Fargo: A Biblical Morality Play

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Abstract
Although it is ostensibly a secular film in which religion is absent, Joel and Ethan Coen's Fargo (1996) can be interpreted as a Biblical Morality Play. In particular, the development of the Biblical Virtues of Law, Wisdom and Family are personified in the character of the police chief Marge Gunderson, and the corresponding Sins of Lawlessness, Foolishness, Greed and Betrayal of Family are personified by the criminals Carl Showalter, Gaear Grimsrud and Jerry Lundegaard.

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Fargo's ode to A Serious Man and the biblical tale of Cain and Able ended with two dead brothers and a worn officer squaring off against the man responsible for almost all of Season 3's drama. Now in 2016, Gloria Burgle (Carrie Coon) has managed to corner the mysterious V. M. Varga (David Thewlis). These two imposing characters, both representing opposite sides of morality and opposite worldviews, face off in a confrontation that boils down to one of two possible outcomes. Throughout its three seasons, Fargo has paid its respects to the original Coen brothers midwestern morality play. There's been a lot of death, even more deceit, and a delightful amount of random chance, but there's always been a larger story at play, one that seems to reward the good and punish the bad. [This is a review of Fargo episode 9. There will be SPOILERS.] - Lorne Malvo is the Devil. Or at least he's the closest approximation to the Devil a narrative that's as obsessed with infusing Biblical allusions and moral paradoxes as Noah Hawley's Fargo is likely going to see. Malvo's chameleonic ability to insert himself into any situation wholly and convincingly, all for the purpose of eventually taking a life is just one of the many facets of his devilish or trickster-like persona. Another, of course, would be the persuasive sway he holds over other, morally weak or...