

## **The Influence of Myths and Archetypes in Belqis Soleimani's Novels from Ferdowsi Shahnameh**

### **Abstract**

Myth has been closely related to language and literature, particularly fiction. This connection has been maintained over time, and today, the works of many writers of this period are intertwined with myths. One of the ancient literary works interwoven with Iranian mythology is Ferdowsi's Shahnameh, which has become a prominent model in Persian fiction. The concept of myth is reflected in various forms in the works of Ferdowsi. One of these writers is Belqis Soleimani. The present research is written in a descriptive and analytical method based on the data of library sources. The findings of the research indicate that the works of Belqis Soleimani, one of the prominent female novelists, are noteworthy for her extensive knowledge of the myth and its prominent presence in her stories. Mythical characterization, mythical names, themes and legendary rituals are among them. Her main concern in using myth is to portray the important issues of the "woman" in contemporary patriarchal society and to promote the status of women and the female identity; hence, the present study deals with various forms of myth reflection in the works of this author.

### **Research aims:**

1. The examination of the origin of myth and its place in contemporary fiction and stating the reasons for the approach of modern and postmodern novelists.
2. The explanation of modern and postmodern words, the origin of both streams of thought, introducing modern and postmodern elements and components.

### **Research questions:**

1. How are myths and mythical insights reflected in modern and postmodern stories?
2. What are the reasons for the retelling of myths and archetypes in the "Enlightenment" era, which was considered the era of demythologization, in modern and postmodern contemporary fiction?

Keywords: Mythology, archetypes, Belqis Soleimani, Shahnameh Ferdowsi

## **Introduction**

The representation of identity and other components related to women in society has always been completed within a masculine discourse; while the nature of women emerges only when they themselves create and are given the opportunity to nurture and form. Belqis Soleimani, in her novel "Khaleh Bazi" (playing house), clearly expresses this concern. In recent years, with the advent of modern ideas and social developments; literature, specifically fiction, has become a medium in which women have been able to express their views and ideas without intermediaries, and their position in this field has stabilized. In other words, the vast and complex transformations of the contemporary period provided women writers with the opportunity to use the novel's potential to reflect on women's likes and dislikes and even to rebuild their place in society. Belqis Soleimani, like many women novelists, with her anti-habitual "routine" in her works and with a view of society in the context of woman-centered myths, opposes the traditional father / patriarchal view that understands women only as housewives and raiser of offspring. Moreover, she challenges issues such as loneliness, marriage identification, lack of financial independence, lack of voting independence, ambiguity of social status, rape and violence that result in relatively stable notions of limitation and are considered as the outcomes of the patriarchal society.

A review of the research background shows that no independent work with this title has been written so far. However, several works have examined the stories of Belqis Soleimani. Belqis Soleimani is one of the contemporary women novelists about whom and her works have been written. Kia (2011) deals with the "structural study of Belqis Soleimani's novels". Tavassoli (2012) in a comprehensive study, has introduced and criticized the novel "Welcome to Hades". Khademi Kolaei et al. dedicate the article "Sociology of Auntie's novel by Belqis Soleimani based on Pierre Bourdieu's theory" (2015) to a sociological study of house play based on Pierre Bourdieu's views. Seyyed Ali Ghasemzadeh (2013) are composed several works regarding the topic of this paper including: "Hypertext Analysis and Archetype of the Novel Welcome to Hades"; the article "Comparison of the Element of Time in the Narration of the Novel" Welcome to Hades" and "Journey to 270 Degrees Based on Gerard Genet's Theory" (2014). With these interpretations, the subject of the present study has not been addressed in the mentioned works; Therefore, the present

study, by using descriptive and analytical methods and relying on data from library sources, examines different forms of myth reflection in the works of this author, including mythical characterization, legendary names, themes and rituals.

## **Conclusion**

Belqis Soleimani's deep and wide knowledge of myths, archetypes and popular beliefs is more evident in this author's stories. In naming fictional characters, he uses the mythical and epic names of Shahnameh. However, the function of these characters is fundamentally different from what is evident in the Shahnameh. For example, "Gol Banoo" in the novel "The Last Lady Game" and "Rudabeh" in the novel "Welcome to Hades" are similar to Rudabeh in Shahnameh, but their destinies are not the same. Another type of mythology of this author is the use of Greek myths. In the novel "Welcome to Hades", Soleimani uses the mythical pattern of the abduction of the goddess Proserpina by Hades and her going to the underworld, which is one of the myths of death and resurrection, and reconstructs that narrative. However, her narrative is not entirely consistent with the basic text, and she has made changes in line with her goal of opening up the status of women in the traditional patriarchal society. She also expresses the myth of the Manichaean creation of women in the Francoist novel from the point of view of my retrospective narrator, relying on naturalistic tendencies and reviving the myths of patriarchy, goddesses, tree and earth. Another form of reflection of myth in Soleimani's works is mythical themes such as the continuation of human life in the plant, watering the trees with blood and the return of the dead soul in the form of a bird, which is among the myths of the body plant. Soleimani is a climatic writer who pays special attention to the customs of his place of residence and writes in her stories about popular beliefs and rituals that have a mythical basis. It also uses archetypal symbols such as the garden and the snake and promotes these stories with archetypal symbols. She combines archetypal components with the natural and everyday events of every human life; proceedings that may occur in the life of any person as they are usually ignored and passed by. She consciously applies myth to express her thoughts and goals, which is certainly nothing but the promotion of the status of "woman" and their identification.

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