Cigán, Michal

Selected texts

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5 SELECTED TEXTS

The practical examination of mythological material starts in the following second chapter dedicated to the topic of primordial sociogony. It is an opportunity to interpret origin and the general structure of (P)IE society as well as to hypothesize diachronic development of its mythological reflection. As an opening part of the analysis it is oriented rather on basic structures of social reality and their (pre) historical formation.

Sketch of the basic context of situation in second chapter forms the necessary background for more narrow focused examinations of another socially embodied mythological theme, a witch-hunting myth, analyzed in the third chapter. Here the narratives on war between elites and witch-queen´s outsiders, as mythological reflections of inter-group relations and tensions, are discussed. Correspondingly, this part focuses on gender themes and affairs of social dominance.

Both mythological topics are chosen with respect to their supposed context of situation. Their texts seem to represent ideal examples of folklore texts reflecting certain aspects of their social reality. Their order of appearance is arranged to demonstrate a methodological move from the problematic of macro-context and cultural exclusivity to mezzo-context and cultural generality or universality, and from myths reflecting the existence of basic social structures of community as a whole to myths dealing rather with mutual relation of these structures.