

FOREWORD

The 5th Conference of the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF) Ethnology of Religion Group took place in Celje from 9 to 11 September 2006. The main focus of this conference, which rounded off the days dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Niko Kuret,¹ was on the relationship between religion and the senses. At the proposal of Leonard Primiano, this topic was addressed and thematized in the introductory paper by Gábor Barna. The papers themselves demonstrate various understandings and perceptions of the senses; certain authors focused primarily on the five senses (i.e., sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell), and others also discussed the sensations connected to these senses. The published articles therefore thematize the use and role of the senses in historical discourse and the personal perception of transcendence that hesitates between the perspective in which the body is not present, and that in which the body is expected to have a sensory experience. Pilgrimages are one of the main events in which the senses and sensory experience are addressed to the greatest extent, through physical strain, group experience (e.g., prayer and song), and experiencing new places. At the ritualized and, at the same time, internalized level, holidays make possible the sensory experience of closeness or family, and provide the individual with a feeling of safe shelter.

With regard to the relationship towards religion, the conference thus opened certain issues on the relationship between the perception of the senses and culture, between theological theory and folk practice, and so on. In addition, it opened certain topics related to an almost religious understanding of certain famous persons, such as Josip Broz Tito and Jim Morrison. At the same time, the conference leaves the door open to the issues of pain, ecstasy, and all areas that transcend the typology of the five senses and also offer individuals the opportunity to experience the transcendental through the senses.

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¹ Both meetings – the one in Ljubljana, dedicated to the work and memory of Niko Kuret, and the one in Celje – were funded by the Slovenian Research Agency, the ZRC SAZU Fund, and the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SAZU).

PREDGOVOR

Med 9. in 11. septembrom 2006 je v Celju potekalo srečanje komisije za vprašanja ljudske religije pri mednarodnem združenju za etnologijo in folkloristiko (SIEF). Na tej znanstveni konferenci, s katero smo zaokrožili dneve, posvečene spominu 100-letnice rojstva akademika dr. Nika Kureta,² je bil glavni poudarek na razmerju med religijo in čuti. Temo je predložil Leonardo Primiano, v uvodnem prispevku jo je zasnoval in tematiziral Gábor Barna.

Sami prispevki kažejo na različna pojmovanja in dojemanja čutov: nekateri avtorji so posvetili svojo pozornost predvsem petim čutom – vidu, sluhu, tipu, okusu in vonju, drugi pa so razpravljali tudi o doživljanjih, povezanih s temi čuti. Tako so tu zbrani prispevki, ki tematizirajo rabo in vlogo čutov v zgodovinskem diskurzu in v osebni percepciji transcendence, ki omahuje med pogledom, v katerem je telo odsotno, in tistim, v katerem se od telesa pričakuje čutno doživljanje. Romanja so ena glavnih dogajanj, v katerih so čuti in čutno doživljanje s telesnim naporom, skupnostnim doživljanjem – npr. z molitvijo in pesmijo – in nedomačo lokacijo najbolj nagovorjeni. Prazniki na ritualizirani in hkrati internalizirani ravni omogočajo čutno doživljanje bližine, družine in dajejo posamezniku občute varnega zavetja.

Znanstveno srečanje je tako v okviru razmerja čutov in religije odprlo nekatera nova vprašanja o razmerju med percepcijo čutov in kulturo, med teološko teorijo in ljudsko prakso... Prav tako je bil predstavljen skoraj religiozen odnos do nekaterih znanih osebnosti, npr. do Josipa Broza Tita ali Jima Morrisona. Hkrati pa pušča odprta vrata za vprašanja bolečine, ekstaze in vseh tistih polj, ki presegaajo tipologijo petih čutov, in ponujajo posamezniku možnost tudi čutnega doživljanja transcendentnega.

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² Obe srečanji, tako tisto v Ljubljani, posvečeno delu in spominu dr. Nika Kureta, kakor konferenco v Celju so omogočili Agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost RS, Sklad ZRC SAZU in Slovenska akademija znanosti in umetnosti.