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The article deals with the cultural and historical reasons that contribute to the emergence of new forms of actual archetype of the hero in medieval culture. Hero still serves as a leader, a cultural hero, mediator between God and people, without losing the opportunity to be sometimes trickster. Transformations in the core archetype are explained by the change of values. Christianity proclaims the supreme virtue of love. Jesus Christ acts as the epitome of this era of love. Christian saint is the hero of a new type and a new actual archetype. The ancient hero-savior destroys external enemies, but the hero of Christianity teaches us to deal with the evil of another order - paganism. Christian saints preserved features the winners and fighters of chthonic monsters interpreted as the personification of the devil in a new culture. They connect the readiness for martyrdom and suffering for the faith, but also the willingness to actively, sword in hand, to defend the sacred values of its people. So there is a new actual archetype - the archetype of the knight, which has intensified the protection function and active heroism inherent in the archetype of the hero-warrior. The figure of the knight as one of the transformation of the archetype of the hero has its own characteristics. We can talk about chivalry as a symbol of the era of chivalry, and as a class. The church sacralized image of Knight, pointing to role models. It created a cultural contradiction. Knight had a goal to protect the Holy Land, but at the same time his goal has predatory nature. Knightly Order was built as a military and religious organization. Here again it is embodied the archetype of the warrior, with his characteristic motif of self-denial. On the one hand, the Christian idea of forgiving and loving to all the victims, on the other hand - the idea of the military, which has nothing to do with Christian morality. However, chivalry describe heroic battles, noble feats and brave knights in shining armor, their heroic death. Literature began to personify not only an escape from reality, nostalgia for a "golden age", but the thirst for change that prevailed in the atmosphere heavy, dark, vain and deceptive everyday reality. Humanity needed heroes. Knight became its hero already out of religion,

selflessly fighting giants, witches, protecting the entire code of virtue. As you can see, there are a contradiction of the ideal and reality and contradiction inside the ideal (Christian virtues and military). Nevertheless, the logic of the archetype is not broken. The core remains the same: the protection function of their people and the sacred values combine in the traditions of the battles with the giants and the dark forces of evil.

Keywords: cultural archetype of the hero, medieval culture, Christian values, a holy, a knight.

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