

Khan Tatar and Todorka
(A Reading of a Song Variant from Veliko Tarnovo)

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(Summary)

The text interprets Khan Tatar and Todorka ballad by commenting the historical terms used from the one hand, and, from the other hand by doing a transformational analysis of the attributes and functions of the mediator in the plot. The situations connected with the Tatars as historical population are analyzed as potential sources of folk personages and motifs. Resultantly, the folklore situation is seen in the light of a possible reflection of the mythological understandings while at the same time the basic psycho-social functions of the ballad are outlined. Thus the reading combines historical and mythological aspects and compares the particular “Bulgarian” case with the universal models and structures of mind.

Keywords: ballad; incest; initiation; history; mythology; structuralism; Tatars

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