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Universality of the Humanitarian Knowledge:
A Cognitive Context of the Infosphere (Nestinarstvo/
Ritual Fire-dancing): A Rational Planetary Historiographical
Overlapping Map in the Anthropological Time Transmissions

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The information-retrieval aspect of the examined as a secondary-documentary knowledge system of the international universal bibliographic indexes of the planet, which are transforming the humanitarian cultural and value complex of the humanity (religion – philosophy – science – arts – every-day-life) as a methodological key for decoding the message of the folklore Nestinar ritual, preserved at the crossroad between Europe and Asia Minor – on the Balkan Peninsula in Strandzha (mountain in Bulgaria). Using the modern concept of the „information environment”, obvious and tacit knowledge in the planetary significant aspect of the overlapping levels of reality and consciousness, lends to cultural and phenomenological rational historiographical overlapping mapping of the subjects of physical, biological and mental nature in the ontological multilevel unity (interactions – information technologies – information collections). The natural connection of the millenaries in the rudiments of the traditions and the sagas in the Nestinarstvo have been preserved in archaic, open to ethno-demographic peculiarities; the kindred rituals, related to
plays in-around-jumping over the fire in connection with the summer solstice, observed all over the globe. The connections of polysemy of pagan and Christian culture, many times interpreted through the ages under the influence of the whole religious spectrum of the Humanity, genealogical propinquity of anthropological transmission of which denotes a cosmic unique code – a program of philogenesis of profound coherence of the course of planetary development.


Користуючись сучасною концепцією «інформаційне середовище», явне й невідоме знання в планетарно знаному аспекті обопільно перекриваючих рівнів реальності й свідомості піддається культуролого-феноменологічному раціональному історіографічному обопільно перекриваючому картографуванню об’єктів фізичної, біологічної й ментальної природи в онтологічній багаторівневій сдості (взаємодії – інформаційних технологій – інформаційних фондів).

Природні зв’язок тисячоліть у рудиментах традицій і переказів у нестінарстві збережений в архії, відкриття до етно-демографічних особливостей; рединні йому ритуали, пов’язані зі стрибками через вогонь у день літнього сонцестояння, розповсюджені на всій землі кулі. Зв’язки виявляються в переплетені істинної і християнської культури, багатоаспектно пересманізовані протягом століть під впливом усього спектра релігій, геолого-географічних особливостей, антропологічних трансмісій якого виявляє космічно закладений унікальний код – програми філогенезу глибинної пов’язаності напрямків розвитку планети.

I. Universality of the Humanitarian Knowledge

The bibliographical level of modelling of international universal secondary-documentary indexes of the planet, studied in their systematical dialectical globality [1], on sufficiently extensive, but at the same time detailed observable naturally historically determined level of congestion and filtering of information, achieved image of human world contented in the works of the written communications.

Emphasizing on the course of the world historical and cultural process and the Western science (philosophical anthropology, anthropological trends in psychology and sociology, properly anthropological studies, structuralism and semiotics) at the end of XIX – the beginning of XX centuries and the modern times – the last decades of XX century – the beginning of XXI century [2], the ontological picture of the humanitarian knowledge – knowledge of man on the base of revealing the correlations of humanitarian sciences – social sciences – natural sciences – technical sciences has grown into an information picture of knowledge of XXI century [3].

The problem of the character of the humanitarian knowledge is proved to be a general, universal problem of the humanitarian learning by the achievement of generalized global system knowledge and the practical operation and bringing into requisition of various empirically complicated realities and consciousnesses [4].

II. Cognitive Context of the Infosphere

The square root of the reflection from the observation of the infosphere – a sphere of information examined as a planetary structured multilevel entity, composed by mutually crossing, concurring, contrary and the like ideas on the real world and the consciousness reflecting it in the form of an information picture of knowledge – as follows: Methodological (S. Denchev [5-6]); Philosophical-scientometrical (A. Kumanova [2-3]); Information-technological (D. Hristozov [5-6]); Meta-classificational (N. Kazanski [7]).

The synthetic-complex and utmost lapidary recreation of the information picture of the humanitarian knowledge of the humanity in XXI century as a epistemological knowledge appears in the guise of specific case of the process of the universalization of the knowledge (observed at the same time as the process of specialization in it) [8].

The rhizomatical [9] (mental building of relations, materialized in the culture as a noospherical analogue of the biological structure of life represented through an intelligible screen the natural-historical developed secondary-documentary level of the infosphere [10] in the shape of an information picture of the world.
III. Planetary Historiographical Map of Knowledge

The cognitive substance of the rhizomatical information picture of the world consists in its phe-
nomenology – appearing in the form of an information picture of the epistemology [11]. The intelligible
layouts of the international universal secondary-documentary indexes of the planet – a cadastral struc-
ture of the infosphere [12].

The methodology of the contemporary scientific conception «information environment» (a triad: in-
formation collections – information technologies – interactions between men and equipment) revealed by
two cardinal interrelated sections of the infosphere:

- vertical (observed as a system unity of the levels of the physical, biological and cultural organiza-
tion of the life on the planet [13];
- horizontal (represented through mental by its nature ideal structures of interactions – points of
view, Weltanschauungen – as correlated information realities with the phenomena of the physical nature –
information collections and information technologies [5-6]).

The natural connection between the differentiated vertical and horizontal sections of the infosphere,
consisting of the unified nature of these sections (at a point) by interactions between the men and the
equipment of the information environment, which meta-system character of decoding the meaning
in the semantics of any dialogue and the sense of information reality itself is presented as a leading in
the information phenomenology [5-6].

As a result of the drawing of the methodological importance of the interaction substance between men
and equipment for the information modelling, the historiographical by its nature is the task of building a
planetary information map of knowledge.

IV. Anthropological Transmissions of the Time

In the information – historical-cultural – scheme of building of a historiographical epistemological
map of the anthropological transmissions of the humanitarian knowledge which are universally unified by
the entity of past – present – future as a noospherical perpetuity.

Appearing by its substance as an integrated time – cultural eternity, the past, the present and the future
naturally generate a historiographical material of the information environment in the genesis of the
integration of science, arts, literature, everyday life, philosophy, religion.

The described methodological formulation of the phenomenology of the building of the information
map of knowledge is rational in its basis because the moving idea to aggregate the scattered spheres of
the learning, the experience of the humanity as a process of open possibilities, achievements of his crea-
tion in the full spectrum of his being and consciousness – and material, and ideal, not neglecting anyone of
the diverse methods for establishing links between the reality and the consciousness.

V. Nestinarstvo: A Planetary Map

The folklore ritual of nestinarstvo conserved at the road between Europe and Asia Minor – on Balkan
Peninsula in Strandzha (mountain in Bulgaria), represents an open information environment of the
obvious and tacit knowledge in the planetary important aspect of overlapping levels of the reality, open
to the cultural-phenomenological mapping through a screen of determined documentary sources –
objects of the physical, the biological and the mental nature in the ontological multilevel entity.

The natural relation of millenaries in the rudiments of traditions and myths here has been preserved in
the archaic, open to the ethno-demographical peculiarities of eastern-rups affiliations. The relations
established in the interweaving of the pagan and Christian cultures, repeatedly pre-semantisized all
along the centuries (IV, IX, XV-XIX, XX) under the influence of the whole religious spectrum of the
Humanity.

The genealogical propinquity of the physical, the biological and the cultural surroundings with the
potential of the methodology of the modern scientific concept of «information environment» repre-
sents the cosmically implemented unique code – the program of phylogenesis with deep consistency of
strata and trends of development.
VI. Phenomenology of the Rational Ritual Map

To the attention of the scientific community the core of the generalized rational information map of perception the nestinarstvo at the methodological level of the concept of «information environment» is presented in the shape of a special sort of document – a script of a documentary of the same name (consisting of three fragments, reflecting one another: philosophical – technological –anthropological [14]; all these fragments being deduced from the multilevel isomorphic titles, provided with established connotations from the Holy Script).

In the cited at the beginning of the present work epigraph – «and they distributed to each as anyone has need» Acts (4: 35) – is reflected the rational paradigmatic character of the status of knowledge at the very outset of XXI century, in which focus the post-nonclassical information interdisciplinary science in the world of documentary information has a principal historiographical and historic-cultural futuristic deal simultaneously with an already transformed and with transforming world, given in the focus of the culture (cultural-philosophical-religious totality of the Humanity), containing in the guise of an information rhizome the methods of possible transformation by the man of his surrounding (and information) environment and of himself.

In this way the fact that the information science today has to deal with more complex reality than the tensile and localized matter, is taken into account with the phenomenological capacities of the human mind, being able to surmount the reality, into which the man is plunged by transforming it, displaying the deficiency of the initial alternatives and by this opening unforeseen before (in the information database) possibilities, from which derived and the natural state being in chime with the religion (drawing on the religion the conviction in the significance of the scientific way as an insight into the Creator’s providence) [15].

VII. Axiology of the Rational Ritual Map

In connection with the presented methodological formulation it is just the historiographical rational information map (of the nestinarstvo, as well as of any other phenomenon), which gives to the man the real chance to enter the information world as in the open information frame of manifold reality and consciousness and to choose from it (out of the information map) accessible and reliable to him (man) level and needs of comprehensive multifarious knowledge incarnated in the documentary flow.

In this human right of exhaustive information the contemporary information culture could not deny to the users of information. Because the free right of penetration into the information reality is a transformed learning of information science for intellectual (rhizomatical) information-retrieval equipment of providing the access to the multiform (including and mutually exclusive) approaches to the information realities, conceding to the man unlimited, determined by himself, unpredictable roads to the knowledge.

VIII. On the Road to a Meta-Historiographical Map

The idea of the planetary information environment of the culture appears as a methodological basis for adoption in the information-retrieval practice of the stupendous philosophical idea of knowledge of the entity of multilevel world of reality and consciousness of the Homo Sapiens [16].

In the bosom of this idea the following historiographical corner-stones of overlapping lines of knowledge underlie:

- semiotic theory of the culture, created by the renowned structuralists as U. Eco, Yu. M. Lotman and T. A. Sebeok;
- phenomenology of the myth and the religion, revealed by the American historian Joseph Campbell (1904-1987) and the Rumanian historian of religion Mircea Eliade (1907-1986);
- historiographical studies, closed to the traditions of the comparative mythology, developed in the modern times by two philosophers and historians of science – the Italian American Giorgio de Santillana (1902-1974) and the German Hertha von Dechend (1915-2001), investigating the roots of human knowledge and the observed transmissions on the ground of the myth;
- synarchy of the astrological conceptions (in connection with the status of this sphere of knowledge at different stages of the history), achieved in the interdisciplinary trend, created by G. de Santillana and H. von Dechend, and their followers, which roots go to the work of uranology of the famous Dutch
specialist in China of German origin Gustaaf Schlegel (1840-1903), written in French and published in 1875 in Leiden (photoreprinted in Taiwan in 1967);
• publications of the migration school of the symbolic transformatism of knowledge, dispersed in the different centers all over the world and studying this crucial problematics;
• comprehensive studies on Ancient Iran, Zoroastrianism and Parsism, Mithraism; Egyptian, Celtic, Ancient Greek and Antique Roman mythologies; on the ritual cults of the Sun, Light, Fire and Times;
• works, which appeared on the limit of the correlation mythologies – religions – ethnologies.

In the kaleidoscope of the universality of the established in the course of the world history of the humanitarian knowledge cognitive context the infosphere appeared as a basis of comparison of the constituting historiographical traditions about the nestinarstvo in Bulgaria.

The ritual dance on glowing embers is rudimentary preserved in a repeatedly pre-semantisized form in the course of centuries as a result of the transmission of manifold cultural influences on the road between Europe and Asia Minor, and which are subject to decoding.

The overlapping lines: 1) a planetary information map of the anthropological transmissions of the human culture within a time, and 2) a historiography of the problem of nestinarstvo in the studies of Bulgarian scholars and specialists in Bulgarian studies, – is a sign of the advent of a reef in the indicated trends:
• in the framework of the ethnology have been modified studies in nestinarstvo in Bulgaria in the beginning of XX century (Prof. I. Shishmanov, 1917), by which was surmounted on an empirical level the interest in the ritual dance established in the literature by its initial researchers by the end of XIX – in the beginning of XX centuries (the poet P. R. Slaveykov, 1875; the explorer S. Shivachev, 1898-1899; the collector of folklore monuments А. p. Stoilova /A. Popstoilova/;
• on the base of the realization of the ethnological level of the nestinar’s phenomenon in the beginning of XX century it became possible to establish its religious significance – the intense concentration of relations with venerable cultural transmissions from India, China, pre-semantisized by the Christianity (Academician M. Arnaudov, 1917);
• psycho-physiological problem in the nestinarstvo became a subject of study from the medicine (psychiatry) in the works of physician – philosopher E. Sharankov (1947), developed in the researches of the doctor –scientist (psychiatrist) Prof. N. S. Shipkovenski;
• the location by the historians of influences and relations of the cultural transmissions between the Ancient Iran and the Thrace (Prof. I. Marazov, 1975) do not find direct analogies in the studies of the nestinar ritual, but there is obviously a new spirit in this trend – the Iranian root in 2000’s (P. Golyski, 2003; V. Iliev, 2005, which is symptomatic;
• in the framework of the humanitarian knowledge the interest in the problem of nestinarstvo was transformed as a result of the studies of the historian Prof. A. Fol 1986) on the Thracian orphism (an ethnological, mythological and natural complex: I. Georgieva, 1987; V. Fol, R. Neykova, 1999-2000; D. Radoynova, 1999);
• Shamanism and the astrological grounds of the nestinarstvo are treated in the works of the historian A. Kaloyanov, 1994-1995.

Considering the documentary flow on the nestinarstvo as a system, one could ascertain the fact that there are not yet established evident relationship in the public consciousness with the studies on:

1. the region as a whole (Strandzha: the most northern in the remote past territory of the Ancient Egypt and the uttermost West outlying parts of the Persian empire);
2. the etymological historical-cultural character of the revealed related transmissions; 3. Proto-Egyptian roots of the information cluster (the information hints connected with Goddess Bastet) (analogically indicated Proto-Iranian roots).

In the literature there are very rarely studies consecrated to the religious spectrum of the Humanity, reflected in the nestinarstvo (and in the Christianity in particular), and those based on the historiographical method – a sort of the comprehensive study of St. N. Stefanov, 2008 (obviously suggesting of coming changes in the examined complex field and its versatile systematical reflection).

IX. General Conclusion of the Information Approach

The universality of the humanitarian knowledge (Sect. I) in the cognitive context of the infosphere (Sect. II) outlines a planetary historiographical map of knowledge (Sect. III) in the anthropological
transmissions of a time (Sect. IV), revealing the phenomenon of the nestinarstvo as a substance of the comprehensive planetary map of epistemology (Sect. V).

The phenomenology of the rational map of the nestinarch’s ritual (Sect. VI) possesses an axiological nature (Sect. VII) and appears as a threshold to the interdisciplinary research way of information modeling in the building of a meta-historiographical rhizomatic rational map of the preservation, the creation and the transmission of knowledge for information-retrieval purposes without any restrictions of content-field, territorial and linguistic character (Sect. VIII), which provide unconditioned possibilities for information users to access the established multilevel (primary-documentary – secondary-documentary) resources in a dialectical connection.

Efficiently is such an information modelling of the retrieved sources of information totality of documents on the nestinarstvo and the related problematics, in which the cultures observed in unity of transmissions of a time (Sect. IV), revealing the phenomenon of the nestinarstvo as a substance of the Proto-Egyptian; Proto-Iranian; Proto-Thracian.

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