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### THE MYTHS AND THE FOLK TALE IN THE REGIONS OF EAST GEORGIA

In Georgian folk literature there exist numerous examples which demonstrate that the plot of the fairy tale is based upon myth, but the myth has not been transformed into a fairytale. The majority of these examples come from the mountain regions of Georgia, suggesting that mythical thought was more prevalent in these regions than in the plains.

One and the same time fairy tale it is common to find mythic traditions, as well as a later religious worldview. It is also possible to determine the modes of thought of a society, through the fairy tales told in that society. There are various examples of this in Georgian folk literature: 1. when the fairy tale is only mythical; 2. when the Christian features in the fairy tale are present along with the mythic, but the entire fairy tale is not yet fully Christianized; 3. when the mythical motifs have a Christian content. However, one cannot observe whatever fairy tales in the Georgian Christian traditions without certain traces of myths on them.