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On the Narrative Structure of Vida's "*Christias*"

Shota Kozuki

This paper focuses on the structure of Vida's Christian epic "*Christias*". Comparing with other biblical epics, this epic has a unique structure. In the central books of this epic (Book 3 and 4), Jesus the protagonist doesn't appear. Instead of the action of Jesus, these books are filled with the narratives of two characters, Joseph and John, which treat with Jesus' s career. These narratives about Jesus make readers reflect on their experience of reading "*Christias*" and lead them to interpret the whole epic not as a fiction but as the teaching of Jesus. For this epic, ideal readers are the people who try to think rightly of the real meaning of the miraculous events in this epic and praise to God. Such readers are depicted by the poet in Book 6 as "A Crowd Singing Hymn to God".