

DOLMENS. JOURNEY TO THE CRADLE.

Oleg Tatkov, a doctor, candidate of medicine science, Sochi (Russia).

Irina Kozlova, a specialist in theology, the Institute of Ecumenical Theology of St. Nicholas, Bari (Italy).

Denis Ovsyannikov, director, Moscow (Russia).

Instead of preface:

The authors of the article in 2007 took part in shooting a documentary, popular scientific film by the director Ovsyannikov D. A. –“Dolmens. Journey to the Cradle.” Taking photo and video cameras they tried to follow the way of ancient dolmen builders from Italy and France to the Caucasus. The information concerning impressions and meetings, small discoveries, the filming atmosphere is behind this publication.

“An inclination to myths is an integral property of human race. It passionately catches at any cases, strange or mysterious, at any people who are distinguished by their brothers, and then they invent a legend in which they later fanatically believe”.
Somerset Maugham. “The Moon and Sixpence”.

A Preface

For the first time Russian scientists began studying megaliths of the Caucasus at the end of XVIII century. (*Megaliths (from Greek –megas- huge and lytos – a stone) are accepted to call as constructions of huge stones or processed stone plates connected without usage of mortar.*)



Петр Симон Паллас (1741-1811).
С гравюры XIX в.

In 1794 the Russian academician Peter Simon Pallas took his attention and described in literature dolmens in the place of Chokrak-Koi on the Taman peninsula referring them to ancient Cherkessk monuments. (There is a photo of Peter Simon Pallas). Later in 1837 the Swiss Frederic Dubua de Monpere described the same dolmens in his book “Journey around the Caucasus” who had no doubt that he discovered the remains of the old Cimmerian town. Complex scientific approach for solving the question what people, for what and in what time the Caucasian dolmens were constructed A.S. Uvarov for the first time applied in his monograph “Megalithic monuments of Russia” published in 1876. About

at this time the historian Eugene Felitzyn made up the first map of the Caucasus dolmens spreading. (There is a photo of Felitzyn here).

(Classification of the main types of megaliths is looked in the following way. All megalithic buildings made of processed stones or hollowed out in monolithic rocks are called dolmens. The term was taken from European archeology and it is made up of Celtic words (Tol – a table and Men – a stone). A solitary situated megalith is denoted as menhir. The word came from Breton root of the French (Men- a stone, Hir- long). Constructions of many near-by standing menhirs are



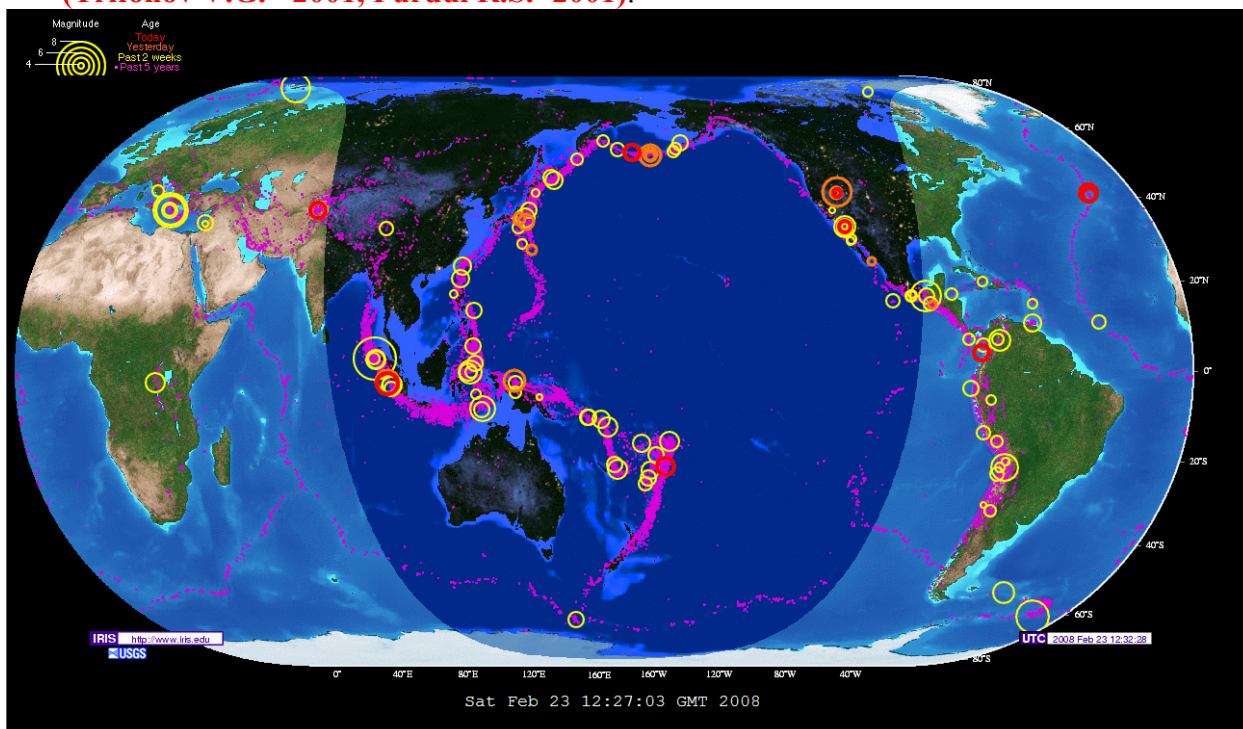
Евгений Дмитриевич Фелицын (1848-1903).
С фотографии XIX в.

called *cromlechs* (*Kromm- rounded, Lech- a place*). The classical example of *cromlechs* is *Stonehenge* (England). Some researchers additionally mark out the following:

- *Alinements* – stone alleys stretching for some km.
- *Stone circles.*)

Our planet up till now keeps tectonic activity which becomes visually apparent in the dynamics of the earth's crust which influenced and still influences on people's life and activity. Breaks were and still are the source of natural disasters that is earth breaks and convulsions of nature. In opinion of the doctor of geological and mineralogical sciences, professor, the State Prize laureate Vladimir Trifonov the broken rocks in the areas of breaks created low and direct regions which were used by rivers and presented suitable places for paving paths and caravan ways that is they became lines of ancient civilization. It was so in the Middle East and in the ancient Russia too. Besides the mutagenic effect of the earth's crust breaks provided the variety of wild ancestry cultural plants which allowed for the ancient farmers to choose forms more productive and suitable for reproduction. It is not all. Geological map of active the earth 'crust breaks practically fully coincided with archeological map of fertile half moon (an arch from Israel through Lebanon, Syria, south Turkey to borderland between Iraq and Iran) where some 10 thousand years ago the ancient agriculture took place which marked the most important pace in the history of mankind called "Neolithic revolution". *(In those times a man having killed nearly all mammoths turned from hunting and gathering fruit into cattle breeding, growing bread that is the fight for fertile lands took place. Besides there appeared a lot of work to do which could be charged with other people hence wars with the aim of catching captives and turning them into slaves began. Since those old times wars never stopped on the Earth planet).* The Kiev scientist Rostislav Furdui having laid the map of the known Caucasian dolmens by now on the map of the earth's crust breaks location of the Caucasus received coincidence of these geographical coordinates in 72% cases that practically we can't speak about mere coincidence.

(Trifonov V.G. - 2001, Furdui R.S. -2001).

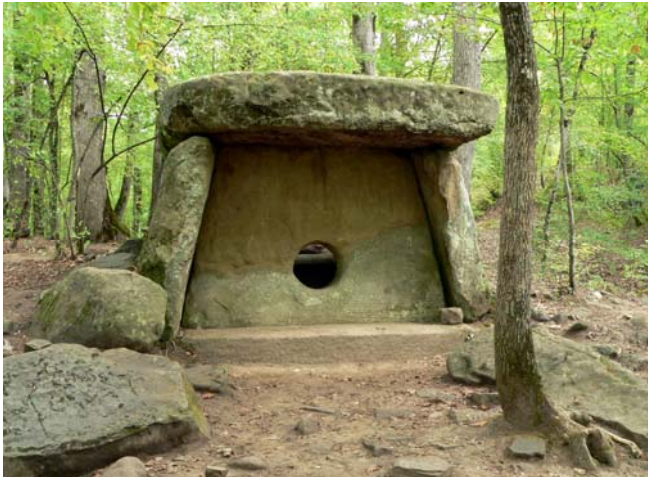


Nowadays it has already been precisely cleared up that the earliest world megaliths are in the West Europe (Pyrenean peninsula and Brittany) their antiquity dates back to V century B.C. As for the Caucasus "dolmens appear only in the second half of III century B.C. and apparently thanks to the sea ties which as the archeologists suppose took place because of need in tin from Spain" (Iberia).

(“Knowledge is Force” p. 122, №4, 2004).

The native school of linguistics made a great contribution into accurate definition of the question. As to the Corresponding Member of RASC Sergei Starostin who discovered a new sino-Caucasian

lingual macro-family that from IX to V century B.C. there was a common parent language among all sino- Caucasians. (Starostin S.A. – 2003). Its spreading range embraced wide areas of Europe, Central Asia, Siberia and Far East. Some groups of these tribes penetrated even into North America. On the basis of genetic cognation of the Basque language with the languages of the North Caucasian group as it was found out by philologists there appeared a supposition that ancestors of the modern Basques were the “authors” of the well-known in the Caucasus megalithic constructions of late Stone Age that is dolmens. This supposition confirmed the opinion of the Russian archeologist and connoisseur of the Caucasus Vladimir Markovin that the reason of beginnings of dolmen culture in the Caucasus was migration of dolmen builders by the seaway. And “mixture of Maikop tribes with newcomers for the Caucasus dolmen builders who by origin were connected with bearers of Iberian (Pyrenean) megalithic massive gave a real basis for appearing Adygei-Abkhazian ethnic groups”. (Markovin V.I.- 1997).



In the opinion of Vladimir Markovin all forms variety of the Caucasian dolmens can be brought to four main types.

1. Plate dolmens according to their forms are close to stone boxes where four walls and coverings represent whole plates. (It is established that of all known at the Caucasus dolmens 92% accounts for plate dolmens). The oldest and dominated types of dolmens in the period of flourishing of this culture in the Caucasus the scientists think that these are plate dolmens dating back to their appearance in 2700 B.C.

2. Compound dolmens are built with one or several walls made up of smaller plates or stone blocks.



3. Trough-shaped dolmens are hollowed out in the whole stone and are covered with removable plates.]

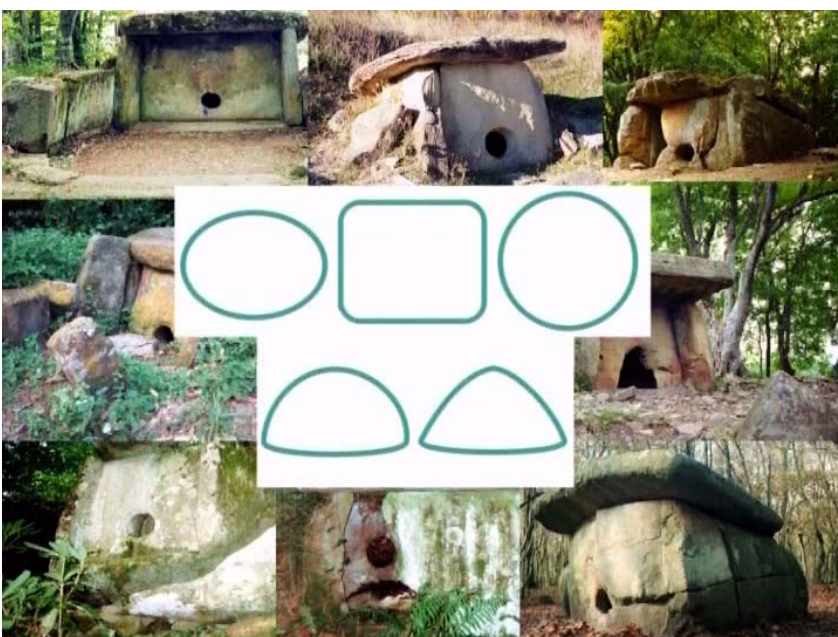


4. Dolmens-monoliths are hollowed out in one stone or rock together with coverings

On the whole in the opinion of V.Markovin evolution culture of dolmen builders can be brought to the following standard and temporary parameters: “At the heart of development of West Caucasian monuments is a plate dolmen built in the form of a simple “house of cards”.” In all variants of dolmen constructions (compound, trough-shaped, monolith) with their complicated forms and constructions one can see their relation with plate monuments”. “The period of

flourishing of dolmen culture falls on III and the second half of II century B.C. At that time there is a wide spread of plate constructions”. “The late period of dolmen culture falls on the middle of II century B.C. Plate dolmens lose clearness of their proportions, trough-shaped dolmens appear. By the end of the period dolmen-monoliths appear. Approximately by 1400 B.C. many of dolmens begin to be used as burials or as bones depository. By that time they stopped building them at that dolmen building was stopped earlier on the territory of modern Abkhazia and then in Kuban”. **(Markovin V.I. p.395, 398, -1997).**

Study of folklore of all times and peoples is a good job and the great Scottish researcher of fairytales and superstitions D.Frezer demonstrated it in his time. In all myths telling about creation by God the scene of action is usually a mountain, a solitary standing rock, a hill, a high tree or a stone that is “the hub of the universe”. The most famous of them is “omfal” (from Greek means “the hub of the universe”) it is up to now in Delves the authority of which as “the centre of the universe” was recognized by all ancient Greeks. In Russian fairy tales Tsarevitch Ivan, epic heroes and other characters passing by a roadside stone and choosing the way where the death waited for them in fact they passed the world mountain behind which a new world with its time began. In the ancient Slavs’ spells there is always some stone which “lies in the open country or in the ocean-sea”. Around this stone all spelling poetry-cure was built. **(Gorelova L.E. 2000).** Who knows maybe the well-known Russian oven (in which many miracles happened with heroes of fairy tales) is obliged by its hole to the ancient megaliths. This idea came into our minds when we found out during the shooting of the film some dolmens with holes bearing a strong resemblance to ovens. There are very seldom dolmens with oval or square holes or without them in the Caucasus. However in the most dolmens there is a round hole hollowed out in one of the plates. As some scientists suppose it is a treat for the dead. The other scientists think it is for the dead’ soul so that in the proper time it could leave the body and make for the world of ancestry. It is interesting to note that in some religions a special organ of the body where the sole inhabited was a foot. “The Slavs imagined that it was put in a special “nav” bone. Hence in the Slavic mythology the word “nav” means the dead’ sole. The echoes of this faith were kept in the well-known saying “the soul went into the feet” (to have one’s



heart in one's mouth"). (p.97, "Science and Life" № 8 – 2007).

The scientists agree in opinion that the roots of the megalith rise one should seek in pagan religious and philosophic views which very often were personified with ancient people with what they were surrounded with, with streams, stones, trees. For example, in deep ancestry people devoted oaks to mighty Gods: to ancient Greek God – Apollo, the God of the Sun, science and art; to the Rome God – Jupiter, the God of the sky, rain, thunder and lightning; to the Slavic God - Perun, who took up the same post as Zeus with the ancient Greeks and Jupiter with the Romans. *(Those were quite real oaks. So the center of Zeus' cult, the supreme with the ancient Greeks, was an ancient oak in Dodon with a stream welling out from under the roots. From this the well-known Dodon sanctuary originated later it turned out into the richest temple with a local oracle and it guaranteed income of gifts from Greek states and private persons. At first the oracle interpreted the rustle of oaken leaves and later (with improvement of prediction methods) by the clinking of vessels on which the statue of a bronze boy beat with a flexible branch in the blast). Neither Slavs nor ancient Greeks or Germans touched centuries- old oaks for fear of provoking the Thunder- Gods or on the other hand provoke an excellent archer – radiant Apollo. (It is quite possible that direct descendants of not destroyed genetic lines of oaks-“patriarchs” were preserved up till now). (Krasnoselskii.S. , 1995).* It is interesting that megaliths in France (at least the places which we saw) were in oak-woods.

In the opinion of English expert on forest folklore Alexander Porteus the first holy woods were on the hills (close to the sky) and it explains their worship. *(Buddha reached his enlightenment in one of holy woods in India and his comments to ancient books of China Konfutsii finished in solitude of a holy wood of apricot-trees).*

For a pagan this holy solitude wood seemed the place of worship chosen by nature and these woods were the only and the first temples. Here a man “moved away from the world” associated with spirits and undying persons.

Holy woods were more often round and very seldom oblong surrounded by a gutter or ditches. Very often there was a holy stream in such a wood. In the centre of the wood there was a round place surrounded by huge stones (megaliths) put at right angle to the earth and it is there where sacrifices took place. When



temples became to be built of stones several times a year the coverings were taken off from them as a symbol of openness to the sky. It was supposed that one could not attend such woods without benevolence of divinity. Sometimes even paradise was considered a holy wood where one should behave disciplinarily; contemplate mysterious and holy trees and stones which it was forbidden to touch. (Boreiko V.E. – 2002).



Worship of trees, woods, and stone constructions was not alien to the ancient Jews. Fraser saw the evidence of the faith in magic force of stones in Genesis 28, 10-22 (Jacob's dream on the way to Mesopotamia and building of Vefil altar) and in Genesis 31, 44-54 (entering into alliance between Jacob and Lavan and building an evidence hill). **(Fraser J.J., 1990).**

The same interpretation of the given fragments is more than disputable. However Holy Writ of Old Testament prophets contain the information about idolatry of the chosen by God people. Men of God condemned the worship of "woods and heights" by their contemporaries. Even Yakhve altars became the place of alien cults. *(The name of God was accepted to pronounce "Yakhve" (or "Yagve" from the Ukraine with "g"). In fact only consonants of this word are known as the Jews do not write vowels. They are four: יהוה. This tetragramme one can see in Christian churches for example Prophet Elias on the hem in Kiev (cupola). Besides pronunciation of a name of God was a taboo instead of it they said "Adonai"("the Lord"). Sometimes vowels of the word "Adonai" are used for יהוה, from here "Jehovah").*

Not in vain after returning from Babylonian capture which was taken as the Lord punishment aspiration for unification of Yakhve cult was arisen; altars were destroyed and the only place of sacrifice remained Jerusalem Temple. *(Tsar David Solomon's son in 960 B.C. built the First Temple on the mountain Moria. In 587 B.C. the Temple was destroyed by Navukhodonosor. After Babylonian capture the Jews built a new temple which was fully rebuilt under the tsar Herod the Great (37-4 B.C.). It was the greatest cult construction for that time. It was the symbol of Jerusalem, embodiment of its might and greatness. In 70 B.C. this great sacred object was destroyed by the emperor Tit. Nowadays the religious Jews pass by this Temple mountain not to step by chance on the place where once could stand only the server of the Church).* **(p. 72, "Knowledge and Force". № 4 – 2004).**

That was the only place blessed by God presence and the devotee Jews went there on great holidays for worship. This tradition existed during Jesus Christ (Lucas 2, 14) until the Temple was destroyed. In the period after capture there appeared the first synagogues (from the Greek- «συνάγω» to collect) the places for prayers and meetings but not the cult!

At the heart of monotheistic religions such as Judaism, Christianity and Islam which emerged from Moses tradition there is an idea about uniqueness and omnipotence of God. *(Axiom of God as the beginning of existing is very important. It is God who according to his plan and at his discretion*

created the world and manages it directly or indirectly with the help of created by him laws. In polytheistic religions it is much more complicated. Different sides of life are controlled by special Gods. In some religions Gods who created the world were dismissed and even died and their heirs and hired clerks not “the founders of the firm” are occupied with daily management).

So in Christianity God is single and at the same time it exists in three faces. The creator of management rockets system and cosmic vehicles, researcher of religions (at a mature age he was a deep believer) academician Boris Viktorovich Raushenbax showed that the inner structure of Trinity corresponds to the well-known mathematic object vector in three-dimensional system of coordinates. Depending on the chosen system one of the vector projections can be shown bigger; who worships Father, who associates with his Son and on whom descends the Holy Spirit. But in all manifestations there are all three coordinates/hypostases. Thus according to the opinion of A. Vasserman there is no contradiction between mathematics and dogma of Trinity. *(At that the same Raushenbax found other manifestations of mathematics in the religion. So strange by sight of a modern man inverse perspective of ancient icons not only correspond to some psycho physiological peculiarities of visual space perception at small distance but it hints that the picture is drawn from God’s point of view).* (Vasserman A. – 2007).

In Old Russia borrowed from the Greek Christianity forced out old faith and old gods. The most active struggle against them took place in those towns where pagan temples and statues were, they were destroyed at once. According to legends “idols” were usually drowned in rivers and lakes. In woodland Russia the monuments of pagan religion and household goods were destroyed by fire. The old Slavs cut out figures of Perun – God of thunder and lightning from an oak which they called “Perun tree”. “In front of the cut out figure they burnt unquenchable “live fire from oak tree” that is obtained by rubbing of oak sticks. This fire was resumed every year at Ivanov night”. (p.51, “Chemistry and Life”, № 5, 1995). Rocky Greece and Italy were luckier in that case. Many pagan monuments and statues lived up to our days though not in primitive appearance.

Adopted by old Russians after Russia christening by Prince Vladimir in 988-989 Orthodoxy for a long time was expressed only in outward forms while outlook of a man continued to be built on many pagan faiths and traditions. It was vividly shown in burial rite which was distinguished by its conservatism. Sacral sense of burial rite providing connection with the other world having mirror (with respect to the earth world) reflection always meant definite sequence of magic actions. For example there is a rite of closing the deceased’s eyes, “in corresponding with ancient notion about blindness of the deceased “. (p.97, “Science and Life”, № 8, 2007). We think that “oligarch syndrome” is not a modern invention and dolmens maybe symbolized even in those far times belonging to a chosen group, social layer, society. “Prestige is always materialized, emphasized and symbolized by something quite real. Food, clothing and deluxe accommodation are not important that they are nice, useful and comfortable but these are material signs that you are the first not only in your own eyes but in the eyes of other people”. (p.52, “Knowledge is Force”, №10, 1987). Expensive burial of a man raises prestige of his heirs and contemporaries. Let us recollect for example the Egyptian pyramids and burial mounds of East Europe and Middle Asia, their sizes and inner decoration. Dolmens in West Europe and the Caucasus and in many other places are in this row that is the materialized human vanity after death. At that period the things which people put together with the buried were very expensive though they understood that the dolmen could be subjected to robbery. It is obvious that things meant for the buried were made useless previously that is they were simply broken.

A very unusual dolmen we saw in Mamedov gorge which is in the outskirts of the settlement Lazarevskoe. It is of some interest that in its proportions we can see quite clearly analogues with Egyptian pyramids in other words correlation of geometric elements of one side of dolmen is clearly subjected to the principle “golden section”. (“Golden section” (the author of the term is Leonardo da Vinchy) is one of the main principles of proportion in world architecture. It is considered to believe that the first information about it is given in relief on the walls of Egyptian temples and the first realization of it is noticed in Egyptian pyramids. Under the famous “golden section” is understood such a section of a segment under which the ratio of its length to the bigger part is equal to the ratio of bigger to smaller parts. Pythagor, Plato and Euclid considered this ratio which equals 1,618 the

number lying at the heart of world building and in the nineteenth century A. Zeising declared “golden section” to be the main morphological law in nature and art. It is interesting to note that sizes of all Russian temples in many cases directly follow to the principle of “golden section”). Our group during the filming did not meet megaliths like that so similar to the Caucasian minimized copy of Egyptian pyramids. If the supposition is true dolmens are older than pyramids so it looks as if architects will have to rewrite the history of their science.



It is supposed that megaliths were constructed together with altars and cemeteries (or fulfilled the functions of both) and they were the places of family gathering on the day of commemoration. They were the spaces of intense exchange of things, information and also the spaces of social acts where political, lawful and economic aims were taken. Gradually the place near megaliths was made comfortable; trade rows and dwellings arose that is a town appeared. By the way super popular in our country feng shui grew from the dead cult having a great significance in China since the old times. ***(In China there has never been a tradition to create a common cemetery. Every one was free to bury his diseased member of the family where he liked or how he liked. At the same time the Chinese paid great importance to the rite of burial as they thought from where mortal remains would lie, Nature would take them correctly and well-being of living beings would depend on it. That is why it was feng shui which ordered where and how one should bury his near relations). (Rudenko B. 2007). (In this way it is very indicative that according to the information of “The New York Times” Prinston Laboratory of Engineer Anomalies Research, the research centre of “extra sensory” abilities was closed at the end of February in 2007. During 28 years of its work the centre gathered nearly \$10 million of donations for its research but it did not publish any of its work in any decent journal. The most famous result received at the laboratory was a statement about a man’s ability to change observation probability of casual events by putting some thought in them in a fraction of one hundredth percent. They also failed to publish this article in a physical journal as the editor asked them to teleport the article promising to review it in this case).***

However it is useless to struggle with blind faith. If a man believes in something not- cognizable one cannot change his mind as not- cognizable does no accept any logics or arguments. In that case keenness on feng shui looks like harmless pastime against a background of sectarian activities that chose the Caucasian dolmens the object of neo- pagan cult. ***(Ad notam there are 80 big sects in Russia now under the influence of which there are not less than 300000 people).***

As the leader of press-cutting service of Moscow Patriarchate the priest Vladimir Vigilyanskii thinks, “Sectarians differ from not sectarians that sacraments and Saints which the Orthodox Church has are not sufficient for them. They always try to add sacraments of penance, to add the quantity of Saints, prophets”. ***(“Russian Gazeta”, p. 14, №14 (4571), 24.01.2008).*** As is stated above it concerns in full measure the adept activities of unforgettable book by V. Megre, the “anastasiev” sect whose heresy is mingled with mixture of different senses of bio physical superstitions, cosmic fantasy and “near Christian” folklore. The members of the sect very often are “charged” from dolmens by energy of

different kind at that as appeared they had a whole gradation of “properties” of different dolmens (from sterility, for health, for connection with cosmos and others). It would be good but the sectarians treat the object of their cult- dolmens very disrespectfully, and what is more they destroy them. Our filming group observed everything more than once at that the presence of camera excited them up to such a degree that we felt uneasy when we watched “choreographic exercises” by members of those orgies.



For the sake of justice it is necessary to note an example of careful dolmen treatment in the settlement Shafit near Lasarevskoe. There, on the territory of the family farmland Bous several generations of the family preserve without help of the State a dolmen at that in a good state. We must note that respectful attitude to the monuments of culture is in the Caucasian tradition and the example



of Bous is not the only one and it cannot but arouse respect to them. There is one more example of “Circassia stone” which is at the settlement Kudepst near small corkwood at the stream. It is considered that the antiquity of this megalith arose the mountaineers’ deep respect to it maybe even idolization and they included the stone in the rites. Its name, the special houses for pilgrims built near the stone confirm this supposition. *(Archeological dig which was carried out by Markovin V. in 1972. It allowed him to find out ceramics dating back to XVI-XVII).* However that may be it is obvious that it is these circumstances that allowed “Circassia stone” to be preserved save and good up to present day.

However not all dolmens are so lucky. There is in full swing “rag-land” pagan cult at the Volkon dolmen-monolith near the river Godlic. There such rites as digging out the ground from under the dolmen, hollowing out pieces of stones from it and that even during the filming led to the destruction of the floor of this unique, the only preserved in our country dolmen-monolith up to now. There is no reason to speak about barbaric inscriptions on the dolmen. Time dispersal of these newly “petrogliths” is nearly a century. We shall have to celebrate such a joyless anniversary of inscriptions like that “Vasya was here” very soon.



A very interesting transformation at the Caucasus underwent gifts of “ex voto”. It turned into mass action of attaching to dolmens or near-by trees dusters of doubtful cleanness of unknown origin. *(Gifts ex voto” from Latin are “by vow”). They are brought as a gratitude for healing (in a whole for fulfilling of prayerful petitions). Very often it is a picture of healed organs. A striking example is a legend about the appearance of the blessed icon of “The Three-armed Virgin”. According to the legend it is obliged by its appearance to John Damaskin. Passionate defender of icon homage he became the victim of the Byzantine Emperor-icon fighter Leo Isavryanin. The late slandered him in the face of Damask caliph to whom John served and he ordered to cut the right hand to the Saint. The Saint prayed in front of the icon of Mother of God and his hand grew together. As a sign of gratitude he ordered to make a hand of silver and put it to the icon (another variant: he ordered to write additionally the hand on the icon). In case of other type requests the gifts of “ex voto” can be*

different; so women as a sign of gratitude for marriage give wedding dresses to the icon and relatives for the birth of a child give his clothes to the icon).

Most of specialists studying the Caucasian dolmens now are not inclined to think that these archeological monuments are reflection of local traditions. The famous English archeologist Daniel even in 40-s years of the last century supposed to regard Pyrenean peninsula, Brittany and Ireland as initial phase of rising and spreading of European megalithic constructions. At the new place the brought megalithic forms were modified by local tribes. European megaliths are mainly known by its dolmens, menhirs and cromlech of British Isles and Atlantic coast of France. British Isles in ancient time were like a real hearth into which new and new human material arrived and it was melted into some amalgam giving at the end the basis of modern British nation. The first of these elements were the Iberian tribes who migrated here from Pyrenean peninsula in III thousand B.C. moving the seaside along western, Atlantic coast of Europe. ***(The term “the Iberians” or “Proto Iberians” arose to denote the population of the present Portugal. The origin of the population is little known).*** They left behind roads such as Iknild and Pilgrim, dolmens and long burial mounds. In the second thousand B.C. related to them tribes of alpine groups inhabited West England in the valley of the Thames. The intersection and center of that civilization became Wiltshire striking by old megalithic constructions the famous of them is Stonehenge.



The famous French researcher of dolmens noted that the main masses of French dolmens are drawn towards the sea. They are built by people who are conditionally called “Ku” (Cous). It is thought that their tribes penetrated to the French territory from the West and the South of Iberia. In central France and Italy prevail ***(from preserved megaliths there – the authors)*** plate dolmens, menhirs, galleries of processed rectangular stone plates put closely to each other. The French terms “alée couverte”, “galeries couverte” mean “covered passage”, “gallery and corridor”. All dolmens which we saw in France are reconstructed, made presentable, have information tables and fences. During the filming in

France we met only two evidences of vandalism. It was only one inscription hollowed out on the dolmen and a history about terrorists who conducting a test of explosives did not find anything better than to try it on dolmen “La Pierre Turquoise” in 1985 near Paris. The dolmen was restored at once and it is the evidence of the French government’s relation to preservation and protection of these objects of archeology. It is quite clear that the preservation of any monument depends on the position of the owner in this case, the State.

Some 40 km from France in the region with striking nature Il de France being in the heart of France where the filming took place, we saw unique nowhere met earlier lonely stone rocks bearing the traces of artful processing “magic stones” or polissoirs as the French call them. According to one legend polissoirs are the handwork of one joyful giant, Pantagruel brilliantly described by F. Rable. He used to grind his knives on these stones.



Giants are also often met in the Caucasian legends. *(Adygei legend says that once upon the time there were giants in the Caucasus. They were kind and strong creatures and as it very often happens there were small and spiteful people near them. They were sharp, cunning, whining and artful people who were driven away by their former neighbors for their meanness and treachery. The giants gave refuge and a part of their lands to them. They were so kind that they made stone houses for their guests and they carried them on their shoulders to the most beautiful and dry places, to the banks of rivers and lakes. Instead of doors they breached round holes through which little people went hunting on lop-eared hares. However the giants were repaid for their kindness. In order to tame the giants the little people blinded them and began to give them different herbs and because of it the giants began to lose their minds and conflicted with each other. Once the giants freed themselves from charms and a war began. "In a short everybody died and only "stone houses" were left").*

Giants are mentioned in the Bible, "There were giants on the Earth at that time especially since that time when God's sons began going to human daughters and those began to give birth to children". (Genesis 6, 4). As it is known from the Bible everything was over when God punished his creatures by the Flood. It is believed that the Bible giants are only echoes of older myths and legends about giants met in legends of any people and the eccentric French made one of them – Pantagruel – joyful and kind person. *(Let us pay attention to that fact that according to legends giants of all countries and peoples disappeared because of their dullness).*

One of the famous persons in ancient Greek mythology was Argus who was a giant and had many eyes scattered all over his body (he was usually called as one hundred-eyed). When one part of his eyes was asleep the other part stayed awake and this fact made him a weariless guard. Jealous Gera turned the Zeus' lover Io into a heifer and made Argus to guard her but Hermes managed to blunt the guard vigilance and kill him. It is obvious that at the heart of this myth is a naïve idea that the state of a man's dream depends of whether a man's eyes are closed or not. At the same time some specialists think that in one hundred Argus starry sky is personified.

"At first there was nothing in common. There was neither Earth nor sky; the abyss was gaping, the grass did not grow. To the North and to the South of nothing there were areas of cold and fire-Nifflheim and Musspelheim. The warmth of Musspelheim melted a part of ice and from liquid drops the giant Imir grew". It is the plot of "Younger Adda" from Norwegian myths. There are legends about giants even in Chukchi. "The giant Sana shaped from snow a Chukchi man and a Chukchi woman taught them to obtain fire and to sew clothes. The wicked spirit Chapak killed Sana and all Sana's kind thoughts flew away like butterflies. That is why if you catch a butterfly you should turn it into powder

on your forehead repeating the words, Give me Sana light (that is mind)". (**"Chemistry and Life", p. 42, №5, 1978**).

There are a lot of giants in medieval tales and legends of ancient Britons telling about the king Arthur, knights of Round Table and building of famous Stonehenge. A few people know that the evolution studies by Darwin who "created his "Origin of species" are mystically connected with Stonehenge as every night he went for a walk near this mysterious megalithic construction. (**"Knowledge is Force", p. 26, № 12, 2003**).

The Swiss scientist Sheihzer I. Ya. (1672-1733) regarded a big petrified salamander as "a sinner perished during the Flood".

"Having disinterred a skeleton in the Swiss glacier,
Sheihzer clever comments wrote.
He preached in them that the Bible's heroes
Were giants till the common ruin.
Then the bones were found out not of ancestor
But the mortal remains of died out pangolin!
Many people made fun of poor Sheihzer.
After all he is a grandfather of paleontology.

Shafranskii I.I. "Paleontological grandfather". (p.89, **"Chemistry and Life", № 4, 1998**).

"The father of paleontology" is Baron George Cuvie who at the beginning of XIX century for the first time proved that gigantic

Fossil bones in fact belong to huge pangolins not to mammoths or giant-people. He managed according to separate bones to restore their image, to define sizes and also to describe the way of their life and habits.

There are much more prosaic versions concerning origin of many legends about giants. About four thousand years ago "on the territory of the modern Chinese provinces Tzinhai and Gansu there was a very developed culture named by the archeologists "tzidza". It left after itself thin-walled pots of bright yellow and orange color which were more perfect by shape and performance than the ones made some centuries later. There were also knives, axes, arrow-heads, artfully polished "music" plates of stone, mirrors reflecting evil spirits. There was a bronze arrow-head of a spear having sixty cm in length. What giant could have enough strength to manage it? It turned out that this arrow-head had a ritual sense. (p.7, **"Knowledge is Force", № 38, 2003**).

Today in connection with giants and speaking about evolution of an intelligent person, one can state the following.

By the way Cro-Magnon man of upper Paleolith like Neanderthal man according to anatomic standard has a massive the so-called muscular type. The thickness of skull even with the later Cro-Magnon man very often exceeded one cm and with Neanderthals or early Cro-Magnons even more. At that the bones of a shank were shorter than the bones of a thigh and the bones of a forearm were shorter than the bones of a shoulder. The length of their collar-bones could reach more than 25 cm (with modern man it seldom exceeds 15 cm). Modern height (*so there were variants*) of the upper Paleolith 'man was about 2 meters with men and 1, 8 meters with women. However all these "Olympic" parameters begin little by little to disappear in the next epochs. After the end of the last glacial epoch that is in Mesolite when the whole Europe covers with forests a man becomes lower in his height though preserving the massiveness of his skeleton and power of muscular system. And in the Middle East and partly in the whole Torrid Zone (but in different tempos) it becomes light in weight (fragile) and at that this process is quicker where people lead settled and agricultural way of life (*from Latin –gracilis - means – fragile*). As the scientists cleared up later this process went on up to the medieval.

But in the steppes of Eurasia where in the Stone Age (IV-III B.C.) a man becomes cattle-breeder- nomad and stays as such in the subsequent epochs he continued to be massive and tall up to the epoch of early iron though he gradually becomes lighter. The scientific sense of this phenomenon

is adaptation. In the course of historical development energy of human organism each time adapted and adapts to some optimum dictated by environment and correspondently by life support that is by the type of existence which is inherent to every concrete human society. It is certainly correct but these are certainly common words. Why did giant Cro-Magnon disappear from the Earth at the end of the upper Paleolith? It may seem strange but it continued to exist *(though in a lighted form)* 7 centuries in Eurasian steppes among cattle-breeders up to Bronze epoch. In general it is not difficult to understand as it was told above that we do not know many things about motivating forces and the evolution reasons of Homo sapiens. Nevertheless archeologists are sure that “Neanderthals were not grunting half animals”. Their social life contained clear human features and what is more mercy was not alien to them. Old Neanderthals were ill with usual diseases as for example arthritis. However these powerless crooked creatures could live up to 40-45 years old and this age was rather venerable by their measures. Therefore they were cared for, fed and given a place in the cave. (Judging by the skeletons there were not only simple sick persons but even invalids, one-eye and one-hand persons among Neanderthals. So in this “primitive herd” there were some “social guarantees concerning old age and disablement”. And what are more Neanderthals were the first who began to bury their dead people. But making burial rites they not only simply put the dead bodies into the ground but previously reshaped to them “embryonic pose” or “a pose of sleeper” and graves were faced by stones). It is of no less interest the fact that burials of Neanderthals were accompanied by presents. The graves of the dead were decorated by flowers. Flower pollen was discovered in one of the graves preserved thousands years since those burial bunches of flower. In other grave there were horns and bones of a mountain goat near a Neanderthal boy. In the opinion of G.Muravnik some scientists see in the similar behavior the source of religious faith. **(Muravnik G., 2001, Chernosvitov P., 2001).**

It is often customary when going to travel in Italy tourists often choose beaten routes to the towns of art and famous resorts. During the filming we opened for ourselves a part of Italy which forms the heel of “Italian boot”. It is Puglia situated on the very south-eastern part of the country. Washed by the Adriatic and from the south by Ionic seas this land delights by its beauty and wonderful history. Waves of tribes and people passed through it left their traces in the form of unique monuments. Nature created wonderful landscape with wide green valleys, shady forests, rocky islands and splendid sandy beaches on the shore of the sky-blue sea. Puglia took on special significance in the period of high medieval being the natural “gates of the East”. People’s character is cheery here that is why any event is a course for a holiday for example “a day of pork sausage” where we got during the filming. This “wonderland” has rich history and culture. The present and antiquity are deeply intertwined and this creates the atmosphere of contact with magic of human culture.

In the centre of Puglia in the town of Bari there is one of the main sacred things of the Christian world – relics of Saint and Miracle-Man Nicholas which are nearly one thousand years are based on the dedicated to him basil. *(Saint Nicholas headed the bishop department in Myrrh’s Likeask in the time of Emperor Constantine (306-377) and maybe under Diolectiane (284-337). It is well-known as Miracle-Man, a defender of prisoners, a pastor of human soles, a keeper of faith and Christianity from heresy, a protector of innocent, weak and needy people, a defender of children, the Saint protector of all seafarers and at last the town Bari).*

Here is the story of carrying the relics of Saint Nicholas to Bari. In 1071 Bari the last stronghold of



Byzantium on the territory of South Italy was conquered by Normans. In order to restore the cracked power of the town the habitants decided to “enlist the support” of some influent Saint. In fact it meant that Bari having relics could attract a lot of pilgrims and have opportunity to improve things. By the way one of ecclesiastic dreamt that Saint Nicholas agreed his relics to be brought to Bari from Myrrh’s Likeask which were under the power of Saracens. The habitants

of the town hurried to fulfill the Saint's will and in April 1087 a fleet of three ships financed by aristocratic families of Bari was ready. 62 sailors and two bishops started on a journey. Legends tell different stories about what happened in Myrrh. More peaceful people confirm that monks of the cloister where relics were kept showed the guests the place where relics were. Less peaceful people tell that Bari's people had to resort to cunning, threats and even to tortures. However all legends witness that relics exhaled chrism and fragrance. On the 9 of May the expedition returned to Bari and this day became the holiday of bringing the relics. Bari's people took the lead of the Venetian who took the fancy of the relics too. ***(In general between these two coastal towns there has always been rivalry but at the same time friendship and mutual aid and it was reflected in the legend)***. The visit to the basilica of Saint Nicholas in Bari made a great impression on all members of our filming group. In fact we arrived by early train in the morning and made for the cathedral at once which was already open to our surprise. There were people inside of it who surrounded with great respect a praying old man whose face seemed familiar to us. Our question about who that man was aroused great surprise but having known that we were from Russia they became quiet. But their answer that that was life senator, former Prime Minister of Italy Julior Andreotto and members of Italian government who came to pray without any flashes and cordoning off not to disturb the inhabitants in such an early hour, nearly shocked us by manifestation of humanity worthy of respect. So the Italians have such political correctness and reality.

Not far from Bari near the town Bishelie ***(famous besides everything for its bar "Dolmen" where we failed to get)*** we found some



classical plate dolmens situated in beautiful landscape among olive woods and prickly pear bushes. The scene took our breaths away. The area around Bishelie is stony and this fact made the agriculture difficult. That is why the professions of collectors and breakers of stones stood high esteem of. These are La Kianka and Frizari dolmens discovered by archeologists Mosso

and Samarelli in 1909. La Kianka dolmen is fully restored and Frizarri dolmen is restored partially. Both of them are redeemed from landlords by the Italian government. In general in Italy the relation to cultural and historical monuments varies and depends very much on activity and financial possibilities of regional and town authorities. For example, in Bari and its outskirts there are a lot of deserted churches hollowed out in rocks with perfect paintings. They gradually get destroyed and of course with the help of vandalism acts. In the preservation of the monuments one can practically rely on volunteers thanks to them descent appearance of many historical monuments they managed to return. People at their free time built by their own hands churches destroyed by Satanists as well. Now they are on duty on Saturdays and Sundays for the people could come and see these beauties. Unfortunately it is a drop in the ocean. It is interesting to note that these people have no relation to history or archeology. They are of little education. If historical monuments are in private property then much depends on the

owner. In some places municipal authorities try to redeem them and restore. It often happens that the belonging to private persons saves them from destroy. The development of tourisms could greatly assist in flooding of funds. ***(The Bari authorities greatly account on Russian tourists and pilgrims).***

We finished the filming of Italian megaliths some 200 km from Bari in Giurdignano the province of Leche, a small settlement numbering 1800 inhabitants which the archeologists call “megalithic gardens” of Italy. There are 5 dolmens and 18 menhirs there. The Giurdignano megaliths are the fine standard of syncretism, interosculation and mutual enrichment of different religions.



Tradition of taking artful masterpieces from the beaten enemy arose in the ancient time. And what is more this act considered to be one of the most important symbols of victory. At the heart of this tradition is to catch statues of foreigner gods and put them in own temples “subjecting” them to theirs as stronger and luckier. Romans developed even their own rite of “triumph” in the course of which prisoners themselves carried their own “idols” to the Eternal Town and put them to the feet of Capitol Jupiter and Juno. “The old was in a literal sense was violated and in this way superiority of new culture, European culture was proved. ***(“Around the World”, № 2, 2007).***

For example, Roman army considered evocation (appeal) to be one of the main stages for crossing roads and siege of towns. Local gods were invited to switch to Roman side. ***(They were guaranteed proper respect on the side of both citizens of Roman power and other acting in it gods. They were also promised to observe rites in their honor with the exception of those which were incompatible with Roman humanistic tradition. Human sacrifice was forbidden but as compensation gods could watch gladiator fights).*** One should admit to Rome honor that agreements with gods concluded even one-sided order were strictly observed up to Christianity. ***(Vasserman A., 2007).***

Christian missionaries in Italy did not destroy megaliths built by pagans but they preserved them adapting them to new religion. And what is more the leader of the local society of the olden time

lovers Ada Acconto told us that an interesting document of XVII – “An act about purchase and sale of land” was recently found out in Lecher’s archives. One of the obligatory conditions of the deal was the duty of a buyer not to cause damage to menhir which was on the buying land. It was necessary in order not to disturb a devil as though he lived under menhir. In the case of this point violence the land was returned to the former owner without returning money received for the land. Assimilation of pagan faith is the process which goes on in our time.



There is one more menhir in the crypt where unusual paintings are with care preserved. An absolutely pagan symbol – spider is depicted. *(A scorpion is often the symbol of the centre. A merit spider Anansy is an obvious example of it. It creeps between the sky and the ground in the myths of African tribes. There is also Arahna (from Greek arachne – spider) a Lidisk girl in Greek mythology who was an artful needlewoman daring to challenge Athena in weaving and for this she was turned into a spider).* According to the local faith the protector of spiders is Apostle Paul. He was to pray about nervous disturbance like hysterics which was widely spread among women in the South of Italy at the time. Tarantula-bite was considered the cause of illness. Tarantella dance originates from here.

Moving in wild rhythm the sick persons hoped to banish the poison out of organism together with sweat. A local legend explains the crypt dedication to Saint Paul (before it was dedicated to the Mother of God. A wife of one local artist suffered from the same illness. After prayers to Saint Paul she was cured and her thankful husband pictured on the inner side of the crypts a symbol of the Apostle and the construction began to use the name of Saint. It is surprising but in Italy we found out one more coincidence with a Caucasian legend about magic



influence of definite dolmens on genital women's function. This dolmen is in the outskirts of Giurdignano to which women from near-by villages come since immemorial time in hope to recover from sterility.

Nowadays the problems of religious syncretism are made public by the Catholic Church on high-level. **Here are some documents of II Vatican Cathedral (1962-65).**

- **A decree about missionary activities "Ad Gentes", 15: to cooperate in missionary activities with representatives of other Christian faiths, at that avoiding syncretism; 22: try to preserve "all beauty of local traditions" (on the territories where the Gospel is preached excluding the manifestation of syncretism.**

- **A declaration about Church and not-Christian religions "Nostra aetate",1: all people were created by God and the aim of all is God, as all look for answers to the question about the sense of life and destination of a man and so on; 2: The Church does not deny what "verily and piously" in other religions, however proclaiming "diligently the Christ".**

- **A decree about ecumenism "Unitaris reintegratio" 3: though God grace acts in other Christian churches all means of rescue is available only in Catholic Church.**

- **A dogmatic constitution about Church "Lumen gentium" 13-16: the Church's mission is to take all well in the people's traditions but cleaning it and ennobling it from the standpoint of the Gospel.**

This is the official standpoint of the Catholic Church. However the usage of these rules in practice depends on many factors including the inner culture of executors.

The Orthodox Church in the questions of syncretism is more categorical. "The Moscow Patriarchy signed a document in which all harmful sides of ecumenism that is syncretism, liturgical services with people of other faith, and everything what (can wash out the Orthodox Faith are condemned". **(ENI/ the Church-going bell- info/ Sedmitza.ru, 28.04.2007).**

Here is the position of the Orthodox Church recently made public by the deceased Athenian Archbishop and by Christodul of Hellas. "Do not yield to temptation and conveniences of globalization. Fight as your future in your hands. Globalization will become only as means and not aim; means that will lead to obtrusion of syncretism on us. Syncretism is obtruded on us by the forces which obtrude globalization on us. Carefully in order not to arouse the faithful people's consciousness syncretism began to recollect religious rules which nobody was going to challenge. Then it went on to declare different heresies "Churches" as if as toleration and then after all even Satan method of "raking over the coals" was also declared "Church". Behind all these tricks is amoral rivalry, treachery of the power, destruction of personalities and the domination of masses. Obtrusion of syncretism becomes apparent in a well- organized attempt to consign to oblivion the sense of sin. Actions by which people violate the law and God's will are characterized as not a sin but as features which the Church must respect in the name of a person's rights which become the main criteria in mankind's life. Here are the words of Great Inquisitor which come true, "We allow them also a sin. They are powerless and weak and they will love us as children because we allow them to sin". **(It is taken from the interview of Athenian Archbishop and Christodul of Hellas to the New-York newspaper "National Herald", 22.12.2007 and the sermon of 200-th anniversary of Christmas).**

Participation of the Orthodox Christianity in the dialogue is the evidence of fulfilling the task which according to the words of "Main principles of Russian Orthodox Church relation to other religions" is the task of supreme importance for the Orthodox Church on all levers of its being". "Theological syncretism is not permitted when foundations of dogma are washed away and when fundamental postulates of the Orthodox faith are cast doubt on them". "Those forms of Christian dialogues are permitted and necessary which give the possibility to the Orthodox Church to speak freely about the truth in the face of other religious world". **(It is taken from interview of Vienna and Austria Bishop Illarion to internet-site 17.03.2006").**

Great split of Christian Church into Western and Eastern took place in 1054. Different tendencies in relation to other religions and syncretism were observed before and after it. In general one can say that the Catholic Church was less sensitive to "non-Christian manifestation than the

Orthodox Church (Europe is meant; in the missionary territories everything was otherwise). Nevertheless Catholicism quite wittingly absorbed antique philosophy (*Catholic theology was built on its principles up to the late time*).



The next two day we spent in the oldest and most beautiful cities of the world the ancient capital of Roman Empire and now the capital of Italy –Rome (in Italian –Roma), the “Eternal Town”. The accurate date of the first inhabitants on the territory of Rome is unknown but the earliest evidences of their constant dwellings date back to the end of VII B.C. According to a legend Rome was founded by the brothers Romul and Rem who were breast-fed by a she-wolf. (On the 21 of April in 753 B.C. Romul

became the first tsar of Rome. During hundreds of years Rome was a small settlement in the centre of Apennine peninsula. However the favorable location and aggressive policy together with a number of innovations in soldiering led it to the leading positions). The Ancient Rome was in existence one thousand years since V B.C. to V A.D. and during this time this state was the master of the world. (The Roman state reached its fullest flower under the Emperor of Adrian in II century A.D. when military and economic power combined with peace inside the Empire. The population of Rome exceeded one million people at that time). Of course Roman domination did not spread over the terrestrial globe but hundreds of people and tribes of the Mediterranean coast had to render tribute for the right and possibility to live their own and chiefly peaceful life. The military loot that fell to Rome’s shares included jewelries, pictures, sculptures, manuscripts and decorations. Not only things but live salvage of the best craftsmen, scientists, artists, writers and actors was brought to the “Eternal Town”. That is why the Ancient Rome’s culture, religion, science and art were made up in a great degree of more developed and ancient cultures with the participation of representatives of newly enslaved people. The power of Rome rested on engineering art. Roman roads paved for effective trade and quick movements of army function even now. Today channels and aqueducts supply the Eternal Town with fresh water like in the days of Cesar. (People drink water from Roman fountains and this fact shocked us greatly). It is of no wonder that the high priest wore the proud title of “pontifex maximus” it means the biggest bridge builder. By the way this title Pope inherited for good.

Numerous invasions of German and Slave people from outside put an end to the Empire. Rome entered the period of Middle centuries as destroyed, having lost its power but it remained as a residence of Pope. After the unification of Italy in XIX century the city returned its status of capital. Now there are 2, 6 million people but the city is wonderfully



quiet, unhurried and measured. Sometimes it seems as if the Roman procurator of Judea Pontii Pilat comes out from a by-street in his “white raincoat with bloody spots and with shuffling cavalryman’ walk” nobody will be surprised.

Many and we think not the poorest inhabitants of the city having despised expensive autos which are so honored in our country changed to motorines or motor scooters. Though it did not solve the problem with traffic congestions but it made easier to solve it than in Moscow or Sochi. We liked that in Rome there are no monuments with advertisement hoarding. We’d like to have it in Moscow too.

From Rome we went by night train to Paris which was called Lutentia in the ancient times and was founded by ancient Romans on the hill of Saint Genevieve. (It goes without saying that this hill got the name of this Saint later when it stopped hordes of great Attila in the outskirts of the town).



Towards the XX century the population of Paris was two million. There appeared big boulevards, banks, trade houses and a metro. Five world famous exhibitions carried out from 1855 to 1900 made Paris the city of innovations and creative achievements and Eifel tower became the symbol of their realization. This tradition is not broken now and a bright confirmation of this is an ultra modern region Defanse and Paris metro in “high tech” style. The city grows. If in 1900 there were 10% population of the country on its territory, now there is one-fifth of the population of France lives here. Now Paris is a political, administrative, financial, cultural and gastronomical centre of the great country-France which history is so deeply intertwined with Russia that it is not clear who is closer to us the trio of musketeers with “frantic Gascon” or the trio of Russian ancient heroes (though we can love both at once).



We hope to go on our journey to the cradle of the origin of megalithic culture on the Earth to the land of Ancient Iberia (now Spain and Portugal) we have already begun our preparation to it. You can watch fragments of the film “Dolmens. Journey to the Cradle” and leave your comments and proposals to take part in the project on the site- www.ovideo.ru

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