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THE PHENOMENON OF DUAL FAITH AND ITS IMPACT ON THE SACRED ARCHITECTURE OF KYIVAN RUS

Kosmii Mykhailo,
D.Arch., Professor
King Danylo University

Luzhnyi Stanislav
Ph.D. student
King Danylo University

Zhyhaliuk Serhii
student
King Danylo University

The phenomenon of dual faith, which emerged after the adoption of Christianity, had a significant impact on the sacred architecture of Kyivan Rus. Dual faith, or the combination of pagan and Christian beliefs, was reflected in the architectural elements and symbolism preserved in Christian churches.

Influence of Dual Faith on Sacred Architecture

Symbolism and Ornaments: Pagan symbols and ornaments were often used in the Christian churches of Kyivan Rus. For example, images of the sun, moon, stars, and other natural elements, which held sacred significance in pagan culture, were common. Carved ornaments on wooden churches frequently included motifs from pagan mythology, such as depictions of animals, plants, and mythological creatures.

Architectural Forms: Some architectural forms of Christian churches had pagan origins. For instance, round or oval shapes of churches might have been borrowed from pagan temples. The use of wooden structures in the construction of Christian churches could also be influenced by pagan tradition, as wood was the primary building material in pre-Christian architecture.

Ritual Elements: Certain ritual elements used in pagan ceremonies were integrated into Christian rituals. For example, the use of holy water, fire, and other natural elements in Christian rituals might have pagan origins.

Pagan Elements in Christian Churches

Idols and Statues: Some Christian churches might have preserved pagan idols and statues, which gradually acquired Christian significance. For example, some idols could have been reinterpreted as saints or angels.

Sacred Sites: Many Christian churches were built on the sites of former pagan temples, adding to their sacred significance. This allowed for the preservation of connections with previous religious traditions and facilitated the acceptance of Christianity by the local population.

Festivals and Rituals: Some pagan festivals and rituals were integrated into the Christian calendar. For example, the festival of Ivan Kupala, which had pagan origins, became a part of the Christian tradition as the feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist.

Examples

Saint Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv: Saint Sophia Cathedral contains elements reflecting the influence of dual faith. For instance, the mosaics and frescoes of the cathedral include images of the sun and moon, which held sacred significance in pagan culture.

Wooden Churches of the Carpathians: The wooden churches of the Carpathians have many elements derived from pagan tradition. For example, the carved ornaments on the facades of the churches include depictions of animals and plants that held sacred significance in pagan culture.

Influence on National Identity

Pre-Christian rituals and traditions became an important factor in the formation of the national identity of Ukrainians. They reflected the worldview and values of the ancient Slavs, which were preserved in culture and architecture even after the adoption of Christianity. These traditions became an integral part of Ukrainian cultural heritage, contributing to the preservation of national identity.

Preservation of Ukraine's Architectural Heritage

The preservation of Ukraine's architectural heritage is extremely important for several reasons:

1. Cultural Identity and National Memory

– **Preservation of National Identity:** Architectural monuments are important symbols of national identity and cultural heritage. They reflect the history, traditions, and values of the Ukrainian people.

– **Symbolic Significance:** Architectural structures have great symbolic significance for Ukrainians. They are witnesses to important historical events and cultural achievements.

2. Impact on Society and Economy

– **Social Stability:** The preservation of architectural heritage contributes to social stability and community cohesion. It helps people feel connected to their history and culture.

– **Economic Development:** The preservation of architectural heritage can promote economic development through tourism. Historical monuments attract tourists, bringing income to local communities and contributing to infrastructure development.

3. International Support and Solidarity

– **International Recognition:** The preservation of Ukraine's architectural heritage attracts the attention of the international community and helps secure support from international organizations.

– **Solidarity and Cooperation:** The preservation of architectural heritage strengthens international solidarity and cooperation.

Conclusion

The preservation of Ukraine's architectural heritage is critically important for maintaining national identity, social stability, economic development, and international

solidarity. It allows for the preservation of cultural values and their transmission to future generations, ensuring a connection with the past and supporting the morale of the population.

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