

## THE INTERACTION OF CULTURES. BLAGA IN ARIZONA\*

Ramsey Eric RAMSEY\*\*

**Abstract.** The study starts from the “introduction” of Lucian Blaga’s philosophy to the USA through the works of translators, editors, and through the lecture of Angela Botez at Arizona State University. This starting point unfolds approaching the notion of the stylistic matrix and the metaphorical creations that Blaga has described: the stylistic matrix, the Great Anonym, etc. From this perspective the author construes the concept of man. The fact that man has become Man, that is creative subject, thanks to a decisive ontological mutation, could, of course, signify that man *completed* evolution which works through biological mutation; it could therefore mean that no superior biological species is possible beyond him.

**Keywords:** Lucian Blaga, Philosophy, stylistic matrix, Great Anonym, human being.

Is it as far as some might think from Lancrăm in Transylvania to the Sonoran Desert in North America? Much makes them distant to be sure, geography, language, flora and fauna; but thinking, as it is sometimes able, brought them near recently.

Thanks to the fine work of editors Drs. Angela Botez and R. T. Allen, and the translators of Blaga into English, Blaga was recently “able to visit” the deserts of Arizona, USA. The students who engaged Blaga's work in my seminar on Eros and Love learned much from his work. Foremost among the lessons, perhaps, are Blaga's thoughts on mystery. No doubt the Sonoran Desert is a mysterious place and the continent's first peoples seem much better able to encounter the mysteries than the very western, instrumental, and calculated spaces of the city of Phoenix, Arizona, which sits in the middle of this desert.

As Dr. Botez made clear in her beautiful lecture at Arizona State University at the West Campus, Blaga's notion of the stylistic matrix has much to teach those who have covered over the desert and its secrets. The notion of the stylistic matrix and the variable creations that Blaga believes come about in metaphorical and historical terms are exemplified throughout the arts and cultures of the southwestern USA. The interaction of cultures here, in their overlap, sharing, resisting, and dysfunction helped students understand some of Blaga's most salient points about culture and the creation of culture. This understanding was enhanced

---

\* „Revue Roumaine de Philosophie”, nr. 1-2/2005, p. 63-68.

\*\* Arizona State University, Phoenix.