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#### FANTASY AS A GENRE OF MODERN AZERBAIJANI PROSE

Spiritual and genetic roots of the Azerbaijani people, which provide the basis for the myths most associated with moral norms and traditions, define the writers' creative pursuits in this direction. It is the myth being the brightest expression of metaphorical and utopian thinking which grounds a fantasy as a genre. The Azerbaijani literature committed to spiritual and genetic roots has a perceptiveness and inclination to the mythological thinking and artistic and literary plot construction. Craving for the folklore, the values of the national figurative thinking at a new stage is not only the moral feature of the new Azerbaijani prose, but also its aesthetic potential. Unlike the thousand-year tradition of poetry, the tradition of prose is rather young in Azerbaijan, though the tales, epic dastans including the famous epic story of the 10–11<sup>th</sup> centuries – *Book of Dede Korkut* – include different elements of prose. The presence of folklore in the modern Azerbaijan prose is a natural and logical phenomenon.