

UACILLA: AN INTEGRATIVE APPROACH TO THE CONFLICTING INTERPRETATIONS OF THE SACRED OSSETIAN CHARACTER

The article is devoted to Uacilla, a sacred character of the Ossetian ethnoreligious pantheon, which has been studied many times before, but always within a separate approach, which resulted in significant conflict of interpretations. The article examines the main historiographical approaches to the study of both the Ossetian ethnic religion in general and Uacilla in particular. Thus, a cross-comparative analysis of the image and cult of Uacilla was undertaken within an integrative approach, which allows us to ultimately abandon one-sided categorical interpretations of Uacilla's origins and essential characteristics, making it accessible for multidimensional perception. An important aspect of the study is the analysis of possible Islamic influences on the image and cult of Uacilla, since the first time such an analysis has been conducted in Ossetian studies. Previous interpretations have included Iranian, autochthonous Caucasian, Christian, and Jewish influences.

Keywords: ethnic religion of Ossetians, Uatsilla, integrative approach to study, Judaism, Christianity, Islam

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