Archetypal heroic journey in Bahram Sadeghi's *Malakoot*

**Soolmaz Mozaffari**

Ph.D of Persian Language and Literature, Department of Persian Language and Literature, Farhangian University, Shiraz, Iran

(Received: 2015/07/26, Accepted: 2016/03/01 Date of publication: January, 2020)

Archetype criticism is one of the modern literal theories based on psychological review which has been based on Jung ideas. In this type of criticism, while studying and examining the archetype of a work, it is revealed how they are understood by poem and author. Archetypes which are the products of repeated experiences of human life and have been deposited in the subconscious have been analyzed and examined from different angles and dimensions. Based on these studies, heroic journey is possible in order to achieve the perfection and individuality dream relying on the existence of archetypes in everybody’s life. The present article is aimed to review *Malakoot* by Bahram Sadeghi from the perspective of archetypal criticism relying on the fundamentals of intellectual basis of Carol.S. Pearson and Huo.k. Marr based on 12 archetypes of awakening the heroes within. The author try to introduce these archetypes briefly and also show the fictional characters manifesting these archetypes, could follow individuation and take heroic journey. The results show that *Malakoot* is full of archetypes and due to its psychological approach, can be analyzed based on archetypal theories. Reincarnating4 archetypes, *M.L* takes individuation and the fictional characters act as the breeders on initiation.

The theme of *Malakoot* is modern human being separated from heaven, metamorphosed and trapped in the earth and, although he is afraid of death, finally has no choice but to face death. This work is the arena of the important and inevitable issue of death and the need for social attention to it. Anxiety, distress, agitation, and fidget of the story's characters help a lot to the theme of the story. This novel is not a novel of action and incident; it is a personality-based novel; though

* E-mail: sulmazmozafari@gmail.com
acts such as killing or mutilating appear in this story, these actions also reflect the character of the stories; a psychological novel that depicts hungry, frustrated, distracted, and wandering people who have no way to escape from the situation in which they are trapped; lonely, despairing human beings leading to absurdity and thinking about death.

It seems that the elements and components of Jung's psychology can be found in *Malakoot* novel. An analysis based on accentuating the subconscious and archetypes is one of Jung's most important theories. Later, Carol S. Pearson and Hugh K. Mar developed this theory and based on that put their twelve archetypes as the basis of the heroic journey and introduced the risky heroic journey in three stages (preparation for the journey, the beginning of the mythical journey and the return of journey) depending on the guidance of their prototypes in human existence for the process of individuation. According to the character's heroic journey this process can be seen in the “Heaven” story, though in this work an anti-hero follows this process. The results of this descriptive-analytical study are:

1. *Malakoot* in the form of a horror story with a layer of psychology and religion is portrayed as a "dark novel" in a completely dark and partially savage space that presence of archetypes that is a necessary element to show the author's attention to psychological issues.

2. Although the reader encounters fictional characters such as Dr. Hatam and M.L. sometimes he can see their appearance from an other angles in his community, people trying to destroy their around and their congener (like Dr. Hatam) and people trying to destroy themselves (like M.L) are found in human societies. Imaginary events such as exiting elf from the amity’s stomach adds to the illusory atmosphere of the story. However, the heroic journey to change the mind and the inside (thinking to a bright future and turning away from despicable ethics like hatred) is ongoing in this novel.

3. M.L by abandoning hatred and hostility toward Dr. Hatam and himself, has passed this journey, but he doesn't have no end but death. The presence of three archetypes helps him on this journey, Dr. Hatam can be a complementary and nurturing personality for him, so that he knows his personality and his inside and reconcile with the "self". He chooses the (narrative and recollection) style to have a life different from the life
that he has made for himself and deliverance from past and to psychic evacuation. And with the outbreak of archetype "destroyer" his inward journey ends and the inevitably destiny, "death" catches him.

4- By analyzing in this regard, it concludes that although M.I can't play the role of a real hero in the story, he is pursuing his quest to pass this journey by guiding internal archetypes and awakening them. Finally one of the obstacles that is death trapped him in mythical traps.

5- Outside of the social and literary content of this story, which is integrated with psychological and anthropological issues, the psychological approach of this literary genre also can show the author's thoughts.

This research shows that it is possible to analyze and interpret literary texts and reveal their main concepts using the character archetypes and paying attention to heroic journey. It is recommended to understand better the efficiency of this test, apply PMAI test components about short story characters, long stories and other novels in different countries' literature and apply this test adaptively in other novels or novels in the extraterritorial and internal literature to find out the differences and similarities of personality psychology with this method and also exercise in this test.

**Key words:** Archetypal Criticism, Heroic Journey, Archetypes, Malakoot, Bahram Sadeghi.