

Is the Festival of Folklore a Feast
(Some Thoughts by a Specialist in Folklore Studies)

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(Summary)

It is a common understanding that once the fête of the city or village was a feast. Yet, the solving of the problem about the degree of festivity of the contemporary folklore festivals and their inscription in the contemporary festive calendar needs a careful approach, especially in relation to their organization in the context of the contemporary understanding of festivity. Of an utmost importance in this respect is the understanding that the festival is a form of reproduction of cultural heritage. This explains the structuring and (supposedly) the proper balancing of its elements: the theme of the festival (rites, singing, dances, music); status; local specifics; chronotope; competitions; jury. All that is a prerequisite for its “being” as a matter related to principles which have to be adequate to the nature of this heritage and the society’s aspirations towards a type of festivity adequate to the contemporary cultural situation.

Keywords: festival of folklore, folklore gala, feast, status, jury, authenticity

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