

VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS FROM MOUNTAINS OF ARARAT TILL ALPS, INDO-EUROPEAN MYTHS. ROCK ART AND ICONOGRAPHY

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RIASSUNTO

Lo scopo dell'articolo è quello di attirare l'attenzione sull'arte rupestre dei monti di Ararat che rappresenta una continuazione delle basi comuni dei motivi mitologici indoeuropei. Le eruzioni vulcaniche, dalle montagne di Ararat fino alle Alpi, spiegano l'evoluzione dell'arte rupestre e della comunicazione interculturale.

I primi cacciatori delle montagne di Ararat dimostrarono la loro conoscenza dei processi naturali delle eruzioni vulcaniche, delle eclissi solari e del concetto di "battaglia tra le forze del bene sulle forze delle tenebre e del male" attraverso il messaggio visuale dell'arte rupestre: serpenti e draghi celesti e terrestri, il sole, gli uccelli, ecc...

Quindi possiamo dedurre che i monti di Ararat sono all'origine sia dei primi miti, che del linguaggio dell'arte visiva e iconografica della civiltà proto-indo-europea. Queste conclusioni non contraddicono le evidenze linguistiche, archeologiche, storiche, geologiche ed epistemologiche.

Perhaps for 10000 BC at Mountains of Ararat has been the largest eruption (<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov>). The entire Araratian valley turned into a golgotha. The basic values of civilization, its cultural monuments have been destroyed. It is difficult now to date of huge meteorite in the area of Ararat. However, it remains an irrefutable fact that this event is not mentioned in historical literature. Around the Mountains of Ararat local parts of the Rock art (in the South-Eastern Anatolia and Armenia) detected, but not complete studied.

Vulcan (Latin: Vulcanus) is the god of beneficial and hindering fire, including the fire of volcanoes in ancient Roman religion and Neopaganism. He is known as Sethlans in Etruscan mythology. The god belongs to the most ancient stage of Roman religion. Vulcan was identified with the Greek god of fire and smithery, Hephaestus. Armenian historian M. Khorenatsi wrote that the dragons (vishaps) lived at Mount Ararat, the place where a lot of fire. Dragonstones are found primarily in Armenia, Georgia, Egypt, Mongolia and Azerbaijan. Vishapakar (Dragonstone) is a cultural monument with images of fish, snakes and birds no later than 5000-4000 BC (N. Marr) served as a stone signal, warning about the possible dangers of avalanches and a fire. In Armenian various gods and heroes traditionally identified with the gods and heroes from Greco-Roman mythology (the beginning of 4000 BC, Ivanov, 1990). The author is demonstrating the common Indo-European visual motives of myths, using Araratian rock art archetypes (see table). Many of the symbols were transformed to the early iconographic schemes of prehistoric Europe, Mesopotamia and Egypt.

Conclusion

1. The early hunters of the Mountains of Ararat illustrate their knowledge of natural processes of volcanic eruptions, solar eclipse, and "battle between the forces of good over the

forces of darkness and evil” with rock art: celestial and terrestrial snakes and dragons, sun and birds, and etc.

2. The Araratian Mountains are the origin of early myths, visual rock art language and iconography of the proto-Indo-European civilization.

3. Volcanic eruptions from Mountains of Ararat till Alps are explaining the evolution of rock art and intercultural communication.

4. The Araratian Mountains Rock art should be digitize and enter in WARA for comparative research with Alpine Rock art. It should also organize international expeditions for study new Araratian Rock art under the UNESCO and Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici patronage.

References

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