





POSG's biblical setting, however, also presents a very different aspect. This includes some of the quotations mentioned and many more, which are used by the author in a rather unorthodox way. One of the clearest illustrations of such ambivalent use of the Scripture is provided by the Parable of the Prodigal son. Its orthodox use has prepared the reader for a reference to the return of the Prodigal son in the final scene, where Savva is saved by the Mother of God. But instead of that, it comes much earlier, when Savva, having struck his pact with the devil, returns to his mistress to enjoy her company...

Besides, the hero is made to act as the Christ or utter some of His words in contexts that have little to do with piety. Thus, the episode where Savva leaves town and wanders in the countryside in search of the demon is modeled on Jesus' departure into the desert (Mt.14:13-14). Which in turn is followed by an imitation of the

W. Shakespeare. *The Merchant of Venice* I,3