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**Folklore and Ethnographic Stems of G. Dochanashvili's Novel  
"The Best Robe"**

Summary

Georgian folklore material and ethnographic rituals play an important role in establishing the mythological layer of G. Dochanashvili's novel.

The initiative itinerary of the main character has been related to the division of the world into three layers, as established in mythological thinking; the places visited by the younger son coincide with the symbols of the mentioned layers both in shade and function. Simultaneously, the work maintains all the essential features characteristic of the initiative route: 1) visiting death's kingdom, overcoming the obstacles, 'passing over' in a certain sense and encountering life; 2) undressing while travelling and dressing again after resurrection; 3) visiting death's kingdom in the beginning of winter and encountering life in spring, corresponding to the cyclic rotation of the mythic sun; 4) the initiative itinerary takes place not horizontally, but along the curve, the beginning and the end of which coincide making the mythic sphere.

The writer uses the elements of the ritual against the drought which had been spread with various attributives in whole Georgia; in the novel the common monetary unit has been used, namely drahkani, which had been a rather hard currency in Georgia since the 11th century.

The most ancient Georgian anthroponyms have been also used; presumably of the pagan times.

The native village of the main character is a generalized place with ancient Georgian customs and traditions.

The novel has been firmly based on the Georgian folklore and ethnographic material, not only for the sake of the artistic function, but it immediately merges with the mythic background of the work.