

Abstract

In this work, I will analyze several ancient myths, which are bonded by theme of chthonic symbolism. Vegetation cycle, dead and rebirth are topics, which we think were important for ancient cultures and analyzed myths should be a way, how those civilizations interpreted and understood to various aspects of rebirth and periodicity of life. In my effort to better comprehension of various attempts to cycles of vegetation and life, I will analyze several chthonic myths of ancient societies, which I will compare afterwards. Methodology of my analysis is inspired by narrative analysis and studies of folktales made by Vladimir Propp. I am using my own method based on his analysis of characters and their function. I am mostly focusing on characteristic of persons in myth, their role and function and on presence of chthonic symbols. This analysis is used for comparison of specific aspect of researched myths. Outputs of this research are some similarities founded in structure of myths, mostly in characteristic and roles of specific characters. On the other hand, some deities, which were commonly equated for instance by J.G. Frazer, are looking much more different, in their roles in researched myths. Analysis of methodology leads me to belief, that bigger attention to specific myths could be more useful, than just using of pre-created matrix of functions.

Vítězslav Slíva

Keywords:

Chthonic, myth, gods, vegetation, narrative, comparation, netherworld