

Astronomy and Catastrophes Through Myth and Old Texts

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Abstract

In the old myths and iconographies there are some motives that indicate at least one cataclysmic event that influenced many old religions and myths, that could be linked to the impact of the celestial object. We investigate the hypothesis of coherent catastrophism put forward in recent years by Clube, Bailey, Napier and others from both astrobio-logical and culturological points of view. The conventional idea that the quasi-periodic break-up of celestial bodies influence terrestrial conditions can today be placed in both wider (astro-biological) and deeper (historico-culturological) context. In particular, we point out that the link between the Neolithic history of astronomy, and origin of Mithraism. We speculate that the main icon of Mithraic religion could pinpoint an event that happened around 4000 BC, when the spring equinox entered the constellation of Taurus. We also, link some motives in other old religions and myths to the same event, or to some similar events that inspired those myths.

Keywords: archaeo-astronomy – history and philosophy of astronomy – Earth: general

The History of Belgrade Research of Star Positions Around Quasars

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Abstract

Since the interest existed to establish the connection between positions of stars determined by optical way and the positions of extragalactic radio sources, determined by interferometric way, in Belgrade was made a stellar catalogue on this subject. Namely fundamental stars near the extragalactic radio sources (quasars) were observed systematically for two years and the corresponding stellar catalogue was published (Sadzakov et al. 1991).

Here we will describe and review the work on this catalogue which was the contribution of Belgrade Astronomical Observatory to the formation of the new international reference frame based on quasars positions. This is very convenient since quasars practically have not proper motions.

References

Sadzakov, S., Dacic, M., Cvetkovic, Z.: 1991, *Astron. J.*, 101, 713.