

## From a riddle and game with the reader to an anthropological testimony: Zygmunt Miłoszewski's "The grain of Truth"

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Zygmunt Miłoszewski. Detective fiction. Ethnic stereotype. Anti-Semitism. Literary anthropology.

The study interprets the detective novel by Zygmunt Miłoszewski, *Ziarno prawdy* (2011; trans. *The Grain of Truth*, 2013), while focusing on the fashion in which the novel analyzes the mechanism of anti-Semitism. A significant role in the culprit's plotting of a fake ritual murder is played by a city with a collective memory, the latter of which inspired the modus operandi of the act, when the murderer made use of the rooted anti-Semitism of the local community. It also generated its further interpretations (in the code of anti-Semitism) in the local community. The myth of the ritual murder (so-called blood libel) in the anti-Semitic interpretation originates through the distortion of the original meaning of the cultural units, their incorrect condensation and the rearrangement of their functions to incorrect positions. In the solution, this projection of the culprit onto an "Other" (anti-Semitism) is discovered to be false, revealing that the worst crimes occur out of hatred behind locked doors. Miłoszewski sets these current issues into the genre structure of a classical detective story with the solution abiding by the principles of fair play, while the thriller denouement through a found document is proved to be false.

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