

RELIGION AND CULTURE IN SCYTHIA MINOR

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Rezumat. *Din antichitate, religia și cultura și-au găsit expresia în principal în arcadele templelor, unde au fost sub semnul motivației și al inspirației naturii spirituale și religioase, păstrându-și tipologia sacră până în epoca modernă. În spațiul românesc, religia și cultura și-au făcut simțită prezența dintru începutul genezei poporului român, chiar din cultura protoromână.*

Abstract. *Since the antiquity religion and culture have mainly found expression in the temple porches, where they have been, above all, under the sign of the motivation and inspiration of the spiritual and religious nature. In fact, they have preserved the typology of the sacred up to the Modern Times, upheld by outstanding names of universal culture. Nowadays, on the Romanian territory religion and culture have been expressing their presence since before the genesis of the Romanian people. "The Muses" have been at home here since the emergence of the Proto-Romanian culture, which originated many centuries before the emergence of the Romanian people. It is the presence of the Μουσείοι in Istros (as early as the beginning of the 3rd century BC) that certifies that religious and cultural activities in the region situated from of the Danube were under the sign of the Muses.*

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Religion and culture have also found a fertile ground in the Gettic-Dacian settlements in the Danubian-Pontic space, on the ground of which the fortress cities of Histria, Tomis, Callatis, etc. were founded. There, they have been above all an act of faith we could call, with good reason, "the ultimate science" (Plato, *The Republic*, parts IV and V). The exponents of this "ultimate science" were the famous "Scythian Monks" in the 4th and 6th centuries, the founders of European medieval culture.

The term of "culture" comes from the Latin word "*cultus-us*", which means "honoring the gods, the divinity". In the ancient times, the act of culture was, first of all, an act of honoring the Divinity, being expressed not only by the proper liturgical act - namely, by the fulfilment of the liturgical rite, along with sacrifices - but by artistic creation (poetry, theatre, music, sculpture, painting, etc.). This historical reality was also typical for the North-Danubian territory, long before the birth of Christ, when culture was, above all, a product of religious faith. Indeed, since the 7th and 6th centuries B.C. - when the first Greek and Thracian colonists of Asia Minor (the latter being Hellenized by language and culture) have founded their fortress cities on the Black Sea coast; therefore, we can talk of a

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