

Anthropology of Albanian Life in Mitrush Kutelit

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Abstract

This paper aims at handling Kuteli's creative opus in accordance with the original viewpoint to 'read' it as an artistically realized kind of anthropology of Albanian life and mentality by taking Mitrush Kuteli's narrations as well as his long prose as the object of analysis. In Kuteli's work we move quite naturally from a local, material topography into an Albanian, spiritual topography containing all the ingredients and details. While narrating the episodes of a local microcosmos, Kuteli has constructed a microcosmos of the Albanian life in parallel. It is within the very local microcosmos which he knows best, that he has smithed the whole Albanian world in its everyday life and its deep history, both, as the reality and the myth, positivity and negativity, harmony and disharmony, the surface and depth, the value- and the anti-value, as the physical-spiritual dough, as the linguistic clothing; all these, striving to reach the messianic goals of improving this world inside its own caractereology. They are too fine, and therefore highly illuminating in regard to the core of the national, anthropological structure and in regard to the problems treated by Kuteli in all his prose work, especially in the narrations "Më kot", "Gjonomadhë dhe Gjatollinj", "Si u takua Ndoni me Zallorët", "Xha Brahua i Shkumbanores", "Qetësi përpara fërtyme" "Vjeshta e Xheladin Beut", "Lumi i madh", "E madhe është gjëma e mëkatit". The problems of local life lined in them are at the same time problems of the national life, the value of local life is automatically the value of the national life, all these, established on invariants of a universal foundation equally. Through extensive knowledge of Kuteli's literary subject, based first on an unexhaustible research tradition on Kuteli, worth mentioning the ventures of the last two decades especially, based at the same time on the foundation of a rich, contemporary, theoretical literature, this paper will advance scientific knowledge on one of the foundational aspects of Kuteli's creative opus.

Keywords: *anthropology, Albanian life, myth, folklore, narration.*