

THE LANGUAGE OF THE CHRISTIAN MISSION IN THE CARPATO-DANUBIANO-PONTIC AREA (IN THE FIRST CENTURIES A.D.)

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Abstract: There are many controversies regarding the ethnic status, the place of dwelling and the language of the native population in the territory of Thraco-Geto-Dacian people, after the vanish of Roman Empire legions from there (end of the IIIrd century AD). At the same time, day-by-day new data and arguments come attesting that Thracian and Geto-Dacian territory was one of the first zone where the European Christianity got significant roots. Researcher, professor in History of Religions, priest and writer, Mr.Theodor Damian add to the issue some very interesting and useful arguments, supporting the idea that the explanation of the Romanians continuity and the preservation of their language can be demonstrated by a careful analyse of history of early Christian missionary activity in the first centuries of the New Era.

Key Words: Geto-Dacians; Thracians; Roman Empire; Gospel; missionary activity; Christian religion, translations, language of sermon.

There are so many mysteries with regard to our ancestors, the Geto-Dacian people, that the so called complete disappearance of their language in a very strange and unjustified manner almost doesn't surprise us. The explanations given for this phenomenon are mostly insufficient, scientifically unfounded and without logic. They are simple assertions, more or less artificial. Today is the time to look at this period of our history with interdisciplinary skills – which are becoming, day by day, more and more efficient. This is a necessary turning point for a more adequate and better understanding of the subject.

The purpose of this paper is not to exhaustively analyze the topic, but to reiterate, for those who are not yet convinced, a few historical and logical arguments and to encourage a critical examination of it in the light of the new research and publications.

The Church can contribute significantly to the clarification of the problem of our ancestors' language, because the Church – as an active player in history – carried out an intense pastoral, liturgical, theological and missionary activity among the Geto-Dacians. And if the theological activity (writings that had in view the interpretation of the fundamental teaching of faith with the purpose of crystallization of the Christian doctrine), the Divine liturgy and, especially, the pastoral and the Christian mission represent essential dimensions of the Church, and if the purpose of Christian mission is to convert and catechize large groups of

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