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Abstract

Since ancient times, religious teachers have communicated wisdom through parables. In the modern period, literary writers and philosophers adopt parabolic style to challenge us and subvert our ways of thinking. Parables have simple plots, but the message is rarely simple. A particular kind of interpretive labor is needed to grasp their message.

Prof. Gillman’s lecture explores different theories about how parables work, arguing that Franz Kafka provides a template for understanding modern parabolic style. She traces the genealogy of the Jewish parable, from the Hebrew Bible, to the Gospels, Midrash, Hasidism, modernism, post-Holocaust writing, to contemporary literature. She proposes that the parable is especially significant today, as a form of meaning-making that challenges the rigid religious-secular divide.

The Lecture will be held on Monday 6 December 2021, at 16:00
Room 449, Gilman Building
Tel Aviv University, Ramat-Aviv

The lecture will also be broadcast live on Zoom.

Light refreshments will be served before the lecture.