

## The postmodern apocrypha of Péter Esterházy: “A Simple Story Comma One Hundred Pages – the Mark Version”

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Contemporary Hungarian prose. Péter Esterházy. Interdisciplinarity. Paraphrasing of the gospel.

Questions concerning God and creation are constants in the prozaic work of Péter Esterházy and constitute a topic which the author approaches mainly through the prism of an individual confronted with historical circumstance. This study is a reading of the novel *Egyszerű történet vessző száz oldal – a Márk-változat* (A Simple Story Comma One Hundred Pages – the Mark Version, 2014), which portrays the dark communist 1950's in Hungary via paraphrasing of the gospel. The concern here is mainly with aspects of the textual expression of religious experience, which includes philosophical and phenomenological questions about the possibilities of articulation and expression of the individual (emotional) testimony of faith. The analysis looks at perspectives as represented by the two main characters. The one represents silence as the true communicational space for the relationship with the transcendent, the other represents the alternative of a linguistic approach (writing a story about God as imitation, as a ritual mastery, as betrayal). The study approaches the historical circumstances of the narrative as a theodicy, i.e. as an attempt to understand the meaning of the passion story in the broader context of human history.

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