

“Teriomorphic creatures in contemporary mass culture”

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SUMMARY

The phenomenon of teriomorphism implies endowing humans or other intelligent beings (different mythological characters, such as spirits, gods or demons) with animal features – both external (external zoomorphism) and internal (behavior, etc.). Teriomorphism is thus an essential element of many ancient polytheistic religions.

Of course, such an ancient phenomenon could not but leave a trace in human culture, even having lost in development its religious and mythological connotations. Modern mass culture presents us with a whole compendium of characters and images which may by right be called teriomorphic. These images, especially in their connection with primordial mythological teriomorphism, are of considerable interest for research.

In my dissertation I attempted at an outline of teriomorphism in modern mass culture, describing some of its most significant teriomorphic images, and also trace their possible mythological roots.