



Book Review

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Journal of Balkan Libraries Union, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 6-7, 2014.
Digital Object Identifier: 10.16918/bluj.29427

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The Mythology of Apple and Ring
by Lenka Tatarovska

Publication of Macedonian Literature Institute, 2000
256 pages
ISBN 9989632782

Mythological-symbolic poetry of oral folk creativity...

Finding the fall of the apple or the stored gold ring are very common motifs in Macedonian oral folk literature. This decipher of the mythological concept will mean discovery of another layer of human identity.

Dr. Lenka Tatarovska who conducts research on folklore for many years, the book "The Apple and the Mythology of the Rings" is a product of scientific studies which are about apple and rings as archetypal symbols and their interesting meanings in folk literature in Macedonia.

Mythological-symbolic poetry is dominated by degree and harmony of proportions (harmony). They contain lightness, beauty, love and goodness in their nature. These are the categories, which presents the personal and material-spiritual achievements, at the same time the everlasting principles for the mortal ones of life

The book contains 256 pages and the following topics:
1. Drama in Heaven and the tree of life; 2. Tree cult In Pagan (in a polytheistic society); 3. The magic birth of apple; 4. Fertility cult; 5. The place of apple in communication system; 6. The secret language of the apple symbol; 7. World of the Ring; 8. Lost ring – mythological hieros-gamos (sacred merger) shape; 9. Selling the Bride to someone else; 10. Selling the Bride to someone else; 11. Open-dynamic nature of the thinned one; 12. The flickering of the Ring star.

In the first section, the symbol system of the golden apple in the Torah by ancient Greek mythology, the Prophet. Adam's paradise (garden) is discussed. In ancient Greek mythology, Zeus and Hera's mother donated them to the golden apple. The tree of life grows by planting these apples to earth, the fruits of which are



eternal youth and immortality. "Mythological universe" is also referred to in the Torah in the same way according to the famous anthropologist Northrop Frye.

The second chapter is devoted to the tree-cult of pagan-polytheistic societies. According to the ancient I. Slavs Pančovski they believe in cults such as oak, linden, elm, ash, walnut, juniper, and so on. Among all these cults, the most common one is the oak which represents God Perun.

Magic ring motif is a very common motif in all folk literatures (folklores) as well as in Macedonian folk literature (in folklore). In Macedonian folk tales, the hero-brave achieves the magic ring after a lot of trials and hardships that he survives and at the end of various tests and traps as a customary requirement. The hero who has this magic ring acquires extraordinary magical power. Completed shape of the circle is the symbol of protection / safety. This motif was used individually as well as socially.

The importance of this ring is specially emphasized by people who deal with livestock and farming. For example the first milking of the sheep is done inside a ring, seeds are passed through a ring during the first seeding of the field were customary.

Making gold, iron and copper rings is based on primitive societies' vision of which they are accepted as mother earth products

In summary, the scientific studies in this book, apple and ring are discussed as subjects in two archetypes symbols of which their power and influence are still felt, and those satisfy the human spirit, the mind and emotions. Here, the product of the human mind, traditional and living symbols are mentioned. When traced through oral Macedonian folk tradition, these symbols bring us to some major issues that cover a large area of which is continuously spreading and roots dating back to primitive religious syncretism.

With the creative genius of the people, these symbols reveal the basics of mythological-symbolic poetry which has harmony of proportions to some extent.

In fact, when viewing the symbols of apple and ring through the eyes of the mythological psychology, the depths of the idea of natural beauty can be observed and with the other factors, it constitutes the aesthetic concept of Macedonian folklore in a unique style