

Title: Pulling a Vampire's Teeth: The Curse of Porfiry Golovlyov
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The Golovlyov Family is often considered a realist or satirical portrayal of the material loss and moral decay of aristocratic life in the Russian countryside following the land reforms of 1861. This historical transition is represented with gothic imagery and dark humor in Saltykov-Shchedrin's character, Porfiry Golovlyov, who is the embodiment of the gentry's hypocrisy and greed. His love of material wealth in place of familial love increasingly isolates him from society's conventions and focuses his predatory attentions on his own family in vampire-like fashion.

Relying on a definition of satire as "wit or humor founded on fantasy or a sense of the grotesque or absurd" (Kramer 123), this paper will analyze Saltykov's parody and his character, Porfiry Golovlyov, within a framework of the vampire myth. Porfiry Golovlyov's nickname, "bloodsucker," and his ability to destroy others, including his own family members, while gaining strength himself are illustrative literary vampire characteristics. Arina's act of cursing Porfiry – a mother's curse – recalls a key vampire element from Slavic folklore (Afanas'ev).

The investigation of vampiric characteristics will begin from their roots in Slavic folklore as viewed through Christian doctrine; follow to their adaptation by Western romantic and gothic writers, and conclude with a discussion of their influence in Russia. This paper will particularly reflect on the way other Russian authors have developed vampire-like characters and how Saltykov contributes to the vampire tradition in *The Golovlyov Family*.

Bibliography:

- Afanas'ev, Aleksander N. "Poetic Views of the Slavs Regarding Nature." In *Vampires of the Slavs*. Trans. Jan L. Perkowski. Cambridge: Slavica Publications, 1976. 160-79.
- Kramer, Karl D. "Satiric Form in Saltykov's *Gospoda Golovlevy*." *Saltykov-Shchedrin's The Golovlyovs: A Critical Companion*. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1997. 119-135.