

*The sources of vertical symbols in meta-cultural perspectives*

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Vertical symbols, such as sky-heaven, ascending to the sky, holy mountain, spiritual growth, descending etc., are present in all known cultures and play important roles in the inter-human communication of all known cultures. Vertical symbols are signs. Their meaning (at least to some extent) depends from their vertical shape (i.e. their tallness, vertical position etc). The paper analyses the positive correlation between the shape of vertical symbols and their meaning. It also gets the problem of universal (meta-cultural) sources of the meaning of vertical symbols (especially, vertical archetypes of the movement) into focus.

Introductory sections describe some general types of vertical symbols. They will also gather evidences of cultural anthropology (M. Eliade, W. Toporow and others) for universal (meta-cultural) aspects of the meaning of vertical symbols. Conclusions of the paper advance some hypotheses in order to explain the universal aspects of vertical symbols. It is to be a tentative explanation for observations that can be tested by further investigations.

As it will be shown, the meaning of vertical symbols is influenced by basic human experience that is common to all humankind, which is, first of all, somatic experience (experience of ones own body) and agrarian experience. This experience supplies an explanatory key for universal aspects of vertical symbols. The approach leads towards more general problems of the constitution of meaning. The problems will be brought up for a discussion in the end of the lecture.



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