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A comprative Study of the Myth of «Girat» in Various Narrations of Korogli's Strory With the Mythical Horses of Shahnameh

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Abstract

The horse was of special importance to the ancient Iranians. Victory and honour of Iranians is prove to be true by this noble and profitable animal. In turkish nations ,horse is rechoned holy also and he is always considered as friend of hero and a partner in his victories. "Giarat, horse of Korogli is a symbolic animal that is associated with myth. Having a marine origin and breeding in the terrestrial world has given a special place to him and sometimes the winged feature in some narrations attributes his to the worlds of water, earth and air. The victory of the hero over the enemy is not possible without his company .In addition to boldness and arrogance, Girat has human characteristics, feels responsible for Korogli, understands his words, and in general is brother of hero and disappears or die with him in various narrations. This article studies the characteristics of Girat, the most important mythical element in the narrations of different nations of Korogli's story. It,s characteristics can be seen in the mythical horses of Shahnameh, especially Rakhsh, but due to the oral nature of Korogli's story and being in the realm of popular stories, the myth of Girat is more prominent than the mythical horses of Shahnameh.

Keywords: *The myth of Qirat, mythical horses, the Shahnameh and the story of Koroghli, the Shahnameh and popular culture.*

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Extended Abstract**1. Introduction**

Horse, this very useful animal has been with Iranians since ancient times. There is no name or sign of them left anywhere that does not have the same name and sign of this old companion

Statement of the problem

The importance of the horse is more evident in the epic stories. One of the general rules of the epic stories and one of the inviolable conditions of the epic is to have a special horse that is superior to other horses in terms of strength, speed and intelligence and this is the general rule of all epics, in fact, when an epic hero is born, his horse also is born the same time. These horses sometimes have a mythical birth, create a myth next to the hero, or become immortal, or experience a mythical death. This article compares the myth of "Qirat" with the mythical horses of Shahnameh.

2. Research background

The element of the horse in Persian literature, especially the Shahnameh, has been noticed many times. As Horse animal symbol frequent in Shahnameh and its role in the evolution of the archetype of hero (Qaemi, 2010), "Horse in the battlefield and banquet" (with reference to the heroic and epic poems after the Shahnameh: Garshasabnameh, Bahmannameh, Kushnameh and Faramarznameh) (Ghibi, 2016), "The Analysis of Symbolic Allegories of Horse in Ferdowsi's Shahnameh" (Tajik Mohammadi et al., 2019), "Rakhsh and his characteristics in Ferdowsi's Shahnameh" (Zarqani, 2017) but the mythical element of "Qirat" *although* has been highly regarded in other cultures, especially neighboring nations, but in Iran, even though the researchers consider the Azerbaijani narrative of Korogli as the most important one, there is no research except "Korogli in legend and history" (Raisnia, 1987), which considers Qirat as one of the factors of the hero's victory.

2. Methodology

This article answers the following questions with a descriptive and analytical review of the myth of "Qairat" in the story of Korogli and its common features in Ferdowsi's Shahnameh:

- 1- What are the characteristics of Qirat in the story of Korogli?
- 2- Which of the characteristics of Qirat is connected with the myth?

3- What are the common features of Qirat in the story of Korogli with the mythical horses of Shahnameh?

3. Results

One of the important elements of epic stories is "horse". A horse that is often related to the protagonist. The emotional connection between the hero and the horse is also very deep in the story of Korogli, as far as, Korogli calls it his brother and companion many times. The characteristics of Qirat can be seen in the mythical horses of Shahnameh, especially Rakhsh, but due to the oral nature of Korogli 's story and being in the field of popular verses, the myth of Qirat is more prominent than the mythological horses of Shahnameh.

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