

Das Unfassbare bleibt unfassbar. Zu den metaphorischen Räumen in Franz Kafkas Parabeln
(The Inconceivable Remains Inconceivable. On the Metaphorical Spaces in Franz Kafka's Parables)

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Abstract: *This paper examines the metaphorical spaces in Franz Kafka's parables, with a particular focus on the texts Vor dem Gesetz, Eine kaiserliche Botschaft and Kleine Fabel. Kafka's parables are renowned for their elevated linguistic precision and thematic density, prompting significant inquiries into the nature of isolation, guilt and the absurdity of human existence. The analysis is based on the spatial theories of Gaston Bachelard, Michel Foucault, and Edward Soja and demonstrates how Kafka employs particular spatial representations to accentuate the internal conflict of his characters and the impossibility of communication. The use of metaphorical spaces serves to reinforce the absurdity of the events, which in turn gives rise to a certain degree of interpretative instability and encourages the reader to engage in reflection. The argument presented is that Kafka's parables can be regarded not only as literary works, but also as profound reflections on human nature and the search for meaning. The examination of metaphorical spaces thus offers valuable insights into Kafka's stylistic devices and the philosophical questions that permeate his texts.*

Keywords: *Franz Kafka; parable; metaphorical spaces; spatial theories;*