

Title: The Drama Metaphor in Shalamov's Kolyma Tales
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Although the camp memoir has frequently been catalogued under "history," these works are better read as artistic literature. Collectively, they evoke clear metaphors of the dramatic stage to convey the events and sensations of their stories; particularly evident when a narrator describes his newfound camp surroundings as a carnivalesque "mad play" (Levi, 25).

The present paper deals primarily with works from the cycle *Kolymskie rasskazy* by Varlam Shalamov. The three dramatic unities born of Aristotle's *Poetics* will serve as a basic template for outlining the drama metaphor in the stories examined. The elements of Shalamov's craft demonstrating unities of place, action, and time, respectively will be discussed before continuing to more modern elements of the dramatic stage.

Such modern elements include a 'script' of everyday language, including familiar address and slang, "not hyperbole. . . expected in addressing such grave topics" (Tolczyk, 196). Repetition in the script often evokes the Ancient Greek Chorus, while repetition in the "stage directions" (Shalamov includes a great deal of setting and blocking) evokes the finest of Russian genre-blending.

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