

Cleanse Us Our Sins: Investigating the Christian Vocabulary in Aristotle's *Poetics*

Abstract

Despite a drastic geographic, cultural, and chronological divide, the writings of Aristotle and the Word of God share one critical, fundamental component: the Greek language. This study analyzes the diachronic usage of two terms shared by both the Bible and Aristotle's *Poetics*, *hamartia* and *katharsis*, in order to investigate their gradual semantic shift. It traces their use from the mystery cults of ancient Athens to the magnum opus of A.C. Bradley and illuminates how marginalized communities can appropriate dominant languages while simultaneously imbuing said languages with their own cultural heritage. The result is a tongue "redeemed" by first century Christians for the express purpose of sharing the gospel of Christ.