

SLOVENIAN ARCHETYPES IN THE MIRROR OF THE FUTURE

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Asking ourselves which are the potentials of Slovenia for the future development, it would be wise to consult some of the original Slovenian myths. Basic here is the understanding that the mythic tradition transports some archetypal knowledge related to the country and its people that can not be approached by the modern logical way of thinking only.

I am convinced that within the framework of the mythical tradition it is possible to find messages relevant for our present epoch as they were relevant in the distant past. One should forget about the usual metrics of time while dealing with myths. On the other hand I am aware that mythical traditions can degrade to irrelevant stories if one is not able to translate them into the present moment of time and space, and secondly if their relationship to the actual processes of evolution is not clarified.

The concept of my contribution to the conference dedicated to the integral green economy in Slovenia is to choose some characteristic Slovene myths translating them into the coordinates of the present moment, with special attention given to potentials that they carry related to the future evolution of Slovenia.

The tenth daughter (Desetnica)

If a tenth daughter is being born, according to Slovenian tradition, when becoming adult, she is obliged to leave her family and her home and walk through the world life-long, communicating with plants, animals and other beings. She has to live life beyond the usual and accepted patterns.

This myth addresses a hidden and often ignored aspect of the human being related to our capacity to step out of the framework of the culturally accepted patterns. Within human beings there is a potential sensitivity towards plants, animals, landscapes and other beings that is usually suppressed. It represents the base of a new ethically more correct and loving relationship to nature and life itself.

Seen in the mirror of the present moment the myth addresses that aspect within us as human beings that is capable to transcend the given political, cultural and economic norms. It addresses our sensitivity for the essence of nature, the language of birds and the voice of the heart – while “the voice of the heart” is not meant in the romantic sense but rather as a symbol for the intelligence of the heart dedicated to two basic ethic qualities, love and truth.

Fish Faronika

The Slovenian tradition presents Faronika as a giant fish carrying the whole world on its back. If it moves with its tail, earthquakes and other catastrophes appear on the Earth's surface. If Faronika would turn around, the world would be destroyed.

The Fish Faronika myth addresses relationship with Gaia, the Mother of life i.e. the spiritual identity of the Earth. Nowadays we talk about the noosphere of the Earth – the holistic sphere of planetary consciousness in which we all take part, be it mountains, rivers, plants, people, elemental beings, animals etc.

It is not possible to imagine that a well grounded “green economy” could be created, or even a long-term existence of human race upon the planet Earth be secured, without reviving and upholding a loving and creative relationship with Gaia as the Mother of life and the noosphere of our home planet.

The miraculous Triglav Flower of Life

The myth narrates about the Triglav Mountain in the Julian Alps as the home of a male mountain goat with golden horns called "Zlatorog". Zlatorog is guarding treasures within the Triglav Mountain, The Triglav Flower of Life is capable to heal deadly wounds.

One should be aware that Triglav with its 2874 meters height represents the identity mountain of Slovenian nation and is the main figure in the countries coat of arms. The Zlatorog Myth lets us know that in the depth of the Slovenian essence a potential (a treasure) is hidden that is unknown to us modern human beings because our interests are turned too much towards the outer materialized world. In the mythical story the hunter inflicts a deadly wound to the sacred mountain goat following his egocentric wish to regain the love of a woman.

The treasure hidden in the identity mountain of Slovenia points out that there are archetypal potentials that need to be awakened, so that we could further our national renewal and open new horizons to our development. The archetypal background of the Triglav Flower of Life can give us a hint what the treasure is about. After the wounded Zlatorog has eaten one of its petals his deadly wound was healed. It means that we are dealing here with potentials that transcend the rational instruments of creation. They have the source in the intuitive, holistic and integral principles of consciousness that include the whole spectrum of possibilities including the illogical and cosmic dimensions.

King Mathias

The Myth narrates about the good King Mathias (Mathias Corvinus, a Hungarian king, was considered as protector of small people) that sleeps within a Slovenian mountain Peca together with his army. When a youth finds the way to the king and blows his horn, he will awake and come out of the mountain with his army bringing to the country eternal peace and abundance.

The archetypal background of the myth supports the human confidence towards the elemental wisdom and power of the land inhabited by the Slovenian people. Even if taking wrong decisions and dealing with our land in a devastating way, there is always in the background a source of inspiration that can move the nation to change the wrong decisions and to tune its action to the essence of life. The experience with the process of Slovenia becoming an autonomous state in 1991 is a good example.

The myth of King Mathias assures us that there exists the archetype of the holistic human being that in any moment tries to direct our attention to the basic qualities as co-existence, peace and abundance regarding relationships among people and relations with nature and our home planet.

Myths are symbolizing archetypal qualities that can serve as a core around which it is possible to organize human activities, social relationships and relationship towards all different parallel evolutions of the Earth. National myths can be of a great help in finding the path towards an integral and organic human culture if listening to their message.