

Title: Solar Calendar and Russian Fairy Tales
Author: Miriam Shrager, Indiana University, Bloomington

In *The Historical Roots of the Magic Tale* (1986), Propp compares the structure of a magic tale to various customs and rituals in primitive societies. As a result, he can trace the origin of the magic tale to ancient initiation rites.

In my paper I analyze two Russian fairy tales and propose an additional source as their origin. I show that they are connected to pagan festivals of solar and agrarian calendars (Ivanits 1982, Propp 1963). The first tale is a winter tale "Jack Frost" (Afanas'ev, 1973: 366). Structurally this tale is comparable to initiation rites; however, it contains additional elements of pagan traditions of Yuletide festivities. The second tale I analyze is "Snow Maiden." Although it is considered a fairytale, it does not conform to Propp's structure of a typical magic tale. When we apply Propp's comparative method (1986), we are able to place this tale in the context of pagan customs and to show that this spring tale is connected to ancient beliefs, customs, and rituals of the pagan spring-summer festivals, such as Maslenitsa, Rusal'naja week, and Ivan Kupalo.

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