

Title: The Art of Literary Creation in *The Brothers Karamazov*
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Abstract:

In the process of creating *The Brothers Karamazov*, Fyodor Dostoevsky experiments with major literary registers: poetry, parable, academic article, *vita*, confession, to give an incomplete list. Since the major elements of the plot are often reported through a variety of high and low literary registers, the novel as a whole emerges as a patchwork, through which Dostoevsky engages with his own process of writing. In this paper, I discuss the meta-literary elements of *The Brothers Karamazov* by examining both the oral compositions and the written texts that feature in the novel, using the writings of Mikhail Bakhtin and Yuri Lotman. I argue that the tension presented between high and low registers hints outside of the text, to Dostoevsky's desire to write himself into the history of great literature, of his literary fathers. Through the juxtaposition of "high" and "low" texts, authored both by him and his characters, Dostoevsky questions the valuation of certain genres over others.