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ENG-260

01/18/2015

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Critical Analysis One-Syncretism in “Beowulf”

“Beowulf” is an epic poem that “may have been copied down as early as the 8th century from an older oral poem, probably by a priest working at a king’s court” (Grand Canyon University, 2013). “Beowulf”, like any other written works, give insight to the time in which they were written. This epic poem has an indication of numerous Anglo-Saxon principles and beliefs. However, “Beowulf” also contains an indication of numerous references to Christianity even though it contains countless pagan ideas and beliefs. This is called syncretism, which is the combination of different systems of religious belief or practice. This mixture between pagan beliefs and Christianity is shown in “Beowulf”.

In the poem there are many references to fame, fate, and vengeance which are pagan concepts. There are also many references God. “Afterward a boy-child was born to Shield, a cub in the yard, a comfort sent by God to that nation. He knew what they had tholed, the long times and troubles they'd come through without a leader; so the Lord of Life, the glorious Almighty, made this man renowned”

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