

**Title:** Subjectivity: Judgment, Authority, and the Identity of the Other in *The Duel*  
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This paper engages a theme that Vladimir Kataev identifies as the “central conflict” of Chekhov’s *The Duel*, that is, the question of judgment: How can one fairly judge the actions of another? The critic also rightly observes that in this story Chekhov is “interested in exposing general illusions and general stereotyped solutions to problems.” This paper explores these issues in a close examination of the rhetoric of judgment utilized by the scientist von Koren. A detailed analysis of von Koren’s logic of judgment and punishment reveals its fundamental flaws. The paper then goes on to identify an unlikely alternative to von Koren’s undermined position in the buffoonish character of the Deacon.

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