

UNIVERSAL CONDITIONALITY OF TEMPLE ORIENTATION IN SPACE ACCORDING TO THE SUN FROM MESOLITHIC TO CHRISTIANITY

A man from Paleolithic could not influence natural habitat, such as caves, and their orientation. When a man started building himself, certain orientation could have occurred of their habitat and temples in time and space. The light and warmth of the ray of sun influenced the reforming of mythological understanding of men. Annual movement of the sun was put within the frame of the natural mechanism as a factor of time that, by light, sets horizontal and vertical layout of the tabooed space.

For the first time, in Mesolithic culture of Lepenski Vir a calendric understanding of the magic of sun was noticed using static spots on the eastern horizon, related to its rises with a certain amplitude and according to that, the orientation of the front of houses - sanctuaries. Depending on the orientation of specific buildings towards the heliacal spots of the sunrise, their dedication to a certain divinity was determined. Since that time, the most important structure of temples and the settlements dedicated to the sun and other objects was the orientation in the calendric meaning, so it had never and nowhere been random but based on a clear and deeply thought decision. Thus, the function of many prehistoric sanctuaries and temples was not only ritual but to serve for astronomical – observational purposes as well.

The concept of the temples of Greek-Roman epoch was developed on old Egyptian tradition- as a variation of a single type, Horus Temple at Edfu. The temple gets highly complex and strictly canonic device with the walls filled with paintings and writings in the context of the divine revelation. Antique temple becomes the house for the God of the Sun, and it was arranged according to any of his hypostasis. The openings in the buildings in prehistoric period lead the rays of sun into the crypt, and in the Christian temples into the heart of the altar where the symbolism of time and space is formed by the light of the higher meaning.

The holy tradition and understanding of orientation towards the God and the Sun is continued by the Christian builders bearing in mind that a believer, entering the temple walks towards the light on their way of salvation. The orientation and positioning of the inner space of the Christian church towards heliacal rises on the day of celebration of the saint, to whom the churches have been dedicated had been noticed and confirmed in Serbian temples as well, bearing in mind that majority of them was not oriented strictly East-West. According to that, it was confirmed and considered the location of certain saints in the walls, according to the orientation towards the light and Christian calendar that contains “hidden” cycles of the movable holydays depending on Easter. So the calendar-astronomic laws were highly considered, and unbreakably connected with laymen-state history. Decoding of these laws, magically hidden within the architectural and fresco structured of the temple allows reading of calendar data and determining of historical chronology, times of sacralization and building of the temple.

Key words: Temple, Mitology, Religion, Sun, Solstices, Geographical latitude, Symbolic orientation, Spiritual light