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Revival of myths and folklore in the *Harry Potter Series*

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Abstract : *There have been a number of attempts to demonstrate close affinity between fantasy fictions and myths. Our topic "Revival of Myths and Folklore in Harry Potter" seeks to throw light on mythical and folkloristic elements in the Harry Potter series.*

The common misconception about myths is they are fanciful stories meant for amusement. But myths actually contain moral messages. Myths in general are universal, known as "archetypes". In fact, major thinkers of archetypal literary criticism like Frazer, Carl Jung, and Northrop Frye identify myth with literature and psychology.

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Folklores, on the other hand, are oral narratives in the form of folk tale, folk play, folk magic etc which are handed down orally from generation to generation. Folklores are not only meant for entertainment but have a deeper significance like myths and a psychological aspect too.

In Harry Potter, myths and folklore form an important component. But these have been presented with their faces changed while retaining their essence. J. K. Rowling has moulded many of the mythical stories according to the plot and story of her novels. Not only the significance and moral message of myths have been highlighted, but references to mythical stories and folklores have also been presented such as Cerberus and phoenix from Greek mythology, Boggarts and tale of death from English folklores and many more.

Key words: *Myths, folklore, symbolism, archetypes.*

Introduction :

The word 'Myth' is often misused and misunderstood to mean primitive stories based upon false reasoning. But actually myths are much more than that. Archetypal literary critic Northrop Frye says "mythology as a whole provides a kind of diagram of what literature as a whole is all about, an imaginative survey of the human situation from the beginning to the end, from height to the depth, of what is imaginatively conceivable" (160)