

## A mythical reading of the story of Ebrahim Adham based on the mythological model of Christopher Vogler

Soraya karimi yunjali<sup>1</sup>; Ramin moharami<sup>2</sup>

Recived:3/1/2022

Accepted: 22/6/2022

### Abstract

In this research, we try to study and compare the mythical structure of Ebrahim Adham's story with an analytical-comparative method and with a mythological approach based on Vogler's travel pattern, and show the similarity of mystical memoirs with the author's travel pattern. The result of this study shows that the story of Ebrahim Adham is completely consistent with the stages of Vogler's model. After three stages of invitation, Ebrahim Adham enters the realm of wonders and after the stage of purification and cultivation in the womb of the cave, he experiences a rebirth. As a result of enduring difficult trials, he renews his life and returns to the heart of society in the stage of returning with the elixir of spirituality..

**Keywords:** *Ebrahim Adham, Tazkerat al-Awliya, Analysis of literary texts based on contemporary theories, Vogler's travel pattern.*

---

1. Phd and Lecturer of Persian Language and Literature, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, Ardabil, Iran;

ORCID ID; 0000-0002-2064-5477

Email: [sorayakarimi087@gmail.com](mailto:sorayakarimi087@gmail.com)

2. corresponding Author, professor of Persian Language and Literature, Faculty of Literature and Humanities, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, Ardabil, Iran;

ORCID ID; 0000-0001-5839-3888

Email: [moharami@uma.ac.ir](mailto:moharami@uma.ac.ir)



Copyright© 2024, the Authors | Publishing Rights, ASPI. This open-access article is published under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution- NonCommercial 4.0 International License which permits Share (copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format) and Adapt (remix, transform, and build upon the material) under the Attribution-NonCommercial terms

**Extended Abstract****1. Introduction**

One of the most important approaches of literary criticism that provides the possibility of a new reading of mystical signs is mythological criticism. As the most important form of collective thinking, myth is real and sacred, for this reason it becomes exemplary and repeatable; because it works like a model. In this way, by imitating the exemplary actions of God or mythological heroes, or by recounting their adventures, the people of the ancient society distance themselves from the mortal time and magically enter the great time, the holy time (Eliadeh, 2011: 23-24). Joseph Campbell, a contemporary mythologist, based on modern mythological approaches, has referred to this type of repetition of myths in a single way with the term "monomyth". From Joseph Campbell's point of view, myths, folk tales and even dreams taken from different cultures show a single pattern. He also stated the first function of myth is its mystical role; In the sense that the myth wants to connect this world to the mysterious and mysterious world, then to open this secret, which is the basis of all forms. If the secret manifests itself in the midst of all things, the universe becomes a holy image (Campbell, 1997: 61-62). Therefore, according to the mystical function of myth, the rich heritage of mysticism has the ability to adapt to the works of contemporary mythologists. Researchers in different fields have benefited from Campbell's theory, and his hero's journey category laid the groundwork for new models for making dramatic works. Researchers like Christopher Vogler were able to provide a model for screenwriting in the book "Writer's Journey" based on Joseph Campbell's "One Myth" theory and continue Campbell's project in the field of cinema and screenwriting. In this way, Vogler's book "Writer's Journey" created a huge wave in the field of drama based on the narrative of the legendary journey of the hero, and it was concluded that this model is effective for different genres of screenplays and offers various possibilities to the author (Keshtkar et al., 2014: 127). This research aims to prove that Vogler's travel model can be read and analyzed not only in the field of screenwriting but also in the field of mystical narrative stories.

**2. Literature Review**

Joseph Campbell, an American writer and mythologist, is known for his comparative studies of myth and religion. Campbell proposed the "single myth" model; in this theory, he considered the whole

mythological vision as one big story. From his point of view, apart from the origin or the time of origin, there is a specific pattern in the lower layer of the narrative elements of most of the great myths. Thus, this mythologist believed in the psychological unity of humanity and its poetic expression through myths, for this reason he presented the theory of "one myth" in order to show that the entire human race has tried to build a sublime world in all eras; The meaning is that in the lower layer of the world of phenomena, there is an infinite source that always emits its energies to this world surrounded by time, suffering and death. Therefore, in order to realize such an important matter, it is necessary to speak with a language beyond what is represented as a metaphor in myths. These metaphors go so far as to refer to a transcendent world. The main pattern that Joseph Campbell emphasizes is called "The Hero's Journey", which was first mentioned in the book "The Hero with a Thousand Faces". "Hero's journey" is the story of a man or woman who endures dangers until he reaches an eternal source and brings happiness to his land (Campbell, 2017: 7-8).

In the book "Writer's Journey", Christopher Vogler, by making modifications to Campbell's model and based on the requirements of cinema and screenwriting, presents a twelve-stage structure of the hero's journey for reading heroic stories. The summary of Vogler's model is that the hero is introduced into the ordinary world, where he receives an invitation to adventure. At the beginning, he is reluctant to travel and in some cases he rejects the invitation, but he is guided and guided by a wise elder or teacher. By crossing the first threshold, the hero enters a special world where he faces tests, allies and enemies. After reaching the deepest cave, he crosses the second threshold and goes through many trials. Until he gets his reward in the next stage. In the tenth stage of Vogler's stages, the hero is on the way to return to the normal world and experiences a kind of rebirth, and through it, a transformation occurs for him. It is in the final stage that the hero brings with him valuable experiences for others (Vogler, 2017: 49).

### **3. Methodology**

In this research, we analyze the story of Ebrahim Adham based on Christopher Vogler's mythological model in an analytical-comparative way, so that through this, we can look at the history of mystical tazkirahs with the author's journey model.

#### 4. Results

Attar's tazkira of al-Awliya is one of the oldest mystic tazkira that is in the list of public tazkira because it introduces a group of mystics based on chronological order. Ebrahim Adham is considered one of the famous mystics in the history of mysticism and Sufism. In this mystical work, his life story can be read and adapted based on Vogler's mythological approach. In Ebrahim Adham's story, the hero abandons the normal world and begins a risky journey to the world of wonders in search of tomorrow. He is refined through various tests in the Labyrinth Cave and meets the most powerful opponent in the deepest part of the Labyrinth Cave. As a result of this internal process, he turns the guard of the threshold with a terrifying and threatening face into his ally and by enduring hunger and thirst and exhausting austerities, new flesh and blood flows in his body and experiences a rebirth. After reaching the highest level of self-knowledge, the hero comes to the rescue of humanity with a spiritual elixir, and because he must benefit from that spiritual elixir of others, he continues his outer journey towards distant regions

#### References

- Abol-Bashari, Peyman; Yahyaei, Ali; Noee, Gholam Hossein (2019). "Narratives and elements of Ebrahim Adham's life story and its relationship with Buddhist beliefs and customs". *Literary Essays (Former Literature and Humanities)*, No. 175, pp. 35-49.
- Alizadeh, Naser; Aydinlu, Sajjad (2006). "Recognizing the epic-mythical theme of father and son confrontation in a narrative of Tazkirat al-Awliya". *Literary Research Quarterly*, No. 12 and 13, pp. 191-208.
- Attar Neyshabouri, Fariduddin.(2012). *Tazkirat al-Awliya (Biographies of the saints)*. Edited by Mohammad Estelami. 23rd edition. Tehran: Zavar.
- Campbell, Joseph (1998). *the power of myth*. Translated by Abbas Mokhbar, Tehran: Naşhr-e Markaz.
- ,(2015). *The hero of a thousand faces*. Translated by Shadi Khosrupanah, first edition, Mashhad: Gol-e Aftab.
- ,(2017). *Life in the shadow of mythology*. Translated by Hadi Shahi, Tehran: Dostan.
- Chalakh, Sarah; Moradi, Ayoub (2015). "Investigation of mythological effects in Asrar al-Tawhid". *Mystical and Mythological Literature Quarterly*, Year 12, Number 44, pp. 53-83.

- Chevalier, Jean; Gerberan Allen (2012). Dictionary of Symbols. Volume 3, Translation and Researched by Sudabeh Fazayeli, Second Edition, Tehran: Jeyhun
- Chevalier, Jean; Gerberan Allen (2014). Dictionary of symbols. Volume 1, translated and researched by Sudabeh Fazayeli, first edition, Tehran: Jeyhun.
- Chevalier, Jean; Gerberan Allen (2014). Dictionary of symbols. Volume 2, translated and researched by Sudabeh Fazayeli, second edition, Tehran: Jeyhun.
- Chevalier, Jean; Gerberan Allen (2015). Dictionary of symbols. Volume 4, translated and researched by Sudabeh Fazayeli, first edition, Tehran: Jeyhun.
- Eliade, Mircha (1993). Treatise on the history of religions. Translated by Jalal Sattari, first edition, Tehran: Soroush.
- Eliade, Mircha (2011). Myth, dream, secret. Translation of Roya Monajjem, third edition, Tehran: Elm.
- Eliade, Mircha (2013). Symbolism, sacred matter and arts. Translated by Mani Salehi Allameh, selected and edited by Kambizpur Naji, first edition, Tehran: Niloufar.
- Eliade, Mircha (2014). The myth of eternal return. Translated by Bahman Sarkarati, second edition, Tehran: Tahuri.
- Habibvand, Masoume; Tafazzoli, Mohammad Sadiq (2021). "Comparative study of the evolution of Ki Khosro Kayani and Ebrahim Adham"; Quarterly Journal of New Research in Humanities, New Period, No. 33, pp. 49-74.
- Freud, Sigmund (1963). Introductory lectures on psycho-analysis (translated by James Strachey), standard edition, XVI; London: The Hogarth press, pp.396-397 (Orig. 1916-1917).
- Hatefi Majomerd, Gholam reza; Hemmati, Amir Hossein; Rezapourian, Asghar (2016). "One story and eight narrations of Ebrahim Adham's repentance". Mystical and Mythological Literature Quarterly, Year 13, Number 46, pp. 243-278.
- Heydari, Hassan; Gholami, Hamid (2017). "the role of the myth of fertility in the formation of the tragedy of killing a boy". Mystical and Mythological Literature Quarterly, Year 14, Number 50, pp. 109-136.
- Hosseini, Maryam; Shakibi Mumtaz, Nasrin (2014). "Psychology of Myth and Story; A New Approach in Literary Criticism ". Literary textual research, year 19, number 64, pp. 7-29.

- Jung, Carl Gustav (2008). *Man and his symbols*. Translated by Mahmoud Soltaniyeh, Tehran: Jami.
- Keshkar, Ali; Naqashzadeh, Massoud; pornoroz, manije; Kervalian, Ali (2014). "Study of the components of the character of the teenage hero in the screenplay based on the model of the hero's journey, taking into account Iranian culture and identity". *Communication Research Quarterly*, No. 83, pp. 123-147.
- Mahdavi Damghani, Ahmad (2007). *Treatise on Khezr*. Tehran: Ketab-e Marjae.
- Pournamdarian, Taghi (2001). *In the shadow of the sun: Persian poetry and breaking structure in Molvi's poetry*. First edition, Tehran: Sokhan.
- Sarkarati, Bahman (2006). *Hunted shadows (excerpts of Persian articles)*. Tehran: Tahuri.
- Schellhardt, Laura (2010). *A practical guide to screenwriting*. Translated by Pedram Lal Bakhsh, Tehran: Afraz.
- Vogler, Christopher (2008). *Writer's journey*. Translated by Mohammad Ghozrabadi, Tehran: Minoy Kherad.
- Yavari, Hora (2008). *Psychoanalysis and literature*. First edition, Tehran: Sokhan.
- Zomorodi, Homeyra; Ghasemina, Saeed; Hayat Bakhsh, Ali (2013). "Comparative study of personality, life, conditions and sayings of Ebrahim Adham and Buddha". *Specialized Quarterly Journal of Fiction Studies*, Year 1, Number 3, pp. 23-36.