

Title: The Specter of Achilles and the Spectacle of Svidrigailov's Suicide in Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*"

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Abstract:

This paper will consider the role of allusion in shaping the fabric of the novel by performing a "clothes" reading of the Achilles helmet scene in Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. The paper argues that the reference to Achilles needs to be reconsidered in light of the novel's narrative tension between the seen and unseen, detected and hidden, which is often brought out through references to clothing. Svidrigailov can't miss the opportunity to stage his death as a dark comedy by involving the stereotypically comic Jewish figure from the vaudeville stage, and yet I would argue that the allusion to the Homeric hero adds a further layer to this dramatic scene, connecting it to one of the novel's central themes and further illuminating Svidrigailov's journey.