Reflection Prompts for Week 6

Monday’s Reading

Kierkegaard’s ‘You shall love your neighbor’ excerpt from Works on Love available online

Reflect on the following:

1. Explain what Kierkegaard means by the following statement: “In love and friendship preference is the middle term; in love to neighbor God is the middle term” (p. 58, p. 70). In other words, explain K’s contrast between preferential and neighborly love.
2. In what sense, if any, was Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice Isaac an expression of neighborly love towards Isaac?
3. What are the implications of grounding marital, familial or other social bonds on neighborly love in K’s sense?

Wednesday’s Reading

Nietzsche’s §12 of Essay III in Genealogy of Morals

Reflect on the following:

1. Explain Nietzsche’s notion of ‘objectivity’ or objective knowledge
2. Is Nietzsche claiming that objectivity is impossible, undesirable or both?
3. What rationale or argument does Nietzsche or could anyone mount for his claims regarding objectivity? (you may have to look at the sections preceding this one)
4. Present your own argument as to whether or not we should abandon the quest for objective knowledge.