investigate the image of Bedouins and the “Bedouin Chiefs” through analyzing selected traditional oral lyrics

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Abstract
This paper will investigate the image of Bedouins and the “Bedouin Chiefs” through analyzing selected traditional oral lyrics, folk wedding songs and mourning chants. The main goal of this study is to capture the conflicted image of Bedouin tribes in the Egyptian folk tradition, fathoming how the Egyptian collective unconscious preserved the portrayal of the Bedouin Chief reflected in oral folk tradition. I will also focus on the opposition between that image and the stereotypical one dominating by European orientalist. Classical Arab historians and European orientalist explorers have portrayed Arab Bedouin tribes known as badw or Arab tribes, who settled or migrated across Egypt and North Africa throughout various historical periods equivocally and aporetically. Historians and Western scholars have imparted multiple accounts and vivid descriptions of these settled Arab tribes, they depict the long cultural bitter conflict between urban lifestyles and traditional Bedouin culture, and epitomize the polarization and conflict between urbanized and nomadic culture and associated negative images towards Bedouins. For example, many historians and Western scholars the oppression and injustices suffered by Egyptian peasants or the conflict between peasants and Arab Bedouin tribes in Egypt. Contrary to these historical observations, the portrayal of Bedouin Chiefs in the popular collective unconscious and oral tradition was not necessarily negative but was rather imbued with respect in many instances and with idolization in others. I argue that, the Egyptian folk tradition was more tolerant to and welcoming of the Arab or Bedouin tribes as a tile c in the Egyptian cultural and social mosaic. My critical analysis will define the characteristic of Bedouin Chiefs”, and will investigate the image of Bedouins and the “Bedouin Chiefs’ through analyzing selected traditional oral lyrics, folk wedding songs and mourning chants. The main goal of this study is to capture that conflicted image of Bedouin culture in
the Egyptian folk tradition, fathoming how the Egyptian collective unconscious preserved the portrayal of the Bedouin Chiefs reflected in oral folk tradition and opposition between this image and the negative, stereotypical one dominating the official history of the sociopolitical notes.

**Keywords:** Arabic Narratology, Image of “Bedouin Chiefs”, Egyptian folk, Oral tradition, Bedouin tribes

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