

The Skeleton and the Scribe: Subverting the epic  
narrative in Driss Chraïbi's *Birth at Dawn*

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**Abstract.** This article analyzes the subversion of the epic in Driss Chraïbi's *Birth at Dawn* through the dichotomy of "Bodies and Words in Conflict" Using the metaphor of the Skeleton (body, blood, action) against the Scribe (Logos, political authority), we show how institutional rhetoric annihilates individual heroism and rejects essential bodily truth. The corrupt Logos descends into sensory and descriptive decadence, necessitating a final Mot-Acte to purge the system. The analysis concludes that history, viewed cyclically, is an eternal return where the Squelette's momentary purity is inevitably corrupted by the Scribe's power.

**Keywords:** Driss Chraïbi, Birth at Dawn, Bodies and Words Dichotomy, Subversion, Genealogy, Epic.