

The Epic of Gilgamesh: A Saga of Humanism Mythified

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Abstract

Gilgamesh is the story of the eponymous hero. Gilgamesh recounts the saga of the oldest order. Thorkild Jacobsen, a noted Sumerologist observes that it is the story of learning to face reality, a story of "growing up". Essentially a primary epic or what is known as epic of growth, Gilgamesh depicts the god-centric world view in which human pursuit of glory was limited. Nevertheless, Gilgamesh's virility is suggestive of the cultural matrix that made the earliest human effort in epical dimension to cross the bar imposed on the mortals by the Immortals above. In this paper, an attempt will be to find that heaven and gods, as mythified by human imagination, are the first step towards the civilizational mechanism, and a hero like Gilgamesh is instrumental in this civilizational mission.

Keywords: Gilgamesh, Mythified, Transformation, Human Barbarism, Mesopotamia.