



**HEROES AND HEROIC LIFE
IN THE *ILIAD*
AND AKRITIC FOLK-SONG**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present study is to identify, analyse and categorise similarities in heroic life and heroic conduct between the *Iliad* and Akritic folksong. A further purpose is to put forward possible reasons for the existence of these similarities.

To this end major differences are first discussed and then a systematic comparison of similarities is completed, in the chapters on Descent, Horses and Armour, Heroic Conduct and Heroic Death.

This comparison reveals that similarities can constructively be placed in four major categories: theme, scene, treatment, behaviour and emotion. This categorisation of similarities in turn makes it possible to suggest and to a degree discuss the potential reasons for their persistent recurrence.

The examination of potential reasons leads to the conclusion that, although there are possibilities of direct and indirect literary influence of Homeric epic upon Akritic folksong, nevertheless the possibility of similarities being due to a specifically Greek realisation of the heroic convention must remain.

DECLARATION

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

This thesis may be lent or photocopied.

Signed

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Gianna Goussias

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