

Iron Heroes and Iron-clad Birds ---Iron Culture in the Eurasian Oral Tradition---

OGIHARA Shinko (Teikyo-Heisei University, Japan)

Iron culture appears differently in oral tradition of the peoples in Eurasia. For an instance, in the marginal area of Eurasia the heroes in myths/heroic epics are often born again as an iron hero/heroine at the workshop of smith (, who is often identified as shaman). While among the Sakha(Yakut) in the eastern Siberia, as some cases show, the iron seems to be more exclusive for the antagonists of the heroes; *avakhi* emerge from the underworld and fly to the heroes as an iron-clad birds of prey.

We will try to give some concrete images from the texts, regarding the iron culture in the oral tradition of some peoples of Eurasia. It may suggest us further discussion in the study of mythology, heroic epics, and cultural history of the given area as well.