

# **A Comparative Study of the Function of Georges Dumézil's Trifunctionalism Theory of Contemporary Mythologist in the Myth of "Rostam and Esfandiar"**

**Ali-Asghar Halabi<sup>1</sup>**

Associate Professor, Department of Persian Language and Literature, Faculty of Literature and Human Science, Islamic Azad University (IAU), Tehran Main Branch, Tehran, Iran.

**Farahnaz Farhadi<sup>2</sup>**

Department of Persian Language and Literature, Faculty of Literature and Human Science, Islamic Azad University (IAU), Tehran, Iran.

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## **Abstract**

The contemporary world literature, which is an uncapturable universe, has a number of scholars who have been scrutinizing schools of thought, various works, and literary figures in different periods of history with a critical eye. Mythologists have been among the most distinguished of these scholars, for their works are distinctive by virtue of understanding *raison d'être* of myths and detecting their core value, thus inspiring a nation or tribe. Georges Dumézil is one of the most reputed and famous mythologist of the contemporary age for his trifunctionalism theory, and his works especially focus on the analysis of Iranian mythology. Dumézil believes that the ideology and lifestyle of the Indo-European people, consequentially those of Iranians, can be defined within the framework of a trifunctional structure or class, and in this way compared and contrasted with the trio functions of 'priests,' 'warriors,' and 'commoners' (farmers or tradesmen). This comparative study attempts to analyze the myths of Esfandiar, Rostam, and Simorgh based on the theory of Dumézil while trying to detect and substantiate the trio functions in the three Iranian myths.

**Keywords:** epic, Georges Dumézil, Gnosticism, myth, trifunctionalism theory, contemporary world literature.

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<sup>1</sup> [Ali.Halabi@iauctb.ac.ir](mailto:Ali.Halabi@iauctb.ac.ir)

<sup>2</sup> [Farahfar61@yahoo.com](mailto:Farahfar61@yahoo.com)