Abstract

Homo Sacer dwells in Saramago’s land of exception:  
*Blindness* and *The Cave*

Giorgio Agamben defines the sacred man or Homo Sacer as one who is not worthy of sacrifice. Having lost all rights, the person is reduced to the non-human. In modern times, banishment or banning by the law occurs when a state of exception is sanctioned by a totalitarian supremacy that suspends judicial power. The state of exception does not lie within or outside the boundaries of the judicial order, but in a zone of indifference. The state of exception in which the norm is annulled represents the inclusion, which in turn captures the space in which law becomes suspended. Here, I discuss how the authorities in José Saramago’s *Blindness* and *The Cave* function within the law of exception, confining and defining space, and ultimately marking the Homo Sacer.