For King's Sake: Narratives as Designer Texts

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Abstract

Soumen Sen traces the narrative history of the matrilineal Jaintia tribes of Meghalaya through the Ky Hynniew Trep or the Seven Huts with Seven Ancestral Mothers myth. These tribes derive their religion—the Ka Niam religion—from these myths. Sen demonstrates how the myth reinforces both the religious and secular principles of matrilineal descent. The myth ensures that the tribal Chief remains supreme. In this way, the tribe stays united and loyal to the Chief. The article establishes the argument that the mythical narratives are often designed for the specific purpose of establishing the existing power systems as pre-ordained truths.

Full Text: PDF

Refbacks

There are currently no refbacks.

The text under analysis comes from the novel "Art for heart’s sake" written by Reuben Goldberg, who was an American sculptor, cartoonist and writer. He is famous for his vivid style of writing. "There a doctor in the house", "Reuben Goldberg’s guide to Europe" and "I made my bed" are in the list of his best literary works. From the point of view of presentation, the text is the 3rd person narrative, it is rather a narration then a description with some insertions of direct speech. Now, I would like to say a few words about the characters of the text. Of course, there are a lot of characters represented in the text, but some of them, such as: Doctor Caswell, Collis P. Ellsworth, Frank Swain are the main characters.