

### **Mythic view of the Universe and Religious-philosophical Consciousness**

The science has asserted the fact that the earth is round like a ball for a very long time. Today, even the third-year pupil knows it, but it would be better if we considered the one of the oldest mythic truth, according to which the earth is flat, with more attention! In ancient times people had no doubts of truth of this statement. There was a time when such a notion was the only model of cosmic and human existence, and it was truth for millions of people. There were famous erudites, thinkers, military or political statesmen among them, and what is more, spiritual fathers of mankind, great religious authorities, clergymen, who shared the same idea. Hence, it would be quite right to raise question whether this assertion of our ancestors contains some valuable, necessary by today's criteria information, or this everything is the result of weakness and stupidity of human mind, which evokes only the smile for contemporaneity and nothing more. But the later is less acceptable. We can acknowledge that our ancestors were not so unintelligible and retarded not to know that earth was not flat, but round! They specially masked it, attached sacral, esoteric meaning to it, and covered the real essence of matter with poetic, mythic images. But on its side the later kept the information of great sacral importance (let's remember what kind of sacral and esoteric meaning was attached to numbers by Pythagoreans and with what respect they kept numerous secrets connected to them. It is known from history of philosophy, how one of Pythagoreans killed himself because he had given away the secret of number N.) Our ancestors should have known that besides this world (such dimension) there is some other universe, having another dimension, or without any dimension at all – in the aspect of super dimension (“The kingdom of heaven”, “Paradise”) The earth is flat! It stands on three whales, and these whales themselves stand on turtle.

Such is a very short content of mythic cosmology, which is poetic mythic-archetypal expression of real essence of matter. Whale is a water animal, so is the turtle. In both cases we deal with water that must not be accidental. Scientifically acknowledged fact is that origin of life is connected with water. It is not accidental that the first philosopher Thales of Miletus acknowledged water element as the origin – “Arche” – of universe. One of the seven Christian sacraments, baptism, is also connected with water, which is the beginning of Christian life. According to above mentioned archetypal model of universe, it stands on the water or its origin is connected with water. Bible also confirms it. Saint David profit says about it, that God had established the world on the water. “Who established land on the water” (**psalms 135.6**). The same idea is given in genesis, according to which: “Darkness was above the abyss and the soul of god wandered above waters” (**Genesis, 1.2**). Saint father John of Damascus explains that “Abyss is nothing more, but a lot of water”, “God created the universe to separate upper universe water from lower universe water”, as he “established himself in the middle of water abyss” (God placed the water above the universe in order that it couldn't be burned because of fervid of the sun and heavenly bodies). Hence from abovementioned the nearness and connection of archetypal model of universe with Bible is evident. It is evident that myth secretly tells us Biblical

truth, which gives possibility of asserting that the basis of archetypal model of cosmic and human existence is the Bible, Holy Writ.

Mythic and religious notions on the structure and regularity of universe have not been yet differentiated up to the end at the given stage of culture and civilization. It is true that religious notions dominate, but mythic ones are not yet rejected. Moreover, there is no conflict situation between these notions, just on the contrary, myth serves religion, it is in the service of religious faith, because it is purely specific human phenomenon. Geocentric system had proved religious anthropocentrism, to which the notion on earth flatness corresponded. It is true that in the times of Ptolomaeus the spheric configuration of the earth did not wake doubts, but these ideas came from mythic consciousness and didn't oppose religious doctrine.

If we want to comprehend the essence of the phenomenon, we should be not only scientist, scholar, but poet as well. Poetry is very close to both philosophy and religion (poetic images of psalms are not accidental).

When they say: "I am standing on something" – they always underline their own belief, faith, and just this idea is meant in the saying that the land stands on three whales or elephant (Hindu myth). Whale and elephant are the largest animals in the universe. Greatness is underlined by it, something huge, global and universal is implied (universe, cosmos). Their number is three – it is the symbol of old triad – love, kindness and beauty – or the symbol of God, creator of universe; turtle, which figures here, is certainly the symbol of time, which flows slowly like a turtle (turtle is nearly always a symbol of slow movement). Let us remember aporime of Zeno of Elea "Achilles and a Turtle". This aporime besides metaphysical and logic-philosophical contents has got poetic, mythic and religious aspects, namely, a man, even if he was a swift-footed Achilles, would never outrun turtle-time!

Shortly, according to mythic notions, the earth is in the centre of the universe (Geocentrism). This is one more archetypal scheme. Information and knowledge given here must not be considered in physical plan, but look at it "with understanding". Get it "with understanding" in hermeneutic plan (V. Dilthey). Then we can discover that our planet – earth is not in space centre relative to the universe, but in the centre of attention of supernatural, super cosmic being – of God. That's why anthropocentrism is the necessary feature of religious and mythic thinking. That is the earth is flat and stands in the centre of universe and is supported by three whales standing on the turtle (water). That means that three-dimensional (earthly civilization) universe is in the centre of attention and protection of superior supernatural being, God, and extraordinary long way going to him can be passed with love, kindness and beauty (love-faith, kindness-moral, philosophy and esthetics-beauty). The fascination and beauty of old myths are just in it. So our ancestors didn't have false and scientifically unjustified model of cosmic and human existence at all.

Ancient (if you would like, eastern) scientific or philosophic thinking is nourished by mythic, archetypal images of the universe. On its side Biblical thinking is nourishment of myth. Mythic images are closely interwoven with scientific opinions. There where "ratio" doesn't feel itself confident, it always resorts to the help of myth, in the result of which revealing of mythic images and symbols becomes necessary. Even genius Plato addressed myth in his very critical moments, when pure reason (mind) was not capable of progressing because of lack of power and skills. That's why people's mind devours myth like spring water, this likeness of truth, and there is nothing extraordinary in it. It can be said that it is our (human being's) necessary feature, as the human being is the creator of myth and symbols (E. Cassirer). Symbol, myth themselves are regulators of our experience and explanation-understanding, even because of this they are worthy of attention. It could be added, that

myth interpreted in this way is in unison with religion, namely, in Judaist-Christian doctrine, which is told in books of Holy Writ.

Unfortunately “Living perception of myth” has lost. It is out of reach and in some cases even is unacceptable for modern, totally estranged person. However, myth doesn’t require faith from us but understanding. That’s why it’s time for us to treat it “with understanding”. Myth hides truth in itself; it can be especially said on religious truth, which has objective, ontological meaning and is of heavenly origin. Esoterically given truth connects it with religion, namely, Christianity – Orthodox Christianity, which hides heavenly truth in itself.

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### **Мифический взгляд на мир и Религиозно-философское сознание**

В статье высказывается предположение, что философская интерпретация мифической картины мироздания, сегодняшнем научном понимании - абсурд, может дать ключ к вопросу о происхождении мироздания. По мнению автора, наши предки не были настолько непонятливы и отсталы, чтобы не знать, что земля не плоская, а круглая, но это знание специально маскировалось, придавалось сакральное, эзотерическое значение и прикрывало реальную сущность материального мира поэтическими и мифическими лицами. Наши предки знали, что кроме этого мира (такого-то измерения) есть еще мир, который имеет другое измерение, или вообще не имеет измерения. Например. Сверхпространство («Царство небесное», «Рай»).

Миф тайно сообщает нам библейскую истину, которая позволяет доказать, что в основе архетипического образа космического и человеческого бытия лежит Библия, Священное Писание.

Мифологические и религиозные представления об устройстве и закономерности мироздания на данном этапе культуры и цивилизации еще не полностью дифференцированы. Правда, в этом отношении господствуют религиозные и философские воззрения, но мифическое мировоззрение еще не отвергнуто. Причем между ними нет конфликтной ситуации, наоборот, миф служит религии, религиозной вере, и то и другое интерпретируется философией. В понимании законов мироздания мы должны быть не только исследователями, но и поэтами. Поэзия очень близка и философии, и религии (поэтические образы псалмов не случайны). Известно также, что философия Платона полна мифических и поэтических ликов. Возникает вопрос: почему? Потому что, когда уму трудно мыслить концептуально, подключается воображение, поэтическое и мифическое «мышление». Однако современные технически отчужденные люди давно утратили «живое восприятие мифа». Она недоступна, непонятна, а в некоторых случаях и неприемлема для современного, совершенно отчужденного

человека. Однако миф требует от нас не веры, а понимания. Поэтому пора отнестись к нему с «пониманием». Миф сам по себе скрывает истину; В частности, можно сказать о религиозной истине, имеющей онтологическую значимость и небесное происхождение.