

Title: Folklore and Femininity

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In analyzing the role that women play in folklore throughout different cultures, it can be inferred that the characters involved in folklore are greatly influenced by the society's gender roles and expectations. This is specifically true in regard to stories of women who are depicted with or without physical beauty, as elusive and ever changing as the beauty standards are and women who are portrayed as sexually pure or not and the value that is placed on virginity. There is also plenty to be said about the villainization of attributes such as physical imperfection, sexual impurity and any other reversal of the values and gender norms that have been perpetually placed on women in society which can be evaluated through the women in folklore that are deemed villains, demons and monsters. Furthermore, the women who are not villainized may be placed on a pedestal above those who do not meet a sort of societal criteria may have higher narrative ranking, however, as portrayed in several stories throughout different cultures and histories are still not necessarily seen in the most positive light. This may indicate that women, whether they are conventionally beautiful or not, whether they are pure and innocent, sexually aggressive or anything in between are fighting a losing battle when it comes to the way that each society regards them. These concepts have had a large impact on women living in past societies and can still be seen in the way that societies continue to behave in modern day.

References

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