



T. S. Eliot, The Jew of Malta: Farcical and symbolical elements, anti-christian elements, anti-muslim elements, dramatic technique

By Katharina Eder

GRIN Verlag Mai 2011, 2011. sonst. Bücher. Book Condition: Neu. 210x144x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2, University of Vienna, language: English, abstract: The Jew of Malta is often amusing and it would be possible to regard it simply as a brilliant theatrical entertainment intended to make one laugh rather than think. The problem here is to maintain the right balance of the ludicrous and the terrible. T.S.Eliot was aware of this problem. Even though he preferred to classify the play as a farce rather than as a tragedy, he was careful to emphasise that its humour was terribly serious. According to Bawcutt, the Jew of Malta is a harsh and disturbing comedy, near to ridicule, not the cheerful laughter which relaxes and heals. It should not distract one from the play's seriousness, but intensify it, by making us aware of the ludicrous instability of our attitudes and the absurdity of our pretensions to moral superiority. The play may seem at times a parody of normal human behaviour; even so, it is...



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