.

6. Watts, M: *Kierkegaard,* One-World Publications, 2007.

10.9: ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answer to Q.1: Kierkegaard is regarded as the father of existentialism.

Answer to Q.2: The self is, according to Kierkegaard, always in the process of becoming.