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HEROISM AND FATE (WYRD) IN ANGLO-SAXON POETRY

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ANNOTATION

This article is devoted to the study of the theme of **heroism and fate in Anglo-Saxon poetry**. The article analyzes the concept of heroism, the influence of Wyrð on life and the spirit of the hero, their interrelationship, and their role in Anglo-Saxon values.

The article uses examples from the epic poem **Beowulf** to illustrate the complex relationship between heroism and Wyrð, and between human will and fate. It also describes the value of heroism as based on courage, loyalty, and glory, while Wyrð is defined as the force that determines the predetermined path of life.

This work serves to understand the philosophical and moral aspects of Anglo-Saxon poetry, to determine the relationship between the concepts of heroism and fate and the values of society.

Keywords: Anglo-Saxon poetry, heroism, Wyrð, fate, Beowulf, courage, loyalty, glory, values, moral ideas, English literature, the Middle Ages, heroic philosophy, human will, the uncertainty of life.

Introduction: Anglo-Saxon poetry is one of the oldest and most important sources of English literature, closely associated with the worldview, values, and culture of medieval Anglo-Saxon society. It is centered on the concepts of heroism and Wyrð, which represents the predestination of life.

Heroism is measured in Anglo-Saxon society not only by courage and strength, but also by loyalty, sacrifice, and a value for glory. At the same time, the concept of Wyrð reveals the true power of the heroic spirit, showing the uncertainty and limitations of human life.

This article analyzes the concept of heroism in Anglo-Saxon poetry, the influence of Wyrð on life and the heroic spirit, their interrelationship, and their role in the value system. It also provides examples from the epic poem **Beowulf**, highlighting the intertwined nature of heroism and fate.





The main part. In Anglo-Saxon literature, heroism is one of the main qualities valued by society. It is based more on **courage, loyalty, honor, and will.** Hero:

- Protects the interests of his tribe or community;
- They fight against enemies;
- He gains lasting prestige through his personal courage;
- Despite the dangers and difficulties in his life, **he values fame and friendship.**

For example, the hero Beowulf in the epic poem "Beowulf" is a symbol of courage and selflessness. He not only protects his people, but also fights for glory. Thus, Anglo-Saxon heroism is depicted as **a combination of faith, courage, and loyalty.**

In the Anglo-Saxon worldview, the power that governs life is called **Wyrd.** Wyrd is the power that predetermines a person's path, success, and death. While it does not completely limit a person's will, it does predetermine the difficulties and circumstances of life.

For the Anglo-Saxons, Wyrd means:

1. No matter how brave and wise a person is, he will ultimately submit to the fate of life;
2. The uncertainty of life and being prepared for death are integral parts of heroism;
3. The hero gains glory through his bravery, but achieves true worth through submission to the Wyrd.

For example, **Beowulf**, in his final battle, defends his people and honor, even though he knows he will die. This situation illustrates the balance between Wyrd and heroism: while human will is limited, courage elevates the spirit and leads to glory.

In Anglo-Saxon poetry, the connection between heroism and **Wyrd (fate)** is very deep and important. The hero's courage and will are not unlimited, he must be in harmony with Wyrd. Therefore, courage and glory are manifested not only by relying on will, but also by accepting fate.

The hero faces challenges and tries to overcome them with courage. At the same time, Wyrd predetermines the path of life, so no matter how brave the hero is, he will ultimately succumb to fate. This harmony reveals the true strength of the hero's spirit: while human will is limited, courage and sacrifice lead to spiritual elevation.

For example, **Beowulf**, in his final battle, defends his people and honor, even though he knows he will die. This case serves as a clear example of the complementary nature of Wyrd and heroism: true glory and worth are achieved when the hero's will and courage are aligned with Wyrd.





Thus, in Anglo-Saxon poetry, heroism and Wyrð complement each other: the hero is distinguished by his courage and will, but achieves true worth and glory through submission to Wyrð.

Section	Main content	Example	Note
The concept of heroism	Based on courage, loyalty, honor, and willpower, the hero defends his tribe or community and fights against enemies.	Beowulf protects his people and tribe	The formation of the heroic spirit through faith, courage, and loyalty
The concept of Wyrð (Fate)	The power that determines the path of life, success, and death. Human will is limited, but courage and glory are possible.	Beowulf knows he will die in his final battle, but he fights on	Wyrð limits the hero's will, but leads to spiritual elevation
The interaction of Heroism and Wyrð	The hero combines courage and glory with Wyrð. Submission to fate elevates the hero's spirit.	Beowulf Embraces Wyrð to Protect His People and Glory	Heroism and destiny complement each other; true value is created when courage is combined with Wyrð.

In Anglo-Saxon society, the concepts of heroism and Wyrð (fate) are deeply rooted in values. They suggest that heroism is not measured solely by courage or strength, but is also defined by **moral values, loyalty, and self-sacrifice**.

Hero for the Anglo-Saxons:

- Values " honor and reputation";
- puts the interests of society and the tribe** above his own;
- h verse uncertainty and readiness to die.

Wyrð, as the guiding force of life, teaches man to be prepared for the uncertainty of life and death. In this way, heroism and destiny complement each other: the hero is distinguished by his will and courage, but it is through obedience to Wyrð that he achieves true glory and worth.

For example, **Beowulf** defends his people and honor in his final battle, even though he knows he will die. This is a clear example of the intertwined nature of heroism and fate in Anglo-Saxon values.

Thus, Anglo-Saxon values present heroism and Wyrð as complementary concepts: true worth and glory are created when courage, loyalty, and sacrifice are combined with Wyrð.

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