

This thematologically oriented study is grounded in the Indian collection of tales *Vetala Panchavimshati* from the 11th century and its implicit comparison with European arch-narratives (especially traditional fairy tales). It seeks to identify similarities and differences in the portrayal of existential strategies that guarantee the most meaningful handling of Being (*Dasein*) in the iconized lifeworld, *eo ipso* in the fictional world. The goal of this comparative interpretation is the definition of two basic existential “arch-grammars”, which differ primarily in what the fictional world regards as a loss (deficit) and profit (surplus).