FESTIVAL AND ABUNDANCE

Both quotes describe a festive type of ceremony with an emphasis on plenitude. Not only do they both mention the presence of festivals, but they also describe this festive-type ceremony similarly. In the first quote, the presence of festivals is directly mentioned with the quote: “Every day [in Uruk] there is a festival” (I. 228). These festivals are described as being noisy and full of life. The festivals being ‘noisy’ can be seen with drums rapping out the beat, and being ‘full of life’ with aged rising from their beds, which means the festival is so full of life that even the least energetic, oldest people join the festival (I. 229-232). In addition, plenitude is mentioned as physical beauty by describing the harlots, which most comely of figure and are graced with delight (I. 230-231). In the second quote, unlike the first, a festival is not directly mentioned. However, the forest is described as being noisy, energetic, and full of life. These attributes describe a festive-type ceremony and are very similar to the ones in the first quote. Instead of drums mentioned in the first quote, different kinds of birds and a solitary tree-cricket are now making noise by singing (V. 18-19). There is an emphasis on different types of birds making noise in almost every line. Therefore, the forest is full of life, filled with different types of birds and a tree cricket constantly making noise. In addition, the plenitude is directly mentioned with “[At the cry of] the francolin, the forest exults amid plenty” (V. 23) which means that the forest has an abundance. One of the main differences between these quotes is the locations of these festivals. In the first quote, mentioned festivals take place in Uruk, where Gilgamesh is the king, while in the second quote, the festival takes place in a forest where Humbaba is the king.

These quotes both refer to festivals and abundance. In the context of the whole text, since materialism is often emphasized, abundance usually corresponds to wealth, prosperity, and happiness. Such materialism can also be seen in the second quote with the mention of sixty cubits high cedar trees and plenty of resin drizzling down like rain which can also be matched with abundance (V. 14-15). In addition, since cedar trees have an important place in materialism because of their worth, having an abundance of cedar trees corresponds to wealth. Similarly, such materialism and abundance are indirectly mentioned in the first quote with the plenty of harlots by their physical beauty and attributes (I. 230-231). In addition, abundance and festivals are usually described together in the text. The reason behind this is that to have festivals every day, there needs to be enough wealth, prosperity, and abundance. This can also be seen in the first quote with Gilgamesh being carefree and possibly attending festivals by day and night, meaning that they as a kingdom have abundant sources to be carefree and maintain festivals every day (I. 234). Both in Uruk and the forest, a festive theme can be seen. In Uruk, with their king Gilgamesh being carefree and not worrying about anything, people are also happy and festive. Similarly, there are cedar trees with resin drizzling down like rain next to different kinds of birds similar to the variety of the people in Uruk, which describe a festival full of life. Thus, the bigger idea is that there are festivals full of life with abundance both in Uruk and in the forest where people are happy.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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