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MYTHOPOETIC CONSCIOUSNESS IN CHINGIZ AITMATOV'S NOVELLA "THE WHITE SHIP"

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Abstract. This article examines the artistic representation of mythopoetic thinking in Chingiz Aitmatov's novella The White Ship. The ideological and artistic functions of myths, legends, and symbolic images used in the work are analyzed. Particular attention is paid to the legend of the Horned Mother Deer, which reflects the relationship between humans and nature, the opposition of good and evil, and national values. The study concludes that mythopoetic thinking serves as an important means of revealing the protagonist's inner world and deepening the philosophical content of the novella.

Keywords: mythopoetics, mythopoetic thinking, legend, symbol, Chingiz Aitmatov, The White Ship, Horned Mother Deer, artistic image.

INTRODUCTION. In the world literature of the 20th century, the tendency to appeal to mythological thinking intensified. In particular, in national literature, oral folk art and mythological representations are combined with modern artistic thinking, creating new aesthetic opportunities. The work of Chingiz Aitmatov is a vivid example of such phenomena. In his works, the writer extensively uses mythological motifs, legends, and symbols to artistically interpret the eternal problems of humanity.

The story "The White Ship" is one of the most vivid manifestations of the writer's mythopoetic thinking. In the work, folk legends and modern reality are depicted in harmony. In particular, the legend of "The Horned Mother Deer" is an important element of the composition of the story and determines the philosophical content of the work.

The objective of this study is to identify the artistic functions of mythopoetic thinking in the novella "The White Ship" and to analyze its place within the ideological-aesthetic system of the work.

METHODS. Comparative-typological, mythopoetic, structural-semantic and hermeneutic analysis methods were used in the study. The artistic function of legends, mythological images, and symbols in the work was studied using the mythopoetic method. Through a structural-semantic approach, the semantic significance of the mythological layers within the novella was analyzed. The hidden philosophical meanings of the literary text were interpreted using the hermeneutic method. Chingiz Aitmatov's novella "The White Ship" and scientific sources on the theory of mythopoetics were used as the research material.

RESULTS. As a result of the analysis, it was found that mythopoetic thinking is manifested in several forms in the story "White Ship." Firstly, the legend of the "horned mother deer" in the work forms the basis of the hero's worldview. This legend expresses the inseparable connection between man and nature. The image of the deer is interpreted as a symbol of love, protection, and the continuity of life.

Secondly, the image of the white ship serves as a mythological symbol. It is an artistic symbol that expresses a child's imagination of an ideal world. In the hero's mind, the white ship becomes a symbol of salvation and freedom.

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Thirdly, the depiction of nature in an animated form in the story appears as an important sign of mythological thinking. The child perceives mountains, forests, and water bodies as living beings.

Fourthly, the killing of the deer signifies the destruction of the mythological world. As a result, the hero's spiritual world is disrupted, and a tragic ending occurs.

DISCUSSION. The results of the research show that Aitmatov uses mythological motifs not as a simple folklore element, but as a complex artistic and philosophical tool. The contradiction between the legend of the Horned Mother Deer and real reality creates the primary conflict of the work.

While the mythological world represents goodness, purity, and humanity, real life is characterized by violence and self-interest. The image of Orozkul appears as a symbol of this negative world.

Mythopoetic thinking serves to reveal the protagonist's mental state more deeply. The child believes in legends and understands reality through them. Therefore, the killing of the sacred deer completely changes his perception of life.

Aitmatov's approach demonstrates the new aesthetic possibilities of myth in modern literature. Using mythological thinking, the writer achieves an artistic generalization of ecological, moral, and philosophical problems.

CONCLUSION. Chingiz Aitmatov's story "The White Ship" is a complex artistic system built on the basis of mythopoetic thinking.

The results of the study showed the following:

- The legend of the "horned mother deer" forms the ideological center of the work;
- the image of the white ship is interpreted as a symbol of freedom and an ideal life;
- mythological thinking serves as an important tool in revealing the spiritual world of the hero;
- the opposition of mythological and real layers creates the main conflict of the work;
- the writer used the mythopoetic method to cover the relationship between man and nature, spiritual values, and environmental problems at an artistic and philosophical level.

The results of the study showed that Chingiz Aitmatov's novella "The White Ship" is a highly artistic and philosophical work created on the basis of mythopoetic thinking. In the work, the mythological layer and real reality are intertwined, and the spiritual world of man, his attitude to nature, and moral values are deeply artistically interpreted.

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