Memed, My Hawk (Ince Memed) in Relation to the Epic Tradition

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Abstract. Memed, My Hawk, a modern epic novel of the literary Turkish tradition published in 1955, could be classified as an example of World Literature (Weltliteratur) in the Goethean meaning of the term (Eckermann, J.P., Gespräche mit Goethe in den letzten Jahren seines Lebens, trans. John Oxenford as J.W. von Goethe, Conversations with Eckermann, repr. North Point Press, 1994, p. 132). The many interwoven references and connections to other narrative modes, literary stereotypes, topoi and themes make this work an interesting object of critical analysis, proving that there is not only a national literature, which this novel of course belongs to, but also a more widespread literary context. I will identify, through the chapters and the pages of the novel, some of the literary commonplaces and intertextualities that can be referred to the Epic tradition of various epochs and national literatures.