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INITIATION IN TWO POLISH RITUAL SONGS JUXTAPOSED TO BULGARIAN ONES WITH SIMILAR MOTIFS

Abstract:

This paper analyzes two Polish traditional Christmas songs included in the Oskar Kolberg Collected Works, whose motives can conditionally be defined as „a virgin who cannot go to the dances as her brothers just returned from the army,” volume 56, Red Rus, and „arrangement of gifts exchange between a virgin and a soldier,” in volume one, Polish People Songs, which can be compared with similar motifs in Bulgarian folklore song tradition. The motifs in these songs are seen from the point of view of the rites of female and male initiations and the passage of young people to a higher social status, the two selected patterns being an illustration of different moments from the long-term initiation process. The first pattern („a virgin who cannot go to the dances...“) defines the very beginning – the preparation and selection of a girl for bride, and the second („arrangement...“) reveals details of a wedding cycle that has already begun.

A comparative analysis of patterns, motifs, characters, and image topographies seeks to highlight the typology within the available empirical data in order to synthesize and structure an eventual overall picture of the archaic model.

In the process of comparison it is clear that the development of the motifs and the final formulas in the Bulgarian songs more clearly express the transformation of the folklore pagan celebration Nativity of the Sun in the folklore Christian holiday Nativity of Christ.

Keywords:

Polish carols, Bulgarian ritual songs, sun, initiation, gifts

Sources:

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