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Mythological Paradigms in Modern Arabic and Kurdish Poetry; A Case Study of Adonis and Sherko Bekas

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ABSTRACT

Myth, as the first human intellectual system, is part of the mental experiences of nations, and poetry has been a continuation of that because imagination in myth is cognate with the imagery in poetry. Adonis and Bekas, with assimilative and abstract mindsets and breaking down classical forms have brought great innovations and by adopting and recreating mythological symbols have appropriated them to express their themes. This research, using content analysis and a comparative approach based on the American school, examines the application of myth in modern Arabic and Kurdish poetry, with an emphasis on the poems of Adonis and Sherko Bekas, to explain the fundamental aspects of the mythological symbols in their poetry. Myth is used in all the major themes of Adonis and Sherko Bekas' poetry, yet implicit connotations of mythological concepts are more than the explicit ones. Phoenix, Jesus, Mary, Scheherazade, Cain and Abel, Mahyar and Hallaj, Sisyphus, Noah and Sindbad are among the common myths in their poetry. Sherko Bekas is more inclined towards Eastern and Iranian myths, while Adonis often leans towards Greek and Roman myths. Expanding the semantic strategies, utilizing conceptualization capacity, exerting the fluidity of mythological themes, and combining them with historical knowledge are factors that have helped both poets succeed in applying myth in their poetry. They have added to the richness of the meaning of their poetry by combining concepts, masking mythical characters, strengthening structural and conceptual functions of language, explaining the mental and physical dimensions of time and place, and hinting at narratives and characters. These two poets have an abstract mindset and break classical forms to invent new concepts. They have taken control of ancient myths and recreated them, using their knowledge of the functions of myths and invoking mythological symbols to express their themes. Expanding the semantic strategies through mythology, using the capacity for conceptualization and pouring concepts into myths and combining them with mental concepts, while having a precise understanding of history and myths, are factors that have led to the success of both poets in using myth. The poetry of both poets reveals their use of mythological concepts in confronting tangible and mental phenomena, and through their search for change, transformation, and innovation, they depict the unpleasant conditions of society and the ambiguous future. They strengthen the structural and conceptual functions of language by combining allusions and masking mythological characters, and explain the mental and physical dimensions of time and space while alluding to mythological narratives and characters. Through the power of adapting myths to subjects and lived experiences, they have added to the richness of the meaning of their poetry. In Adonis's poetry, he uses more Greek, Phoenician, Semitic, and Egyptian myths, sometimes creating a combination of myth-making. Religious and historical myths and mythological symbols are also prominent in his poetry. In addition to adopting Greek, Semitic, and Phoenician myths, Bekase also uses Eastern myths to express themes of freedom and nationalism.



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