

The Mysterious Stranger

Here's a Mark Twain story that's very unlike those he became famous for, but when I read it back in Catholic high school, it left a deep impression.

It concerns the deeply religious residents of a small village in Austria during the late sixteenth century, and what happened to them when a strange young man visited their insulated homeland.

Twain worked and reworked this story for many years, and there are several known versions available. This one may be the best known, though it seems to have been heavily edited by Twain's biographer, Albert Paine.

Because the author returned to this story in different forms for many years, we can guess that it's one he wanted told. There's little of Twain's folksy humor here; this is a horror story, a parable. . . and a warning.

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MARK TWAIN

THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER AND OTHER STORIES

READ BY
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