



# Die Pest in Boccaccios Decamerone (German Edition)

*Luca Bonsignore*

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## **Die Pest in Boccaccios Decamerone (German Edition)** Luca Bonsignore

Studienarbeit aus dem Jahr 2001 im Fachbereich Romanistik - Italienische u. Sardische Sprache, Literatur, Landeskunde, Note: 1,3, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn (Romanisches Seminar),  
Veranstaltung: Boccaccios Decamerone, Sprache: Deutsch, Abstract: Die Bedrohung der Menschheit durch tödliche Infektionskrankheiten, die sich mittels

Übertragung zu verheerenden Epidemien ausweiten, ist so alt wie die Menschheit selbst. Der radikale Einbruch dieser todbringenden Seuchen in die menschliche Gesellschaft hat zu allen Zeiten eine literarische Verarbeitung herausgefordert. Vor allem zu der für Europa katastrophalsten Epidemie des späten Mittelalters und der frühen Neuzeit, der Pest, sind zahlreiche schriftliche Zeugnisse übermittelt: Thukydides berichtet über die Pest im 5. Jahrhundert v. Chr., Prokop schildert die Pest um 541 – 544, Boccaccio beschreibt die Vorgänge während des Ausbruchs der Seuche im Florenz des Jahres 1348, Alessandro Manzoni und Daniel Defoe verarbeiten die Erfahrungen mit der Pest im 17. Jahrhundert in Mailand bzw. London. Dabei gilt besonders die Beschreibung Boccaccios als eine der illustrativsten. Dabei ist dieses Werk schon früh gewürdigt und gelobt worden. So erkannten schon Petrarca<sup>1</sup> und Machiavelli<sup>2</sup> die herausragende Schilderung Boccaccios.

In der Rahmenhandlung des Novellenzyklus des „Dekameron“<sup>3</sup> beschreibt er literarisch aber mit einem hohen Grad an Genauigkeit und Detailreichtum die Ereignisse jener Zeit.

Ziel dieser Ausarbeitung ist es zu ermitteln, wie Boccaccio die Pestepidemie beschreibt und wie er sie literarisch einsetzt.

Seine Beschreibung wird mit geschichtlichen Beschreibungen verglichen um den Authentizitätsgehalt der Beschreibung zu ermitteln.

1 Petrarca, Opera Omnia, a cura di Pasquale Stoppelli.

2 Machiavelli, Niccolo: Storie Fiorentine II.

3 (griech. „deka“: zehn, „hêmera“: Tag). Oftmals auch als Decameron, Il Decamerone (ital.) bezeichnet im folgenden Text aber einheitlich als Dekameron. Vgl. dazu: Radler: Kindlers Neues Literatur Lexikon, 1989, S.

824- 825.

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