

“WHAT IS FATMAGÜL’S GUILT?” ETHNOLOGY AT THE END OF THE WORKDAY

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Abstract

The paper offers an ethnological reading of the Turkish series “What is Fatmagül’s guilt?” as well as a critical view on its broadcasting on the Bulgarian television.

The central subject-matter is a group raping which sets the main theme of the series: violence against women. The theme is developed by the authors in two main forms: physical/ sexual and symbolic violence, the latter regulated and maintained by the wedding ritual. The core of the latter is the problem of virginity.

The attention is mainly focused on the script and the way in which the pre-modern culture is presented in it. There are examples which show that the literary text is not only a superstructure over cultural facts or their basic illustration but in many cases it conducts a dialogue with them, transforms them and even rejects them as cultural practices (the problem of guilt, the “besmirching” of the woman, the first wedding night complex, the cultural meaning of the red colour in its relation with the wife, the bed, material and spiritual etc.). The series represents a good example of creative working with the pre-modern culture.