

ŽILVINAS SVIGARIS

## Mythical Kinship Relations in the Archaic Lithuanian Folk Songs

### *Summary*

In the archaic Lithuanian folklore, a person still lives in an open world filled with warm lineage relations. Ancient Lithuanian is focusing on the primordial origins, on sincere attunement to the living world, on respect for experience, and time-proven wisdom. Old Lithuanian songs intensively express the attitude, which families cultivated from generation to generation. The man acquires the identity and meaningfulness in the intimate family-like context, which was always full of songs and stories. These songs and stories bind all levels and all ages, and not only the living but also the dead play a significant role here. We should emphasize the time perception, which is entirely different in the archaic Lithuanian tradition. The virtues of the community lie in the past, not in the future, as in a modern progress-driven world. The Archaic man, unlike the

modern one, feels meaningful not because he uses the latest technological device, but because he belongs to his kin, he is part of it and representative of all its scope. As such, a mythical worldview based on kinship relationships symbolically expands lineage relations, and create meaningful connections, establishing a full of sense living world. A person lives in a world of symbolic relations together with his community. That brings together the kin in a certain way to continually recreate their living world meaningfully. This peculiarity sets the foundation for a culture based on ecological balance and harmony in the living world. That can evolve as an alternative cultural attitude and prove its superiority, robustness, and validity. That can expand further and contribute to a creation of a more balanced culture.

**Keywords:** Lithuanian folklore, mythical consciousness, kin relations, lineage archetype, archaic family songs.