

Sanctity and Malevolence of Cat in World Mythology and Persian Prose and Verse

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Abstract

The pioneers of the Persian literature have described utopia in the form of story in the prose and verse and have chosen animals instead of human characters and assigned humanly characteristics to the animals. In this regard, horse is noble and descent and owl is symbol of destruction. Indeed, these literary men have two goals, they wanted to transfer humanly exalted thoughts in the form of story in addition to entertaining the readers.

Cat symbolizes greed, playfulness, arrogance, hostility, imprudence, cruelty, ostentation and cunning in Persian literature. Cat has heterogeneous status between propitious and malevolent in myths. But all indecent traits of cat symbolize human carnal soul that it sometimes becomes evil and sometimes achieves divine and humanly status. This article investigates the mythology and legends of cat and its attendance in Persian literature tales and verse.

Key words: cat, Persian literature, nations' mythology, Persian tales, Islamic traditions, folk beliefs.

Introduction

There are different viewpoints about cat in Persian literature and west and east mythology, so that its status fluctuates between sanctity and malevolence indicating fluctuation of human soul in descending to carnality and lust and ascending to divinity and perfection. Indeed, the Persian poets and writers analogize human animalistic aspect to animals in some tales proportionate with the plot of the story and by representing the sanctity and malevolence of the animals try to show ways of reaching perfection. It is probable that the entertainment aspect dominated on the story, but the aware man learns from any points and by this flip, he engages in changing of the world. So, if we study the legends and myths of cat exactly we will find that the aim of the writer is to refer to essence and content and concepts of myths and tales not addressing to the superficial concepts and introduce it valueless.

Cat is symbol of pious men that they are introduced as real believers apparently and indeed they are abhorrent. Buddhism has this tendency toward cat and cat is blamed in Buddhism since cat and snake were the only creatures that they were not sad for death of Buda and this belief can be considered as symbol of superior wisdom".(Chevalier, 2009).

There are sculptures of the ascetic cats in India that they symbolize eternal happiness in animalistic world"(ibid).Cat is also symbol of good natured in China (ibid).

Cat gains divine and god like status and appears as goddess and ruler of Bubastis that killing of it punished with putting in death (View, 2002).

In Swedish mythology, cat appears as the guide that ascends the social status of a poor girl from inferiority to superiority. In Japan mythology, when cat sees that its owners, the old man and woman, have nothing to eat changes to a Geisha and provides money with dancing and singing and save their lives.(pigut, 1994).

Sometimes it is evil creature that steals a peasant poor girl as prey every year (ibid).

In Brazilians opinion, cat is so valuable that the warriors hung the teeth of wild cat as symbol of championship in their necks (Cavendish, 2008).

As it is seen the nations have different and sometimes similar viewpoints about cat. But as we know this contradiction indicates multiplicity and considering all elements and effective factors in this subject matter and positive and negative

attitudes in myths and legends depict attitude of the nations toward themselves. The main subject is human soul that it appears sometimes as a tyrant wolf and sometimes as a noble horse that seeks to release its people. Cat is small creature from carnivorous class symbolizing wickedness, hostility and sometimes divinity.

Definition

It is called “Gurbak” in Pahlavi and it is from carnivorous class found in most houses. It has sharp teeth and paw, six anterior teeth and two canine teeth .It is called “Sanur” in Arabic (Moein, 2006).

Cat in Persian literature

Cat has important position in the Persian verse and prose and it has gained attention of the poets and writers due to its special characteristics and it has gradually entered to proverbs, stories and poems.

Cat represents humans with negative traits in folktales and it appears as impatient, cunning, greed, playful, arrogant, hostile, imprudent, cruel and deceitful.

Tale of cat and mouse

In a tale of Marzban book , there was a cat lived in the house of a poor man and a mouse also lived in his warehouse and the mouse had provided provisions for life. When the mouse saw the cat powerless he decided to help the cat .The mouse gave the cat food and the cat became fat and powerful. There was a jealous rooster and it persuaded the cat to kill the mouse and the cat changed his mind and saw the mouse as his enemy and forgot his goodness and finally ate the mouse.

The cat is introduced as enemy in this tale that kills his real friend by temptation of the jealous rooster. It can be said that cat represents those who get in trouble without research. It is necessary to point that the cats are enemy of the mice and there are individuals like cat that they oppress weak people. This tale tries to indicate that the enemy should be kept weak and every step toward empowering the enemy leads to destruction; since expecting beneficent from enemy is irrational. Jealousy affects negatively and it causes to hostility and destruction of the people”(Taghavi, 1997).

Cat as the nephew of leopard

One day a leopard went to a cat, its nephew, house and they adorned each other and the leopard asked the cat my darling ,why your are so small ?Are not you my nephew? The cat replied: I am your nephew but the humans caused me to have such conditions so I could not growth like you. The leopard was proud and said who humans are? Let me to punish them. They went and arrived to an old farmer and the cat showed the man and the leopard went forward and said to him to fight and he replied my power is at home and if you want to fight with me let me to bring it and the leopard said: I am here go and being your power .The old man said how could I be assured that you never run away? The leopard said I am ready for fight with you and I never run away. The old man said in order to be assured that you never run away came to this bag and I will go to bring my power. The leopard accepted and went into the bag and the old man closed the bag and went to the home and picked up a stick and hit the leopard so that it injured and fainted and when the old man opened the bag it escaped and said to the cat if I lived with human beings I was smaller than you”(Darvishan ,2002).

This tale indicates the superiority of human beings relative to animals’ .Human experiences and thinking is the factor of supervisory of the human beings.

Pious cat

There was a cat in a village that he ate mice and all mice knew him and when they saw him they ran away .After a while, he couldn’t to catch a mouse and he planned to catch the mice. So, he disappeared and it was proclaimed that the cat had gone to Hajj. Once he appeared sent a messenger to the city to proclaim that it is now a pious cat and he has came back from Hajj and no longer eat mice .It deiced to have a party and invited his enemies and friends and everybody could go to his party and the cat chose a place that it had only one hole and he appointed a kitten in front of this hole to guide the mice .When all mice gathered together he pointed to the kitten and he closed the hole and all mice were trapped .He ate all mice and there was only one mouse that he was standing in front of the hole and watched out them. The old mouse said to the pious cat; I never trust you .The enemy never become friend and he ran away and the cat ate many mice and he was rescued .In this story, the duplicity is not blamed but it is recommend to being alert against duplicity (ibid).

Cat in Persian verse

Cat has similar characteristic in verse described as in the stories. As before said cat has personified due to its especial characteristics .It has particular strategy in hunting mice and it symbolizes cunning and deceitfulness that acts in inferiority and could release itself.

There are many poems that cat has been described in different compounds indicating particular belief of the poet toward this creature and its common behavior with some human beings.

Being like a cat is allusion for hypocrisy and deceit.

I am sure that when the fielder comes like a lion

He never bears hypocrisy and deceit like a cat (Khaqani Shervani , 1997).

Whenever you want to adorn himself like a cat

Release yourself of this egoism (Nizami ,1984).

A cat grips when it sees a bird on the tree (Imami Heravi,1964).

The cat griped on the branch and opened its paw and attacked (Ohadi Margehei,1961).

The person who has black and evil eyes: It is allusion for being mean.

In other way there is a person with eyes look like a cat

That he is angry like lions (Nizami Ganjavi,1984).

He is like a mouse lies in wait

Has eyes like cat's and he is angry like leopard

You have seen many cats like a mouse

Look at this mouse with cat's eyes (Khaqani,1997).

Cat in the warehouse: it is allusion for deceit, anxiety and fear.

You never be deceived

Like a cat in the warehouse (Anvari, 1968).

If the love converted him to lion and elephant

If you see him sys him he is like a cat in the warehouse (Frozanfar , 2002).

Like a cat: it is allusion for deceitfulness

If there is nothing except deceit in the world

The world will be filled with revenge like wind (Shoar, 2003).

You never return your youth by regret

Why you talk nonsense like being deceived (Minavi, 2005).

How an ignorant becomes wise?

How you use trick and deceit (ibid).

When he sees a wise in any position

He never uses deceit and trick (ibid).

Although I am tired I want to kiss you

You are brave and lovely (Frozanfar,1996).

Whenever you want to be deceitful

A lion could trap a wolf by trick (dastjerdi,1984).

He prepares his food like a cat

How he can hold his stuff (Modares razavi, 2004).

What is this earthly body that you cannot release it?

Why you engage in fruitless conduct

The Egyptians worshipped cat

The Athenians worshipped owl (Azadmehr, 2003).

Where are you going mince partridge?

Do not be proud that the pious cat begin to say pray (Hafez Shirizi ,2009).

He got in trouble when he got familiar with meanness (Abedi,1979).

Whenever you want to do trick

Leave being deceitful and trick (Mahjoub,1957).

Why the mouse is impoverished of this leopard wound

It was deceitful, anxious and scared (ibid).

Cat created by the sneeze of lion

It is said that the number of mice was increasing in the ship of Noah and it was probable that they made a hole in the ship ,so God created a cat from sneeze of a lion to eat the mice” .According to Majmaoltavarikh and Algeasas:

“The number of cats and pigs was increased when the mice number was enhanced in the ship, Noah put his hand on the lion head and a cat was born from its sneeze and it ate the mice and then he put his hand on a elephant head and a pig was born from its nose and these animals are like lion and elephant were created after flood of Noah”.

In Rozatolsafa in volume 64.1 it is said that:

“The Satan put his hand on the pig back and a mouse came out from its nose and it destructed everywhere and it was possible to make a hole in the ship; by the demand of Noah the God created cat from sneeze of lion and it ate all mice. Many poets have employed this concept .It can be referd to Khaqani and Molavi” (Ashrafzadeh, 2007).

Familiarity of the poets with such concepts and stories signifies their religious tendency toward the poems and they have used beautiful allusion and religious narratives in their poems in order to transfer their ideas.

The world in any status is his artifact

The cat is the product of the lion sneeze (Forozanfar ,1996).

They are consequences of my nature those who are my enemy

The cat is the result of the fierce lion sneeze (ibdi).

I was like a cat created by sneeze of the lion

I was change so that I lost my origin (Forozanfar, 2002).

The cat was created by sneeze of the lion at the beginning

The lion trembles when the cat sounds (ibid).

Cat in the Masnavi

Molana describes any blamed and unpleasant behavior by literary terms like using evil creatures that lead human being toward destruction .Molana introduces cat as the symbol of lust ,death ,tyrant kings.

Cat as the symbol of lust

Marriage prevents lechery and it causes to chastity and virtue:

If you are greed and licentious get married early

Otherwise greed and lust came like cat and steal the treasure (Khoramshahi,2007).

Cat as the symbol of death

Galen sees the death and misery cats with sharp paws around oneself

And his bird of soul is disappointed because of fear (ibid).

Cat as the symbol of the tyrant kings

The worldliness people fear tyrant kings like a mouse

They do not power and competency, perception and splendid of the lions (ibid)

Cat as the symbol of the potential desires and tendencies of human being

The potential desires and tendencies of human being

Become activated by providing required conditions (ibid).

Cat symbolizing pain and perish

Everywhere of this world is like a prison

The prison with pain and grief and there is no escape way (ibid).

Cat symbolizing of the unbelievers

The unbeliever is like a cat

He is bored without any weapon (ibid).

Cat in the interpretative texts

Quran does not refer directly to cat but there are references on the cat in some interpretative texts. In comments on the miracles, some characteristics of cat have been pointed according to the subject matter .It can be referd to chest of the Israel that the interpretations interpret it to cat.

"The chest will come to you in which it is assurance from your Lord."(al- Baqarah).

And their prophet said to them, "Indeed, a sign of his kingship is that the chest will come to you in which is assurance from your Lord and a remnant of what the family of Moses and the family of Aaron had left, carried by the angels. Indeed in that is a sign for you, if you are believers (Shabani, 2007).

Cat in the world folk beliefs

Cat was holy creature in the past. Diana the Roman Goddess was imagined as a cat and the throne of Freyja, fertility goddess was pulled by cats. This respect was only due to the importance of the cats as the guardian of the grain warehouses against mice (it was imagined in the Egypt) and it was not because of the role of the cat as old enemy of snakes but it was due to its beautiful eyes that represented moon in wonderful way. According to the charming eyes of the cat this belief was common that the cats have extraordinary power .In east it was believed that human soul enters to body of cat after death. According to Italian myth a cat delivered its babies in the manger where Christ was born there. Cat is evil in Christian Europe (Mc Call, 2010).

According to Wales's beliefs, one of three disasters happened in the Bertani was birth of a cat from mythical pig called Hen-Wen. The swineherd threw the cat in the sea but the cat was rescued and. It is probable that this cat is wild cat (Chevalier, 2006).

Nowadays in Cambodia the peasants carry a cat in the cage from one house to others for demanding raining and the owner of the house pours water on the head of the cat and they belie that cry of the cat is so painful that it leads to raining and it can be interpreted differently by considering symbolism of rain. So, there is a relationship between cat and drought and it signifies the concept of material prima that it was not fertilized by prima water (ibid).

Sometimes cat is introduced as the servant of hell. Sumatrans believe that everything has been created from universal tree and death is on the bridge to ascending to the heaven and there is hell under the bridge. There is guardian in front of the heaven door with spear and arrow and a cat is servant of this guardian and throws the soul of the sinners into hell. In North America West Indians beliefs cat is symbol of agility ,thought and intelligence and it is balance observer that reaches to its goal so cat is holy creature and killing of a cat is sin in some religions(ibid).

Cat in Islam

In Islamic tradition cat is honored except black cat. The Muslims believe that cat is blessing creature and black cat has magical power. Usually the meat of black cat is used for elimination of the talisman and the liver of black cat is useful for prevention of bleeding in menstruation period. The blood of black cat is used for talisman .It is narrated that a cat has seven lives and the elves are appeared as black cats. In Iran when a black cat is tortured its twin come to irritate the person and this twin is an elf that is born with birth of everyman and this elf accompanies the person but the elf could dun the person. Also, black cat is an evil elf that it should be welcomed at night. In most of the Muslims traditions black cat is symbol of darkness and death and a cat has seven lives and every time that the pet cat is disappeared it participates in part of the elves .Cat changes place of its babies and this belief is used as proverb in Persian language(Chevalier ,2006).

Mesopotamian mythology

In the epic of Gilgamesh, Ankidou becomes sick and weak and he says farewell to his friend at the beginning of the eighth episode. He points to those who will cry on his death, the creatures on the plain, cypress and pine trees, bears, vultures ,leopards ,tigers ,caribous , cheetahs, lion and wild cat(McCall,2010).

Cat in Chinese mythology

Cat has no considerable attendance in Chinese mythology; only some part of the body of god of rebellion was imagined as a cat. In Chinese myths, the god of rebellion has body look likes wild boar, paws like cat and four wings without head and face (Ann Berol,2010).

Generally speaking, cat was a good natured creature in ancient China and cat and leopard were imitated in dances by the peasants (chevalier, 2006).

Cat in Indian mythology

Cat does not have considerable attendance in Indian myths and there are sculptures of cat in India that they are symbol of eternal happiness in the animalistic world(ibdi).Cat was the ride of the Indian goddess, so it is respected by Indian women.

Shashti the sixth goddess of married women and delivery was worshipped in the sixth day of creation and it was believed that the baby is vulnerable in its sixth day of birth. Shashti rides a cat and it is respected by the Indian women in contrary to dog (Cavendish,2008).

As before said, cats were goddesses of fertility in Scandinavian mythology and this belief is common between east and west myths.

Cat in Japan mythology

Cat is evil creature in Japan and it could kill a woman and converted to her. Apparently, the famous and calm cat of Jingo in Nikko was not decorative cat (chevalier,2006).

The cat of the island of "Sadoo" is a mythical creature that changed into a man:

"There was an old man and woman in the island of Sadoo and they could buy animal for offering of the end of year and they had a beautiful cat. When the cat saw misery of its owners converted into Geisha and called itself Okesa. Okesa engaged in Geisha and made money with dancing and singing and helped the old man and women. A sailor became aware and told this secret for the travelers going to Hokkaido and he told them the beautiful Okeas is old man and woman's cat. While the man was telling the story a gray cloud appeared and a big cat came out and stole the sailor and nobody could find him and only the travelers were rescued. Nowadays people buy a beautiful and dancing doll called Okeas in the markets of Sadoo and other cities of Japan for memory of Geisha (Pigut ,1994).

Aggressive cat

In Japanese mythology, cats sometimes behave in magical way .It is said that there was a young hunter he went to hunting everyday and he put only ten arrows in his bag and he returned after hunting ten preys. One day when the man wanted to leave home his mother asked him to stay home or took eleven arrows and he obeyed his mother .He went to hunting field and he could not find any prey and it was night. When he was looking at the moon he saw suddenly other moon and he feared and shot his arrow toward the sky by knowing the the second moon is a magical monsters and he shot all his arrows and when he shot the eleventh arrow he heard terrible sound of breaking huge thing. The hunter saw a big cat with eleven arrows in his heart .He looked at the sky and saw a beautiful moon and he did not see the second moon .He returned and told the event to his mother. His mother said that she saw a cat in the morning that counted the arrows and enchanted so she asked him to take eleven arrows and he killed the cat with eleventh arrow.

"Once upon a time cats attached on the peasants every year and stole a girl and take her to the jungle and killed her for offering. A warrior passed from the village and when he was announced he wanted to help them. That night the warrior dreamed that only Schippeitaro could prevent talisman of the mean cats. Next morning he asked about Schippeitaro and it was one of the dogs of the village. He put it in the cage instead of the girl and took it to the jungle and hid there. Then the big cats came and danced around the cage and the head of the cats opened the cage and Schippeitaro came out and attached on it and the warrior jumped and cut the the head of the cat and the other cats ran away and they never appeared there(ibid).

Celtic mythology

Cat is less significant in Celtic myths and the cats are seen only in some religious rituals. Cumark the interpreter of ninth century refers to a "Himbas Forosenai" the fortune telling ceremony that it was done with eating uncooked meat of pig ,dog and cat; these conducts were taboo done by eminent individuals and they were died by avoiding them(Miranda ,2010).

In Celtic mythology the symbolism of cat is not as positive as dog. Apparently, cat is unreliable creature. Senshite or head of cat was a title of an oppressed person that he caused to destruction of Ireland. In ship of Maul Dewing one of the brothers of Kiapereh punished a mythical cat since it stole a golden ring from ruined palace where the army held a party

there. The thief jumped into a fire made from spike of the small cat and it was fired and changed into ash and began to play. The guard of the palace of king Nevada in Tara had cat eye and he got in trouble at night since his eyes were opened by seeing mice and birds and he could not sleep(Dictionary of symbols ,2006:699).

Swedish legends

In a Swedish legend cat symbolizes wise guide and counselor by magical power that could speak with human language and change its shape in case of necessity. This cat could identify correct from incorrect and benefit from loss.

The city cat legend

In Swedish legends there was a poor woodcutter lived with his wife and children and they had a cow and a cat. They were not happy. One night they quarreled on licking the pan. The woman took the pan and ran away and the man followed her with dipper. The children waited for their parents and they did not return. The boy asked his sister to divide their share from their parents' properties. The boy took the cow and the sister took the cat. She was sad why she has a cat. She heard that the cat says to take it and told her that it is beneficial for her .The boy went and the cat said to the girl: "If you do my orders you will be happy". The girl accepted the proposition .The cat said to go through the middle of the jungle. After awhile, the cat asked the girl to take out her clothes and the girl was astonished and finally she accepted. The cat tore out the clothes and the wind took them. The cat asked her to go on a tree and cover herself with her blond hair. The cat went to the palace of the king and told them that "we got in trouble. Thieves attacked on the princess and her maids and they killed them and only I and the princess are alive. They tore her clothes and she has nothing except her blond hair to cover herself. The king was angry and he sent his son to search. He ordered to give her clothes and take her to the palace. She was as beautiful as princess. The cat ordered her to be careful about the queen. The king wanted the prince marry with her but the queen was dissatisfied. She could gain attention of the queen by the help of the cat. After several days the king and queen wanted to see the fort explained by the princess to hold wedding party there. The poor girl was sacred but she could trust to the cat. Next day they were ready for journey .They arrived to the territory of Troll that he came out to robbery every night. He had a huge pile of gold and silver in his fort and the walls of the fort were made of gold. Troll only feared sun and they could not bear sunshine. The cat was aware of this fact and it could change itself to a pie and enter to the hole of the lock and prevented opening of the door by the Troll. The cat spoke with Troll so that the sun was arisen and he was killed and his followers ran away and the people were happy. The cat said to the people that "soon your princess will come with her fiancée and she is messenger of light. Welcome her and have a party". So, a great prey was held and the princess and her cat were member of the loyal family .They lived happily in the fort of the city cat (kaplan, 1973).

African mythology

In the south and central Africa Tlaloc is the god of rain and waters .He is shown with ritual signs in the Laud texts. The thunderstorm like rowing of the wild cat (fourteenth sign) is sing of this god.(cavendish,2008).

Tezcatlipoca is the main rival of Quetzalcoatl at the Temple of Toltec at Tula in the meaning of mirror, luminosity and fog. His characteristics in Shaman position are holistic and he is god of quarrel and battle .The forces of Tezcatlipoca like Toltec are shown in twenty signs. These signs show sharpness of dreadful spear, speed and sensitivity of his eyes. The wild cat in his foot is symbol of his army (ibid).

Cat in North, Central and South America

The wild cat is valuable symbolically in the South America mythology and the wild cats are described as the protector of agricultural products and the master of fire (ibid).

Value of the wild cat in Brazil

Necklace was made by the teeth of wild cat as symbol of power for warriors and shamans in Mato Grasso. Cat offered fire to human being. The warriors and shamans were recommended to convert themselves to wild cat (ibid).

Stealing fire from wild cat

This myth is originated from Kayapo-Gorotire in the center of Brazil. There were two American native parrots nested on the rock West Indian Botoque and his sister in law went there to catch the babies of the parrots. Botoque searched their

nest found only two eggs there. His sister in law resisted on taking the eggs and when he got the eggs they fell down and converted into stone and the hand of the great man was injured and got angry and he took the ladder and Botoque remained there and became thin and he had to eat his stool since he was hungry and thirsty. Finally, he saw a wild spotty cat with spear and arrow and different prey. The wild cat saw him and put the ladder and wanted him to come down but he was scared and the wild cat proposed him to go the cat's house and eat food. The West Indians were not familiarly with fire and they ate uncooked meat. He ate cooked food in the cat's house for the first time. The wife of the wild cat was a West Indian and she disliked Bo toque and since they had no child they adopted him as their children. The woman gave him dried meat and scratched his face. Bo toque complained to the wild cat and the cat blamed the woman. One day the wild cat gave him arch and arrow and taught him to shoot and recommended him to use them when the woman attend and his arrow hit the woman and killed her and Bo toque took a piece of meat and escaped.

He told his story to the peasants and divided the piece of meat with them. They decided to have fire. When they arrived to wild cat house there was nobody there and they could not eat cooked meat. The wild cat was angry on his son in law because of stealing fire and learning the secret of arc and arrow. Then the wild cat disliked creatures especially human being. Now the reflection of fire can be seen in its eyes and it uses his teeth for hunting and eats uncooked meat and never eats barbecue (ibid).

The son in law of the wild cat

According to Mundurucu mythology in north of Brazil a deer got married with a daughter of a wild cat without knowing her, since the animals looked like humans. One day he decided to meet his wife parents'. His wife told him that they are mean and they tickled up you and if you laugh they eat you. The deer succeeded and he knew that they are wild cat and they hunted a deer and they wanted to eat it. Next day the deer said that he wants to go hunting and he brought a dead wild cat to scare them. Since then wild cats and deer are careful about each other. The wild cat asked the deer how you sleep. He replied with open eyes and said when I am awake I close my eyes. How about you? I do vice versa. Then wild cats could not escape when the deer was asleep and when he awaked they escaped and the deer ran in opposite direction (ibid).

Egyptian mythology

In contrary to other myths that cat is a mean creature it is in higher rank with god like status in Egyptian mythology. Offense and harassment of a cat was considered sin. Cat, Bast, is goddess of lion and fertilizing heat of sun.

Bast or Bastet was a god considered with the same status as Artemis due to similarity with Tenet the goddess with head of lion. She was spiritual ruler of Bubastis the capital of the eighth province of Lower Egypt. Bubastis is house of Bast. Bast was great god in 950 BC during Libyan pharos of 22nd dynasty and Bubastis was their capital. Although she was female lion goddess but she also was goddess of sun fertilizing heat. Cat was her holy creature and she was shown as a woman with head of cat with shield with her right hand like a semicircle veil with head of female lion and she has a basket in her left hand. It was believed that Ra, god of sun was Bast's father or brother. She was mistaken with Sekhmet and she was considered wife of Ptah of Memphis and they formed triplet with Nefertem as their child. Although Bast was protector of Bubastis kings but he was one of the gods of Egypt and he was exalted in 4th BC. He had secondary form like Pekhet the goddess with head of cat or lion belonged to Speos Artemidos in the east of Bani Hassan. Bast was goddess of pleasure, music and dancing and she played lute with her portrait while she had a cat in her hand. She was protector of men against contagious diseases and evil souls. Ceremonies were held in her temple. Herodotus writes: Bast ceremony was one of the great annual ceremonies in Egypt and the people were gathered together from all over the country to participate in this ceremony and they sailed with boat and played lute and the women accompanied the men with dancing and singing. They walked in the city and participated in the rituals and danced and sang (Hart, 2008).

The followers of Bast gathered sculptures of cat for pleasing their goddess and they buried the mummified body of cats in her altars and they respected to cats (ibid).

Diodorus writes: "When a creature was consider holy the person who killed it he put into death sentence and before execution of the verdict the people mocked him up and he was punished in barbaric way. The Egyptians were so superstitious about the holy creatures that they held their ceremonies eagerly. When Ptolemy Aleuts was not confederated with Romans and the Egyptians welcomed Italian tourists and avoid any conduct leading to complain and termination, suddenly a Roman killed a cat and the people attacked on him and the heads of the trials appointed by the king could not protect the man and they killed him and I saw this incident myself during living in Egypt"(ibid).

In Herodotus opinion, the cats were so respected that when a building fired they rescued cats at first then the extinguished the fire since death of cats were so painful than damage of fire. When a holy creature was died the people participated in its funeral ritual. In some case like Apis, the king had to bury the dead animal (ibid).

Treatment with cat hair by Isis in Egypt mythology

In a Papyrus in Britain museum (10059) Isis cured fever and burning by this method: the patient converts to a young Horus that he is burning in the desert. Isis enters and asks about water and she could not find water and she says it is not important and I have water in my mouth and Nile between my legs. She says these words on the solution of human milk, turpentine and cat hair and then the patient eats it so he is treated”(Hart ,2009).

In most drawings Bast goddess is seen with a knife in her hand and Apophis dragon of darkness as the enemy of the sun that wants to overturn the holy boat during passing from underground world. Cat is symbol of force that a goddess has offered it to the men for victory on their enemies (chevalie, 2006& Hart, 2009).

Conclusion

Nowadays cat is found in roofs and ruined places that chasing mice. A creature that a child or an adult calls it a dirty creature and hits it with a stone .If you look at it at night you will see that it sees something that we could not. In common belief it is an elf with its shining eyes. The creature is origin of diseases and microbes. Today people are more superstitions than the past. In study on the Persian literature, mythology, religious texts, legend and beliefs we find that the people in the past were abstract than today. There are elegant poems and prose in Persian literature that indicates depth of meaning and concept like a beautiful tableau. They are sometimes narrated as proverbs and events. In literature, in order to avoid direct addressing a group, some traits are attributed to animals and these animals act like representatives of groups like merchants, rulers, common people, warriors, wise men and etc. Then they indicate their behaviors, good and bad conducts and the reader judge about them. By investigation on tales and pomes on cat we find that cat is symbol of deceitful, rude, greed, jealous and far sighted, boastful, hypocrite people and it symbolizes carnal soul, passion, death and meanness. Indeed ,the Iranian poets and writers have chosen animas like cat and wolf that are fast and fierce and wild due to their wild nature.

The shining eyes of cat and sculptures remained form the ancient times in the museums depicts that in the past cat had gained godlike status in the mind of naïve people. In the Egyptian mythology and in the drawings found on the caves walls the beautiful goddess of Bast has a knife and Apophis sanke and dragon in her hands as visualization of sun and she wants to overturn the holy boat passing from the lower world. Here cat is symbol of power for support of the human being in order to dominate on his enemy. Killing of cat was unforgivable sin in Egyptian opinion and the sinner was punished. The goddess with head of cat is symbol of sun fertilizing heat, pleasure, music and dancing. It is true that we cannot find the reason of using animals or other creatures as symbol in the myths. It seems that the reason for using cat as symbol of heat and sun light is due to shining of its eyes that they shine at night like sun. It is god of pleasure and music because it is fast and shows funny movements that unconsciously causes to happiness. Cat has exalted position in North, Central and South America. It has played important role for Brazilians. The sharp teeth and fast movement of cat is symbol of power for warriors and they hung necklace made of wild cat teeth in order to have unlimited power of wild cat. In legends of this country wild cat is the first creature that offered fire for human. It is probable that arrow and arc is symbol of wild cat sharp paw and fire is concept of wild cat sharp eyes. In Japan mythology cat has dual figures and it fluctuates between evil and goodness. May be the hostility between human and animals is rooted in such beliefs. Cat symbolizes thinking and intelligence for West Indians due to sitting as mediating. Cat is symbol of disaster for Wales’s people. It is probable that attendance of cat at home and accompaniment by women has led to knowing it as goddess of marriage and protector of delivery. It seems that the people in the past thought deeply about every incident and they considered animals’ behaviors and they influenced their lives directly and indirectly.

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