

Title: Patriarch's Ponds as Space of Resistance in Mikhail Bulgakov's Novel *The Master and Margarita*

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My paper, which is an adaptation of a chapter of my doctoral thesis, applies the methodologies of anthropology, sociology, urban studies, and religious studies to examples in Mikhail Bulgakov's novel *The Master and Margarita* to illustrate the creation of sacred space.

I argue that Bulgakov engages in a process similar to that theorized by sociologist Henri Lefebvre (1991), creating contradictory space in Moscow, encoded in his novel, in order to question the legitimacy of Soviet power. Using the theory of liminalization as documented by anthropologists Arnold van Gennep and Victor Turner, I theorize that Bulgakov creates these contradictory spaces by accessing common religious forms that also exist in Christian and non-Christian rites such as penance and transition from one ritual state to another. I explain how spaces such as apartments and restaurants are endowed with ritualistic characteristics that access liminal features, thereby linking them with religious processes.

I illustrate this process graphically by documenting several of the spaces prominent in Bulgakov's narrative. Using an eighteenth-century map obtained from the Library of Congress, I superimpose the locations of several of the places of Bulgakov's novel over the historic landscape of Moscow. The results show that many of the significant locations occupy space that is either consecrated land or else connected to ecclesiastical institutions. Furthermore, the events are spatially linked to numerous Baroque churches that were destroyed by the Soviet authorities while Bulgakov was working on his novel.

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