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Similarities between Greek and Christian based mythologies

To define a myth in a strict sense, it is a verbal statement of religious doctrines and rituals. Myth comes from mythos, a Greek word for logical thinking or linguistic expression of the result, which is actually a ‘true narrative’ that involves the deep meaning behind it. Although there are many different kinds of cultures, regions, and periods of the world, among others, Greek creation myth and the Judeo-Christian creation myth are considered representative mythologies. These myths have some in common despite the differences. There are three things in common: God is an absolute being punishing all-around human beings, the first women in two myths create evil in the world, and the appearance of humans and gods are similar in both mythologies.

God is described as an omnipotent being in most myths, even in Greek and Christian creation myths. To illustrate the almighty, it means the ability to know everything and to do anything. Both myths deal with the process in which the existence of man is created through God's omnipotent, through such ability, God punishes human being and makes man repent. Although it brings hardship and adversity to man through unprovoked jealousy, this is also a facet of God's omnipotent faculties. These omnipotent anecdotes are common in many myths. Prometheus, who appears in the Greek creation myth, is the god who created man and animal with his brother under the orders of Zeus. He loves man more than any other God, breaking Zeus's taboo that made human unable to have fire, and bringing fire to man. Although Prometheus is considered to have made a great contribution to the development of mankind by giving them a fire, for Zeus, Prometheus was just a thief who has violate Zeus’s taboo so that Zeus make Prometheus bound to a rocky mountain and make eagle to peck his liver every day. This part well describes the absolute power of God punishing Prometheus, who is considered to be omnipotent to humans. There is another anecdote about God's omnipotent: the love story of Psyche and Cupid. Psyche, described as such a remarkably beautiful being, suffers from an unprovoked adversity by Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty. Although humanity is suffered by God rather than blessing in this case, it shows that God’s hate can lead to great hardship through even if there is no reason. In the Christian creation myth, Adam and Eve appear. They are created by God and live in the garden named Eden made by God. However, Eve was enticed by a snake, sharing the good and bad fruit with Adam, and realizing their shame. Adam and Eve are kicked out of Eden by the disappointed god. The first human being is not an individual but a representative and a prototype of the entire human race. Therefore Adam and Eve's expulsion from Eden against the will of God means that mankind is in the same boat. This means that anyone who does not obey God will be like Adam and Eve. In the Christian creation myth, God is described as an absolute being who created human beings and living spaces, and an omnipotent being who can punish men as God please if they do not follow god’s orders. Although the roles, abilities, and stories of gods differ depending on each myth, It is same that God is beyond of human beings and almighty in both mythologies.

Another commonality is that both novels view the first woman in a negative perspective. Since it was a time when men were valued over women, the aspect of patriarchal men and submissive women were reflected directly in the myth. In Greek creation myth, Pandora, which Zeus creates to punish humans who got fire from Prometheus, appears to be the first woman in mankind. Each of the gods gave her a present when Pandora was made. According to “Introduction To Mythology”, “Athene was to teach the girl to weave, and golden Aphrodite to pour charm upon her head, and painful, strong desire, and body-shattering cares. Hermes, to put in sly manners, and the morals of a bitch” (Thury, Devinney 40). Zeus sent a box through Hermes to Pandora, which contained all the evils and vice that brought misfortune to man. Hermes hands over the box, intriguing Pandora to open it, and as a result, all kinds of misfortunes spread throughout the human world. In the Christian creation myth, Eve, born from Adam's ribs, appears as the first woman. She was tricked into sharing the fruit with Adam by a serpent that she would not die if she ate the fruit forbidden by God. As a result, they feel shame at being naked and cover up. God, then, drives them out of the Garden of Eden because they did not follow god’s order. This myth is also unfortunate because of woman. Both myths were recorded to reflect the times. As mentioned previously, In the era when the two myths were recorded, men's views on society were preferred over women. Therefore, female characters such as Eve and Pandora are described as having a bad influence on the world against male characters.

The last thing in common between the two myths is that the appearance of God and man is similar. In the Greeks creation myth, human beings are made of clay by Prometheus, ordered by Zeus, and are born through the breath of Athens. Prometheus and his brother Epimetheus give humans various abilities to survive and make humans walk like gods. As described earlier in Psyche’s story, Aphrodite, who is the goddess of beauty, feel jealous of Psyche, who has striking beauty, and makes her go through hardships.  In this part, It shows that humans and gods are externally alike. According to Christian birth myth, humans and gods are similar in appearance, as can be seen from the reference “Introduction To Mythology”, "Then God said, let us make man in your image."(Thury, Devinney 57). It implies that because man is meant to resemble God, who is perfect, man is also perfect and no further improvements need be made to his physical form. As shown in these two myths, human appearance is portrayed as being a creature that reflects the image of God, and therefore external appearance is similar to God.

To sum up, although the two myths are different records based on different cultures and times, despite such differences, there are common similarities such as "God is almighty", "negative views on women “, and ” the similarity between the outward appearance of God and man". The myth has inherent norms and pride that governs the group passing myth down, which has a lasting impact on the culture that the community creates. Through mythology, It is possible to experience a sign of the times indirectly and take a broader perspective through lessons in mythology.

Work Cited

Devinney, Margaret K., and Thury, Eva M. *Introduction To Mythology: Contemporary Approaches To Classical and World Myths.* Oxford University Press, 2005