

Ruminations: Essays, Cerebrations, Dialogues on Literature, Culture, Folklore & Society

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Myths, Rituals and Jagar Sanskriti of Uttarakhand

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Abstract:

The word "ritual" is not topography specific, rather is found in many periods and places, but the moment "ritual" is formally studied it becomes a recent study and hence, a localized phenomenon. We tend to encounter the fundamentals of religious, cultural and dynamics of personhood while interrogating and analyzing the culture. The ardent scholars while investigating "ritual", what surfaces is a complicated phenomenon as it involves a variety of socio-cultural activities strewn around multiple perspectives in interpreting, defining and constructing "ritual", since, it does not possess its own clear and widely shared explanation. Similarly, myth is an ancient genre in folklore, which consists of socio-cultural narratives or stories from the particular ethnic ethos. The main idea that plays fundamental to the tales or origin of myths are the main characters, which are usually gods, demigods or supernatural humans. The aim of this paper is to explore everyday life of the human beings, which are usually contained in legends, as opposed to myths. Uttarakhand, the abode of the Gods, the Goddesses, and the mystical ethno-centric topography with intricate rituals and myths has been a breeding ground for scholarly investigation.

When Robertson Smith says that "ritual is a primary component of religion", he draws our attention to the fact that its fundamental function is to assist in fulfilling the basic social function is not only of constructing but also preserving the community. Hence, he relegated