

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN "BEOWULF" AND "RAVSHAN" EPICS IN TERMS OF CHARACTER AND THEME.

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Introduction

Narratives involving heroic figures, legendary creatures, and epic conflicts have enthralled listeners throughout history and space, contributing to the cultural fabric of various communities. The epics of Beowulf and Ravshan are two examples of timeless stories that have endured across centuries and continents, demonstrating the powerful influence of storytelling and the incarnation of heroic ideals in various cultural contexts.

The famous Old English epic Beowulf and the deeply ingrained Central Asian epic Ravshan offer fascinating insights into the cultural landscapes, historical resonances, and heroic ethos of their respective origins. As we set out to explore the core of these stories, we hope to reveal the parallels as well as the distinctive shades that shed light on the literary legacies of these two potent epics.

Our goal in this comparative analysis is to uncover the common themes that these epics share, such as heroism, bravery, and mythical encounters, while also recognizing the unique literary, cultural, and geographical details that have influenced each work's uniqueness.

We aim to shed light on the universal appeal of the hero's journey as well as the deftly woven nuances that reflect the rich diversity of human storytelling traditions through a comprehensive exploration of the similarities and differences between these epics.

Methodology

Heroic characters are at the heart of both epics. The heroes of Central Asian folklore, Ravshan, and the protagonist of the Old English epic "Beowulf," Beowulf and Beowulf, are praised for their courage, bravery, and strength in the face of supernatural obstacles.

Themes of bravery, honor, and virtue are explored in both epics. In their own cultural contexts, the protagonists serve as role models, exhibiting courage, loyalty, and fortitude.

Centralizing heroism appears to be the general aim of epic genre in Beowulf. But sometimes, in the process of accomplishing this, heroism and monstrosity can be confused. Bjork and Niles (1997):275-279; Lawrence (1961):21. Because of this, the

Beowulf poet seems more concerned with promoting the hero's righteousness than praising his extraordinary bravery. The poet presents Beowulf as the son of a man who is well-known throughout the world for his strength and intelligence qualities that Beowulf gets from his father and which make him the perfect candidate to command fearless warriors. Due to his familial history and righteous lineage, Beowulf is introduced as the "æþele ond éacen" ("noble and powerful" 198) and the "superhuman" who successfully bridges the various borders between force and power, between the Geats and the Danes, and between the past, present, and future (Gwara, 2008: 358). It's interesting that the poet relies on Beowulf's familial heritage to construct the righteousness Beowulf needs to travel to Heorot. The hero is reported taking the journey to Heorot in order to pay off his father's debt to Hrothgar (Beowulf 470). Here's an excerpt from Beowulf that relates to Beowulf's familial heritage and his journey to Heorot:

"So. The Spear-Danes in days gone by
And the kings who ruled them had courage and greatness.
We have heard of those princes' heroic campaigns.
There was Shield Sheafson, scourge of many tribes,
A wrecker of mead-benches, rampaging among foes.
This terror of the hall-troops had come far.
A foundling to start with, he would flourish later on
As his powers waxed and his worth was proved.
In the end each clan on the outlying coasts
Beyond the whale-road had to yield to him
And began to pay tribute. That was one good king."

This passage introduces the lineage of Shield Sheafson, a precursor to Beowulf, highlighting the heroic feats and the pattern of greatness passed down through generations. Whether or not this alibi absolves Hrothgar from any debts to Beowulf, it not only proves that Beowulf morally deserves to fully inherit his father, but also exempts him from accusations of selfishness and irresponsible self-indulgence, thus makes him righteous.

The epic "Ravshan" also convey virtue, bravery, and goodness. It denounces injustice and oppression and commends believers who can persevere in their faith. The epic's heroes, Hasankhan and Ravshan, are noble individuals with pure hearts, courage, and a strong will to fight against injustice and oppression while also lending a helping hand to those in need. One of the epics in the "Gorogly" series is "Princess Ayyar". The epic speaks of honor, determination, fortitude, and resourcefulness, among other noble moral and spiritual attributes. Avaz's image embodies the most admirable traits of Uzbek men. Songs, proverbs, and folk wisdom are frequently incorporated into the epic.

The creation of heroic fairy-tale and epic heroes is greatly influenced by mythological images that people speak and pass down from generation to generation.

Similar to the mythological figure, these heroes fight against social injustice and violence rather than the evils of nature. Social concepts hone and deepen its content. It created fantastical pictures that at first conveyed the enigmatic powers of nature, then took on a social aspect and represented historical forces, ultimately elevating them to the status of pictures honoring bravery and patriotism. An example of these kinds of images is Ravshankhan.

Result

Even though both epics contain legendary battles and heroic struggles, the epics' unique identities and cultural canons are shaped by their different literary styles, historical settings, and cultural origins.

These parallels and divergences highlight the richness of international literary and cultural traditions, providing insights into the universal appeal and diverse ways that storytelling, folklore, and heroism are expressed throughout history.

While heroic themes and the depiction of legendary figures are common to these epics, they also have distinctive elements that speak to their particular cultural and historical settings. Their importance stems from the literary and cultural legacies they have left behind in their home communities, as well as from the light they have cast on the timeless themes of cultural identity and bravery.

Discussion

Through the exploration of the epics of Beowulf and Ravshan, we have come across a rich tapestry of common themes and unique cultural expressions. These epics encapsulate the ageless conflict between mortal champions and supernatural foes, resonating with the timeless appeal of heroism, valor, and mythical encounters. Beowulf and Ravshan, two heroic figures, are testaments to the human spirit's tenacity, bravery, and unshakable resolve to prevail in the face of overwhelming adversity.

The story of Beowulf takes place in early medieval Scandinavia and is laced with elements of Germanic paganism and Christian influence. The heroic deeds of Beowulf against the dragon, Grendel, and Grendel's mother symbolize the hero's journey and the unwavering quest for honor and glory.

However, the heroic traditions of the Ravshan epic, which have their roots in Central Asian folklore, are shaped by Perso-Turkic cultural dynamics. The mythological figure Ravshan appears as a model of bravery, representing the chivalrous qualities and unwavering spirit that are characteristic of Central Asian ancestry.

Both epics differ in their unique cultural markers, linguistic traditions, and mythological contexts, even though they both have the iconic backdrop of epic heroism and mythic confrontations. While the Ravshan epic draws from the rich tradition of

oral storytelling and reflects the varied tapestry of Central Asian folklore, mythology, and linguistic influences, Beowulf exhibits the characteristics of Old English poetic forms, revealing a blend of pagan and Christian elements.

Conclusion

After completing this cross-cultural comparative analysis, we have a profound appreciation for the enduring legacy of heroic sagas and the storytelling medium's universal power. Beowulf and Ravshan serve as prime examples of the kaleidoscope diversity of human storytelling traditions, highlighting the richness and complexity of epic poetry across a wide range of cultural contexts.

With a close comprehension of the similarities and differences between these epics, we have set out on a path of mutual understanding and group admiration. Beowulf and Ravshan's heroic archetypes invite us to embrace the human spirit, create links between various literary traditions, and take part in the enduring power of the heroic tale.

We honor the global tradition of storytelling and the lasting influence of epic narratives on the human imagination by embracing both difference and commonality. As guiding lights, Beowulf and Ravshan serve as a constant reminder of the ability of heroic tales to enthrall, uplift, and bring people together throughout history.

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