

# Deep Heritage as a platform for the Unity of Humanity

- Epistemic Authority and Ancient Knowledge: Reevaluating Validity and Voices

by

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**EPISTEMIC AUTHORITY AND THE POLITICS OF KNOWLEDGE, Whose Voices Count? Reevaluating Validity and Authority in Ancient Knowledge Systems.**

In addition, UPASANA's chief elder was entrusted to Chair a session on 27. February on **Ancient Art Forms and Aesthetics: Methods and Interpretation.**

UPASANA presented the program on Autochthone Heritage, which was a part of Regular Program of the European Cultural Capital GO!2025.

Key messages passed to the conference:

1. Before Europe Colonised and Christianised the world, it profoundly and ruthlessly colonised and converted into Christianity the nations on its own territory. Colonisation involved religious domination (christianisation) as its integral and in terms of education, crucial part.
2. Slovenia was given as an example of thoroughly colonised Slavic country, which suffered fundamental loss of its genuine traditions, ancient wisdom, including the handicapping of its language, loss of cosmological terms which were converted by Jesuit and other Christian literates into its opposites to disable true understanding of language. Places of worship in nature were colonised by erecting of Christian churches and chapels. Spiritual leadership of autochthone faith was pushed into clandestine activity. Decision makers,

institutions including cultural institutions prove that Slovene knowledge system remains profoundly colonised until today: an example of the campaign at Bled Island, former Slavic nature centered shrine and worship place, was presented as contemporary sad proof of colonised Slovene politics of knowledge.

Political elite remains silent while Church established a biased – post colonial museum at the island under auspices of Slovene national museum. Even though we failed to prevent this neocolonial reflex, we see a positive side in the story: now we have gained an undisputable proof of existence of profound colonised knowledge and politics in Slovenia. Sad, however true.

3. Fight against neocolonial practices in science, art, culture and education shall therefore not only mobilise the former colonies outside Europe, but primarily the nations in Europe, formerly nations of Druid, Celtic, Nordic, Slavic and other pagan, heathen, people of the earth.
4. The paper explains how UPASANA and nature centered elders strive to reconstruct the traditions and integrate ancient knowledge in knowledge corpus. Through interdisciplinary events (seminars, conferences, cultural events), we involve artists, scientists, independent researchers and practitioners.

Full text, published in the conference proceedings, follows here

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## ABSTRACT

**Intangible heritage associated to ancient cosmologies and traditional ethnic sacred places of worship are presented as the pillars of ancient schools of wisdom representing deep cultural heritage. Hren presents them as subtle and dense platforms for cultural decolonisation, sustainable living and ground breaking trust building concept to foster solidarity amongst the cultures.**

The Authors Homeland, Slovenia is a predominantly Slavic (in terms of population) country in central Europe. It hosted European Cultural Capital in 2025 in the city of Nova Gorica, western Slovenia, known for its rich cultural heritage and well preserved, uninterrupted memory of pre-Christian cosmologies.

Hren serves as nature centred faith elder and had a privilege to organize a program titled Autochthone Heritage within the European Cultural Capital GO!2025. The event focused on traditional ethnic, spiritual instrument Kabrca. This instrument was only revealed to public in past 10 years, after the Slovene ethnic Faith has been for centuries prosecuted, pushed into margins of society and kept under the veil of silence due to systematic colonial spiritual and physical Catholicization of the wider region. A book was released by European Cultural Capital GO!2025 program<sup>1</sup> describing in detail the kabrca instrument and the connected Slavic ethnic spiritual deity - sacred entity NIKRAMANA. The background of the rediscovery of Slavic roots was previously published in the essay titled A Discourse on the Revival of Manaism<sup>2</sup> and in the monography bringing a comparative approach to Mediteranian and Euro-Asian traditions, titled Ancient Schools of Wisdom<sup>3</sup>.

The Author presents<sup>4</sup> a state of the art of contemporary research in Slovene spiritual heritage, pre-Christian nature centred ethnic beliefs and decolonisation of Slavic ethnic groups. In this respect the author organised five scientific symposia on this topic in Slovenia in the past ten years and consequently, five volumes with proceedings were published in Slovene language unveiling interdisciplinary effort to bring ancient wisdom of Slavic people back to populations and thus reinforce the cultural fabric enabling sustainable and peaceful future.

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### Introduction: the three-fold context of decolonisation

The comparative research into deep heritage of our ancestral cultures across the planet has only begun in 19<sup>th</sup> century and the indigenous knowledge is still far from the reach of regular school curricula. The transmission of ancient knowledge to present populations via school and academic curricula still lack methodology and standards. However, the task to promote ancient wisdom curricula is urgent. The methodology for curricular presentation of ancient wisdom must be invented anew, acknowledging the inevitable reality of pending realms of ubiquitous internet access and related dataspace, artificial intelligence powered didactics and unthinkable possibilities of meta-verse realms where teaching and learning will be subject to algorithms never experienced before. In any of the scenarios, scholars and practitioners in the domain of ancient wisdoms need to pull strings together to provide for safety-net and ethics related to the content made available on bigdata repositories. Complexity, quantity, convoluted nature and ambiguity of presently

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<sup>1</sup> Hren, Marko; The Rebirth of Kabrca, A Heathen Instrument connecting the worlds of realms.

<sup>2</sup> <https://upasana.si/a-discourse-on-the-revival-of-manaism>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.academia.edu/43498293/Ancient\\_Schools\\_of\\_Wisdom\\_contemporary\\_Spirituality\\_4\\_0\\_Sustainable\\_development\\_And\\_the\\_Industry\\_4\\_0](https://www.academia.edu/43498293/Ancient_Schools_of_Wisdom_contemporary_Spirituality_4_0_Sustainable_development_And_the_Industry_4_0)

<sup>4</sup> An overview is published here

[https://www.academia.edu/112589661/SLOVENE\\_NATURE\\_CENTERED\\_ETHNIC\\_FAITH\\_STATE\\_OF\\_THE\\_ART\\_OF\\_THE\\_RESEARCH](https://www.academia.edu/112589661/SLOVENE_NATURE_CENTERED_ETHNIC_FAITH_STATE_OF_THE_ART_OF_THE_RESEARCH)

available information is impressive. What will follow in next decades, is unthinkable while AI will be able to interpret most of the questions raised by humans in no time.

The transmission of knowledge in ancient times was simple: characterised by direct (vertical) transfer - in most cases orally, applying methods such as involving chanting anthems to memorise the messages to safeguard them for the generations to come. Horizontally, the values of the communities were suffused to community members through primary and secondary education amongst community members. There were scarce, but in depth exchanges amongst sages across wider regions, that span across millennia. Knowledge was shared throughout the history of humanity.

The values, virtues and human behaviour patterns that proved decisive for communities to overcome critical events in history, were this way documented and passed to next generations as well as across cultures. Places of worship in nature were traditionally used to provide scenography for the repetition of acquired experiences of the nations and rituals were established to keep the knowledge, the memory, alive for next generations. Colonial era spanning over millennium has substantially impoverished the global heritage of ancient wisdom. We will argue, that – despite of unthinkable violence of Colonial powers during the period of 14<sup>th</sup> to 20 century– the non-European continents preserved richer memory of ancient, ancestral heritage, then European nations, which were Christianised between 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Today, the credible descendants of ancient knowledge are scarcely found while there is an abundance of semi reliable and also commercial offer creating ambiguity. This, coupled with an abundant digital content represent altogether a risk as regards to quality of information pretended to derive from ancient schools of wisdom. We need to face these realities and establish a robust mitigation strategy that shall include reflection on new ritualism and a new meaning of traditional spaces of worship.

The colonial practices across the globe used continuous, exhaustive and systematic techniques to suppress local populations wisdom and identity: annihilation of the historical traditional worship places usually directly by colonising the spaces of special (sacred) meaning, erecting Christian churches and chapels (Plesterski, 2016), converting the meaning of rituals and cosmological words, killing knowledge holders and this way, the memory, the knowledge; the wisdom needed for the survival of cultures and for the sovereignty of nations. Such colonisation of knowledge represented a key instrument to subordinate the colonised peoples on a long term, transform indigenous people into slaves and/or cheap labour force for predatory operations. Alcohol and drugs suffused into colonised populations by colonial powers added a final stroke (Hren, 2014) passivizing the colonised populations and preventing revolt.

To reverse the trend, to put an end to colonial era, the humanity needs to embark on a joint project of awakening of the root knowledge, ancestral wisdom of each and every nation on the planet.

The pending metaverse and ubiquitous instant access to any knowledge on the planet must provide for the sanctuaries of refined, credible information regarding the sacred places, sacred chants, sacred memories, sacred wisdom and rituals.

If the core slogan of the solidarity campaigns during the fall of Iron Curtain 40 years ago was “*Peace and Human Rights are Indivisible*”, then, we need to invent an adequate slogan to propel the “*decolonising everything*” campaign and provide for conditions for the Fall of Colonial Age.

***Freedom of Indigenous People and the Rights to foster traditional culture, education and spirituality, are Indivisible.***

In this respect, the mission of ICCS is indispensable.

The era of Jesuit and other forms of religion-inspired colonisation must be unanimously and decisively condemned and disabled by launching a global project of cultural and spiritual decolonisation. Both, European and non European ethnic groups shall contribute to this project on level playing field since all nations indeed suffered a very similar colonial syndrome, resulting in a substantial loss of ethnic treasury of essential knowledge for the survival in their local habitats.

ARE WE READY to pull strings together for such global project?

The reactions of US administration to the rise of progressive movements in the world might be a sign, that US intelligent services assume that WE ARE READY for a ground braking, paradigm shift global project. The fact, that US administration intends to withdraw from a number of cultural and other progressive global organisation can be understood as a proof of the concept, since it is current US leadership that openly spreads neo-colonial rhetorics and aggression against other nations.

While the nations across the planet rise the awareness of the need to get back to their spiritual roots, the violence of superpowers of which the regimes are strongly linked to Abrahamic religious institutions (both, the US and Russian political elites are of such nature) is pending to unthinkable degrees. The rhetorics of violence is reaching beyond imagination, the international law is being buried to the ground by leaders, openly sympathising with colonial religious orders (Hren, 2025) and openly spreading disrespect of (international) law and consequently of the rights of peoples and nations! The Abrahamic religious organisations stand behind political leaders, while they announce and manifest neocolonial practices (evidently showcased recently in Venezuela, Ukraine, Syria, Palestine, Sudan...). The Abrahamic religions today prove, that they are fully responsible for and even originated the colonial order. They are a core part of the problem and can not serve as a part of solution. What we witness today in the geopolitical situation of the planet is a fiasco of the role of religions when it comes to promotion of ethics and of the resolution of major crisis. There is no other way but to turn back to the roots, to ancient, traditional schools of wisdoms inherent to each and every nation on the planet in its own, unique, authentic, indigenous expression.

What we witness today is a historic peak of neocolonial rhetorics.

What will come out of this global apocalypse is an era of new spirituality, spirituality rooted in traditions and a non-anthropocentric ethics of cross-species solidarity. Today's peak of neocolonialism is announcing the dawn of Abrahamic religions.

The world wide digital web is decentralised, it is essential that it would not become a mirror of a colonial world since it will provide a base platform for future education. It is our responsibility to make it ready for metaverse education.

The digitalisation of spiritual heritage and of the new ritualism shall be enhanced despite of the fact, that it is exactly the domains of digital world, that are – in financial terms – controlled by only a few billionaires, which is yet another reason why a multifaceted decolonisation process and joint project is needed.

Before we further evolve the decolonisation process, Let's make us aware that the decolonisation process only began when my generation was born: the UN Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was adopted in 1960.

1. **Decolonisation in a context of Human Rights.** The genuine need on the planet, to put an end to colonial, predatory culture and to implement the paradigms of Decolonisation of everything on a large scale, starting with knowledge, education, culture, arts and above all, spirituality (more in Dostoievski, 1872), ethics shall be decentralised, since it is nothing but the values applied to territory, the proximity<sup>5</sup>.
2. Decolonisation in a context of **the Rights of all Species and Habitats** (biodiversity): cross species solidarity in a sense of Sustainable Development. The pressing need to awaken the ancient knowledge regarding the coexistence of people with the nature (perennial philosophy, as referred to by architect Jože Plečnik, 1941 ) of which the emblem is the Sacred Angle worshiped across cultures on the globe (Hren, 2022).
3. **Decolonisation as a Key Support to evolution of Ethics and of Humanity** as a civilisation. Only deeply rooted heritage, embedded in universal ancient Nature-Centered and non-anthropocentric values, translated into perennial archetypes of ancient languages, symbols and customs, can truly (and effectively) serve as underlying sphere/platform where people across regions can truly understand, experience and exercise true Unity of HumanRace, Solidarity and Peacefull coexistence.

Reviving Ancient schools of wisdom as contribution to sustainable development and the transition to the forth step<sup>6</sup> in the evolution of ethics in this respect is key.

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<sup>5</sup> In a sense of Fjodor Mihajlovič Dostojevski's argument against universal religions and his defence of decentralised, habitat-related spiritualities presented in a novel : *Besi*, 1872.

<sup>6</sup> Grušovnik, 2017.

European Union somewhat recognised that trend by stipulating research<sup>7</sup> on the deep meaning of cultural heritage for social solidarity, peace building and conflict resolution. EU this way fully recognizes the potential of heritage, in particular the cultural sites, the places of special meaning (including worship) for peace building.

Some of the European countries have - in the past 10 years - exercised a visible progress addressing European colonial past.

However, the scope of decolonisation ambition remains modest.

While some of European museums are gradually returning (sacred) objects to nations previously colonised, European nations only very timidly and shily (almost invisibly) rediscover their own cultural heritage - the heritage of ancestors, before they were colonised by Roman Catholic influences.

We agree with professor Christer Gustafsson, 2025, expert on cultural heritage, professor at Upsala University, Sweeden who claimed that the cultural heritage could be regarded as the only legacy, that can not be inherited but must be constantly acquired and reinvented. This applies more to European nations, who profoundly lost their indigenous knowledge, than to nations, that were colonised on other but European continents.

In the past ten years, some of the European museums relatively bravely adjusted their policies to the trends of restitution and repatriation after several colonies officially claimed their heritage to be returned<sup>8</sup>.

French president Macron (2017)<sup>9</sup> announced “I am from a generation of the French people for whom the crimes of European colonialism are undeniable and make up part of our history. I cannot accept that a large part of cultural heritage from several African countries is in France ... In the next five years, I want the conditions to be created for the temporary or permanent restitution of African patrimony to Africa.” The Elysée Palace was swift to spell out the new policy: “African heritage can no longer be the prisoner of European museums.”

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<sup>7</sup> **European Commission 2025, Reference Horizon Work Programme 2025** 5. *Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society*  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2025/wp-5-culture-creativity-and-inclusive-society\\_horizon-2025\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2025/wp-5-culture-creativity-and-inclusive-society_horizon-2025_en.pdf) See also **EU strategy for cultural international relations** [International cultural relations — an EU strategy | EUR-Lex](#)

<sup>8</sup> For example : In 2009, Egypt demanded that the Louvre return five fragments of a wall painting the tomb of Tetaki, In 2012, Nigeria requested the return of 32 objects from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston that had been looted by the British army during a raid on the Royal Palaces of Benin City in 1897. In 2017, a year after the president of Benin had made an official request to the French foreign ministry for the return of items taken during imperial occupation, Nigeria made a further request, asking the British Museum in London to return the celebrated Benin bronzes.

<sup>9</sup> Emmanuel Macron giving a lecture at the theatre at Ouagadougou University, in Burkina Faso, in November 2017.

Other Colonial European countries followed relatively fast; Belgium returning sacred artefacts to Kongo, German / Berlin ethnographic museum returned objects to former colonies of Namibia and Ghana.

In the report's aftermath, museums across Europe raced to develop new policies on restitution and repatriation. In 2018 report: **The Restitution of African Cultural Heritage was published under the title Toward a New Relational Ethics authored by Felwine Sarr and Benedicte Savoy.** The study recommended the restitution of "any objects taken by force or presumed to be acquired through inequitable conditions" by the army, scientific explorers or administrators during the French colonial period in Africa, which lasted from the late 19th century until 1960.

The trend is set. And irreversible.

## The colonisation of Slavs – case of Slovenians

Slovenia, as a country closer to Rome (considering the length of travel on land) than any other, can serve as a case study revealing iron shield of post-colonial reflexes that still today prevents the full rediscovery of ancient knowledge. On the other hand, the well preserved traces (ethnological, archaeological and anthropological) of ancient Slavic cosmological systems rise high hopes, that adoption of ancient wisdom in terms of sustainability values, can be viewed as realistic, since it has ground in deep-craft, in deep cultural patterns, embedded in language, etymology, habits, proverbs, tails and ethnic songs, being enshrined in traditional places of worship in nature.

The regions that today comprise Northern Italy, Austria, Slovenian and the South West Hungary, were traditionally subjected to extensive migrations, conflicts and massive resettlements. Numerous, ethnically diverse peoples settled there in first millennia of this era including Langobards that occupied present Slovenia in (5-7<sup>th</sup> century) after Illyrians and in particular the tribe of Japodes dominated there till 5<sup>th</sup> century --- they mixed with Keltic tribes and some sources refer to these peoples as Kelto Iliric. At that epoch, Huns – nomadic people from central Asia Kavkaz – raided the area frequently.

Different views appear about the origins of Slavs in today's regions, while the prevailing understanding is, that the **early Slavs** were of Indo-European origin and arrived to present areas of Slavic peoples, during the so called EurAsian migration era in Early Middle Ages (actual arrival estimations differ from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> centuries AD). It is not excluded that some Slavic tribes found the way to Adriatic also at earlier migrations. The best known Slavic geographical entity - known for its democratic fabric of societal organisation, is Carantania, which is on today's Austrian territory, neighbouring Slovenia. It was established in the 7<sup>th</sup> century by the Eastern Alpine Slavs, the ancestors of present-day Slovenes.

The Slavic tribes did nurture nature centered cosmology, comparable to Mediterranean and Vedic / Avesta teachings. Diverse nations that dominated parttime in the area, have left rich archaeological traces that witness well developed, knowledgeable culture, that was worshipping nature. Amongst the outstanding sites that were most probably continuously used in succession of different cultures, emerges an example of the cosmological observatory Debeli Školj near Bazovica, on the Slovene – Italian border<sup>10</sup>.

Convergences in etymology of Slovene and Sanskrit words were analysed in Hren, 2022 and a selection of terms were suggested as key building blocks for the revival of the ancient Slavic spirituality conceptualisation. The methodology for this exercise involved targeted etymological comparison of selected Slovene and

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<sup>10</sup> **Dolina Dei Bogomilli**

<https://intrieste.com/2022/11/14/the-mystery-of-triestes-stonehenge-dolina-dei-bogomilli/> The place is physically easy to locate and visit and the structure is extremely well preserved, proving, that the place was used for worship throughout the time by different cultures and ethnic groups. However, it is puzzling to note, that there are only very few sources published about it; see for example [http://www.luoghimisteriosi.it/friuli\\_basovizza.html](http://www.luoghimisteriosi.it/friuli_basovizza.html)

Sanskrit words, contemporary linguistics and semiotics also tracked in ritual formulas embedded in folklore/music/poetry and the related symbolism. For the purpose of this paper, let us only mention but a couple of examples. To start with, Indian and Slovenian languages have exactly the same linguistic code for VEDA, the knowledge as science. References was made to Key Slovene (i.e.dr. Zmago Šmitek, 2018) and Indian authors revealing VEDAS, particularly dr. Gulab Kothari, 2011 and dr.S.L. Bath, 2018 who announce that the knowledge embedded in traditional Vedas shall be brought to surface, and be interpreted in today's scientific knowledge. A synchronicity of breath with celestial food - DUH-ati as a verb is preserved in Slovene language similarly as in Sanskrit where „duhati“ translates as extraction of essentialities (soma, prana) which probably corresponds to consummation of celestial food, mana, absorbed from the air by breath. Furthermore, Sanskrit and Slovene languages point to the same UPASANA concept of sanjama<sup>11</sup> while further, A-hram and Arham, vraja/vraža and svarga / Brahman, as well as sanyas, sanyama and sanje, represent a trinity of terms used in rituals, providing for union of dense body (physical home of an incarnated being) with celestial, perennial nature of subtle existence.

### **Vedas and Slovene cosmology– key conceptual frame for authentic spirituality – the cosmology of DH - „breath“**

<b>SLOVENE VEDA and DH</b>	<b>element</b>	<b>quality</b>	<b>level</b>	<b>SANSKRIT VEDAS</b>
<b>Veter</b>	Eter ETHER	Knowledge – vidya (akasha) COMMUNICATION	NOOSPHERE SANJAMA	prana
<b>V(a)zduh</b>	Zduh	e-motion interaction coordintaiton	ATMOSPHERE SUBTLE	vyana
<b>Zrak</b>	Žarek RAY	- Vitality – Radiation consumation	Eaarth – GEOSPHERE and BIOSPHERE GROSS	apana

\*Prana, Vyana and Apana are originally threefold division of vayu, while the categorisation later evolved to 5 (samana and udana added) and finally 10 fold. Dr. Gulab Kothari<sup>12</sup> has recently published comprehensive works on Vedic literature, four volumes known under title Maanas, describing the functions of levels of vayu.

Hren (2022) developed parallels between religious heretic groups (Manicheans, Cathars, Bogomils, Bohemians, Albigeneses, Quakers... ) and 19ties century philosophies and interpreted European heresies, the Pythagorean, Essenian and Jain teachings that were manifesting in Indo-European area from 5<sup>th</sup> century BC on as historical thread of mutual influences. The synchronicities of the teachings,

<sup>11</sup> The words Sanjama, Sanjava, Sanyama are indeed synonymously used in Slovene (referring to UPASANA) and in Sanskrit (referring to Patanjali Sutras), in dual form.

<sup>12</sup> Kothari, 2011.

ranging from elements of cosmology (the role of key elements of creation, fire, water, air, earth, ether), values (non-possession, nonviolence), customs (practicing restraint – using simple dress codes, walking bare foot ), codes of conduct (regarding food, diet, travel) are ground braking.

Ancient Wisdom of numerous great cultures melted in the fabric of ethnically blended societies on the territory of present Slovenia, the pillars of perennial cosmology got translated into architecture, languages and tales.

### Early vows of spiritual liberation in Europe

Already Leopold (1949) frames the need to evolve ethics in a sense of cross species solidarity, labelling it as evolutionary possibility and environmental urge, while Arne Naess framed his Deep Ecology thinking in 1972/73 launching his paper referring to diverse scientists and ecologists – who were “out in the field studying the biodiversity and wild ecosystems throughout the world”. This was a first serious attempt to bring “western”, colonial environmental philosophy closer to natural faith, to the traditional philosophies of colonised nations on the planet. At the same time Environmental movements and political parties started to mushroom in Europe and in the late 70ties and early 80ies we witness first victories of a Green party, namely, a Green party of Germany, under the leadership of Petra Kelly. These were important precursors for spirituality evolution.

Dutch scholar, pacifist, and activist Bart De Ligt<sup>13</sup> framed his decision to resign from his Christian pastoral after the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> world war in a sense of “*growing beyond Christianity, acknowledging all religions as branches of great tree of cosmic religion*”. Peter Van den Dungen in his introduction to De Ligt's book *The Conquest of Violence* explains such decision being “not a question of denial but of transcendence”. De Ligt's life, tireless activism and his intellectual contributions shall be understood as an early call for coherent analysis of the roots of violence on one hand and potentials for nonviolent and peaceful revolutions on the other. De Ligt equally questions imperial culture, the violent nature of the bourgeois societies, the effects of population growth and the role of religions supporting the tripartite structure of violence: (imperialism – capitalism -war). But above all, he pioneered the promotion of peaceful techniques for revolutionary changes in societies.

De Ligt was an early bird who de-facto announced the transition of humanity from colonial predatory thinking towards new era of true spirituality; while he was at the same time aware of the slow pace of revolutionary change when it comes to human consciousness; (de Ligt, 1937 pg 57). His genius mind could not miss Victor Hugos apologetic, pioneering announcements and prophecies about the arriving end of the wars as “premature enthusiasm”. De Ligt's and Hugos' legacy is – at least outside France and Holland – underestimated. It is almost unknown that Victor Hugo coined the words »Les Etas Unis d'Europe«, United States of Europe. Victor Hugo and his contemporaries have coined such visionary multilateral governance conceptualisations primarily due to their ability to see the world in its inter-connected

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<sup>13</sup> Author of *The Conquest of Violence: an Essay on War and Revolution*, 1937.

nature, therefore, using their natural, animistic philosophies and views. It is not at all a coincidence that thinkers of such - clearly close to Jain – understanding of interconnections of planetary and extra planetary consciousness have also pre-meditated the concepts and institutions of global governance, notably, the United Nations and European Union.

The importance of Hugos' spirituality in wider pan-European space is evident in the works of Dostoevsky - particularly in his novel *Besi*. *Besi Бесы* in Russian is an identical word to 'besi' used in Slovene language, literally meaning bad spirits, Dostoevsky and his contemporaries use diverse terms for »besi«: *zlog*, *soton*, *zloda*, *zlodej*, *demon*, *diabola*, and this fact alone is enough reason to contemplate on the question, what is the original slavic meaning of the term '*vrag*'. *Vrag* will be liberated from the pot of manipulations and placed where it shall stand; in the central place of the Slavic Pantheon - in the domain of *Vragman*, Slavic Brahman. We need to liberate our mind from catholic interprets of early Slavic etymologies, like the one picturing »*vrag*« as a fallen angel, the murderer (associating it to Jn 8,44), because of which the Slavic etymologic dictionaries interpret the word '*vrag*' as deriving from baltoslov '*vorgrb*' meaning, the one who kills, the enemy. We shall note, that »*vrag*« in such context already performs as converted figure, being distanced from its original use, being a victim of Christianisation of language codes. Colonial reproduction and repetition of converted meanings resulted in automated repetition of the fraud and in such a way anchored the spring for the colonial reflex in linguistics – linguistic colonial reflex later devastated the real meaning of root words in our languages like a tsunami.

The message is clear. In a disastrous geostrategic momentum, when multilateralism and international law is being buried to the ground, it is returning back to the roots, to Hugos' and Ligts' ®evolutionary foundation of nature centered non anthropocentric ethics, that can lead humanity to the new era of true, values based multilateralism. This is only possible by returning back to ancient wisdoms of our proper authentic cultures.

TABLE: key Slavic cosmological terms – synchronicities

English	Italian	Slovene	Slovak	Czech	Croatian	Polish	Ukrainian
air	aria	zrak	vzduch	vzduch	vazduh	powietrze	промінь
ray	raggio	žarek	lúč	paprsek	zraka	promień	промінь
radiation	radiazione	žarčenje	žiarenie	záření	zračenje	promienianie	радіація
breath	respiro	dih	dych	dech	dah	oddech	дихання
atmosphere	atmosfera	vzdušje	atmosféra	atmosféra	atmosfera	atmosfera	атмосфера
wind	vento	veter	vietor	vítr	vjetar	wiatr	вітер
ether	etere	eter	eter	eter	eter	eter	етер
sky	cielo	nebo	obloha	nebe	nebo	niebo	небо
sound	suono	zvok	zvuk	zvuk	zvuk	dźwięk	звук
world	mondo	svet	svet	svet	svet	świat	світ
whole	Totale	cel	celý	celý	cijeli	cały	цілий
sacred	sacro	svet	posvátný	posvátný	sveto	poświęcony	священний
peace	pace	mir	mier	mír	mir	pokój	Мир - mir

## Slovenia follows: The oath of Pavel Medvešček

The beginnings of the return of the old pre-Christian faith to the Slovenian public coincided with the passage of the charcoal oath, with which the collector, artist and founding member of the Old Believers Association Pavel Medvešček Klančar guaranteed silence to his sources, the Old Believers of Posočje river basin, for four decades in 1965. Then, in 2006, he was able to publish *Flight into the Shadow of the Moon: Stories about Old Beliefs*, and barely a decade later, published, the groundbreaking book *From the Invisible Side of the Sky*, Medvešček, 2015, which brought direct testimonies and descriptions of artifacts of the Old Believers of Posočje to the Slovenian readers.

Medvešček gave the charcoal oath to Janez Strgar, an elder among the Old Believers in the village of Volčanski Ruti. As they waited for the močeradovec brandy to evaporate from the cloth with which they had traditionally wrapped their clasped hands, they probably were not aware that they were casting a spell with which they would release the entry of the old faith back among the Slovenians. The deep silence of the 4 decades condensed to such a strength that - when it was released - it developed into an unstoppable vortex, which - between 2016 and 2025 - awakened throughout Slovenia a matured belief that the old faith must be presented with fresh inspiration to future generations as a central building block of the nation's culture. The decision to act publicly mystically matured simultaneously and autonomously among numerous individuals who had not previously known each other. Anonymous and previously hidden individuals, with their diverse backgrounds, suddenly emerged together and united before the wider public.

The family of Pavel Medvešček Klančar has guarded the collection for decades and, even after Pavel Medvešček's passing, ensures the safe and accessible presentation of the artifacts. As an ethnologist, granddaughter Daša Medvešček continues her research work on the raw material kept by the family of the deceased collector.

Among all the objects collected by Medvešček, the KABRCA instrument plays a very special role. We investigated three sets of questions that substantiate the kabrca as an exceptional artifact in the field of indigenous spiritual cultural heritage:

1. the geometry and elementary Trochanic structure of the kabrca, which is designed in so called ritual angle;
2. the depth, functionality and aesthetic value of the kabrca as a musical instrument.
3. the connection of the kabrca with the ancient cosmological entity Nikrmana and thus with the complexity of the spheres of consciousness.

The kabrca is designed in the sacred ritual angle  $2 \times 23.4^\circ$ , which represents the entire tilt of the Earth's axis in two cycles from the winter to the summer solstice. What all priests of all times had in common was one and the same Earth and one and the same solar system with its rhythms, cycles and rotations. The balance of this unity is captured in the rhythm of the seasons and the solar revolutions, symbolized by the ritual or solar angle. The rhythm of the Earth's axis of rotation has perhaps

had the most dramatic impact on the lives of all people on Earth throughout history, dictating the seasons and periods of sowing, hunting, work and rest. Therefore, the angle of the Earth's rotation has been depicted in sacred geometry all over the world. We have researched (Hren, 2022) that the ritual angle was also known and widely used by Jože Plečnik, before him Žiga Zois and beyond, Leonardo Da Vinci and numerous other European creators, who in this way preserved the mystical secret of the old schools of wisdom. Jože Plečnik, 1941 wrote about the principles of eternal architecture and consistently followed his philosophy of finding a duet between human interventions in space and nature itself.

Let us recall some important cosmological facts. The kabrca has five holes: a trio of holes for transitions between tones and one hole each for the intake (mouthpiece) and the exhaust – or for the exhaust of air. The kabrca, with its basic design, already indicates a connection with the third and fifth powers - the sum of all powers - the five-tone or quinta chord, the quintessence ! Only the complexity of the Breath (Slovene DiH) leads to the sum of all powers with which the Old Believers understood the forces of nature. This equals the sum total of levels of air that are represented in language codes of Slavic nations. (See the table above). The physical radiation, the atmosphere created by beings in biosphere and the ionospheric information.

Medvešček learned from his sources that *only dehnars , Old Believer elders, could have a Kabrca. With it, when they wanted, they whistled to come into contact with Nikrmana and the zduhci (the spiritual entities)*. The kabrca instrument is thus directly and inseparably connected with the spiritual life of the ancestors. Understanding Nikrmana defines the purpose of the kabrca instrument – to connect community with Great Conscience, the micro and the macro.

Researching the connection between the kabrca (and with it the instrumentalist) and the Earth's or cosmic consciousness raises many questions. However, the abundant presence of the category of **mana** in anthropological, ethnological and religious research indicates the coherence of cosmology, especially in the Indo-European region, the Mediterranean and Polynesia. The study of *manaism* (Hren, 2024) also clearly explains Medvešček's revelation of the survival of the old religious entity Nikrmana.

The concept **of mana** is associated with oriental cosmologies in translations into English. Mana in Polynesian cosmologies represents spiritual powers (which permeate all of creation) with healing effects. Likewise, mana in the Torah, while the Persian Avesta, like the Indian Vedas, explicitly equates the root MAN with the broadly understood WORLD OF THOUGHT, which in the Avesta includes the spiritual world. Brahman is the highest in the hierarchy of thinking beings. The Romans understood the mani as the spirits of ancestors. Slovene poet France Prešeren (1800-1849) began his poem about the revival of the old faith, the faith of our parents, with the dedication of mani which indicates, that already 19<sup>th</sup> century intellectuals pondered on the importance of this universal unifying code: the MANA, the MANI.

Kabrca combines three vital spheres with the instrumentalist , which in the Slovenian language are represented through three synonyms: *air, zrak, vzduh, v - étèr*, as

shown in etymologic tables previously. Understood in this way, kabrca is an instrument facilitating the connection between the spheres of creation, where one of the three airs reside; between the lower, earthly (NAV), where the lower air or ZRAK resides, the middle, existential (JAV), where the middle air or VaZDUH resides and the upper, informational world (PRAV), where the upper air or (v)ET(H)ER resides, containing PURPOSE, WILL and LAWS OF CREATION.

Three Slovenian/Slavic synonyms for air represent the basis of Slavic cosmology. It is interesting that various Slavic languages (see the table above) have preserved all three words for the root word for air. While the Slovenian language has air as its root, the Croatian language explicitly links the word air to ray, which gives the basis for the conclusion that in Slavic cosmology the word air describes the property of tangible matter to radiate or radiate FOR EXAMPLE heat, cold, electromagnetic waves. Slavic languages use the word v(a)vzduh as a synonym for air; while in Slovenian vzduh colloquially refers to the atmosphere, to the middle level of air that defines the atmosphere, Croats use the word vazduh as the main word for air. And also the root of the word (v)eter as the highest air (which stores and transmits information) is common in Slavic words for air - as powietrze it is in some countries the main word for air in Slavic. The Slavs thus neatly distributed the main word roots for air, and in this way, probably unknowingly, preserved all three synonyms for air in their original cosmological meaning, thus preserving the triple of layers/qualities of air in our heritage.

Kabrca radiates the Earth, echoes the atmosphere / mood of beings and is inspired by the upper world, the wind, which is interpreted in heritage by the world of Nikrmana.

This trinity is also reflected in the triangular shape of the kabrca. The three levels of consciousness.

It is interesting, that the GO!2025 European Capital of Culture program announced a concert by Patti Smith ahead of the regular program on October 5, 2023. The legendary "mother of punk rock", as we like to call her, also played out all the key themes that dictate social activism in Nova Gorica. Among them, she paid special attention to indigenous cultures and their contribution to a protective attitude towards nature and the environment. She dedicated her song Ghost dance to them. Patti Smith understood Manism and specifically addressed it in her poetry.

*What is it children that falls from the sky?  
Manna from heaven from the most high  
Food from the father, tayi, taye, aye*

A direct translation of Nikrmana from Sanskrit into Slovenian reads: NIKARA MAANAS; the root NIKARA means abundance - multitude, and MAANAS represents the complexity of the concept, which in the Slovenian language is best translated as CONSCIOUSNESS, NIKRMANA can therefore be translated as ABUNDANT-CONSCIOUSNESS, quintessence, informational, ionized field between the worlds of creation.

## The people from the shadows – the mystic call

The past decade will certainly be recorded in the history of the Slovenian nation as a time when the public reawakened a reflection on spiritual liberation/independence and on the role and significance of pre-Christian, indigenous cosmologies, spiritual practices and worldviews. Let us call THIS set of **beliefs old faith**, even though in recent years a set of synonyms have been legitimately and justifiably used and established for pre-Christian beliefs and cosmologies, among which the most common are **natural or nature-centered faith**, **old-sacred**, **ancestral religion**, **primordial religion and paganism**. All of these terms make sense and are completely legitimate for designating the views and life creed of groups of people and communities before the emergence and temporary dominance of monotheistic, Abrahamic religions. Today, they already represent an established trend and mainstream culture.

The publication of Pavle Medvešček's book *From the Invisible Side of the Sky* was followed by a tour, which was organized by the author of this paper and Slovenian Old Believers Association and UPASANA in agreement with the publisher, the Scientific center of the Slovene Academy of Science. ZRC SAZU. The response from the participants was magnificent.

We organized over 40 events, starting with a visit to the President of the Republic on the winter solstice in December 2015 and Medvešček's performance at the cultural program organized by UPASANA at the traditional reception for religious communities on International Human Rights Day, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The President of the Republic, the Ministry of Culture, and a broad assembly of representatives of registered religious communities were among the first to learn directly about the entry of the Old Believer tradition and Old Believer communities back into the public eye.

The first edition of the book sold out within six months, and since 2016, the ZRC SAZU Publishing House has reprinted the work six times. The book holds an absolute record in sales for the academic publisher considering the books printed in the past 20 years - acknowledging that the publications of academia are published also online.

Within a few years, the topic of Old Believers had become so well-established that the Kobarid Tourist Association proposed a partnership with the Slovenian Old Believers Association in implementing a program to improve the area around Mrzli Studenec in Kobarid where the last records of Rome Catholic inquisitions against pagan believers are traced.

The largest openly Old Believer project in recent history was born.

Four symposia of Nature Centered Faith research community were held in Kobarid, west Slovenia<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>14</sup> The exhaustive summary of proceedings is published in English here: [https://www.academia.edu/112589661/SLOVENE\\_NATURE\\_CENTERED\\_ETHNIC\\_FAITH\\_STATE\\_OF\\_THE\\_ART\\_OF\\_THE\\_RESEARCH](https://www.academia.edu/112589661/SLOVENE_NATURE_CENTERED_ETHNIC_FAITH_STATE_OF_THE_ART_OF_THE_RESEARCH)

At the foot of the ascent to the ossuary from World War I, in the very center of Kobarid, they re-established the space in the area of the former Old Believer sanctuary, arranged the spring and planted a new tree and named the sanctuary "*At the Cold Spring!*". *The Cold Spring in Kobarid became the first formally rehabilitated Old Faith sanctuary in Slovenia.* In honour of the discovered and publicly open Old Believer hierophany, a series of five scientific events followed in Kobarid, dedicated to researching the act of Christianization itself in the late Middle Ages, related literature assessment of the period of Christianization and religious dualism, and searching for remnants of the Old Faith in local traditions.

In the introduction to the third volume, they poetically summarized the first three symposia and wrote that over the course of three years they gradually moved from dense – even though hierophanic – matter, through liquid, and thus arrived at the subtle, metaphysical. From the materialized to the spiritual.

The second symposium saw the reprinting of **France Bevk's novel The Dying God Triglav**, which immortalizes the inquisition events in Kobarid in a novel. The first edition sold out quickly, and a reprint was prepared the following year.

The Third Symposium was dedicated to the legacy and person of the late Prof. Dr. Zmago Šmitek, an ethnologist who passed away in the fall of 2018. His last work, (Šmitek 2018) *The Rumble of the Wilderness, the Green Bottom of Our Cosmos*, Šmitek explained in depth the mythological meaning of the wild hood (Sl divjina from lat. Dev, divine, sacred) as a microcosm of devas. .With a discussion of Šmitek's oeuvre, the symposia paid tribute to the researcher who left us fundamental works for considering the synchronicity of Slovenian spiritual codes with universal ones. Šmitek reminded that *humanity has not progressed in a spiritual sense since the Stone Age hunter.* The predator remains the core characteristic of a man.

Spiritual independence and the awakening of the old faith is a central part of the process of decolonization of civilization, to move beyond predatory culture. The trends in the world are decisive – in recent years, indigenous first ministers have taken up important positions for the first time in New Zealand, Australia and Canada, the process is intense and irreversible. The world must end the colonial domination of individual nations. The same applies to the colonial domination of religions.

**The fourth symposium entitled Old Faith through the Eyes of Researchers, with the first public presentation of the book "Old Faith between Science and Religion", took place in Kobarid in September 2022** and, with the presentation of research achievements, summarized the full breadth of the research scope of local researchers of the Old Faith. Their in-depth work anchors the Old Faith as a comprehensive science and a holistic spiritual life, as an indigenous and authentic cosmology.

The symposium was **dedicated to Dr. Gregor Lesjak**, who participated in the preparation of both, the symposium program and the ECoC GO program. Dr. Lesjak, long-time head of the Office for Religious Communities of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, was supposed to lead a round table at the symposium, but a

long-term serious illness prevented him from doing so. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia has not filled the void left by Lesjak's departure to this day.

The groundbreaking work of Spomenka Hribar and Tine Hribar, prominent authors of Slovene Post II. world war reconciliation concept, was presented titled Slovenian Schisms and Slovenian Reconciliation. Authors for the first time actualize the issue of reconciliation from the perspective of the key reason for the nation's schisms - Christianization! The authors of the concept of reconciliation, thus paved the way for a profound renewal of the concept of reconciliation stating that : *"We will regain reconciliation, reconciliation with ourselves, when we are able to reclaim pre-Christian Slavic Slovenianness, **including the Slovenian Old Believers** . And... by restoring the ancient relationship to the land."*

The symposium also presented the results of research work of Marko Hren and Dr. Janez Kopač on mystical elements in Plečnik's Ljubljana titled Guide to heathen Ljubljana - a capital of a pagan state : pre-Christian hierophany, pagan places of worship and perennial architecture. The work was published alongside the central exhibition of Plečnik's Year 2022 and demonstrates that the signs of the presence of eternal architecture in space, as a continuous thread of pagan philosophy, are expressed in the coding of the trinity:

- **ritual (sacred, cosmic, solar) angle** and in the so-called "secret of the corner stone",
- **the use of Trochan** (an invisible network of spiritual connections between specific points in space) and
- **metaphors of the Wilderness – usually personified by a dragon/snake** (in decoration) or a WILD MAN - in feminine form represented in Slovene traditions as PIERTA or PEHTA.

## Conclusion

In a good decade of public activity of the Old Believers in Slovenia, six giants of Old Faith wisdom passed away , who, with their life's work, left us a first-class basis for a credible renewal of our understanding of traditional spiritualities.

Ethnomusicologist Dr. Mira Omerzel Mirit, sociologist of religions Dr. Gregor Lesjak, artist and collector Pavle Medvešček (2020), ethnologist Dr. Zmago Šmitek, film director Jadran Sterle, and ethno musician Slavoj Batista. When reviewing the material inherited, it seems that in the past decades, with the loss of named giants, a solid upgrade of the platform, which was originally established in a preceding century by architect Jože Plečnik, poet France Prešeren, painter Rihard Jakopič, and patron Žiga Zois was accomplished .

This is an indelible, eternal platform, which includes spatial architecture, rehabilitation of sacred places, temples, revival of knowledge about spells, core meanings of key cosmological words, related songs, chants and stories, this living and vital platform contains everything needed for study and spiritual practice-oriented spiritual renewal,

spiritual liberation as corner stones of ethnic/national sovereignty and cultural independence.

The author is submitting the paper to ICCS conference organisers after a great, historic event held in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia in a symbolic hall of Tabor on January 11<sup>th</sup>,<sup>15</sup>. The event was dedicated to launch a new wave of spiritual approach to Slovene community in a contemporary multidisciplinary way, involving elements of traditional nature centered rituals, facts based scientific approach, ethnic music, gastronomy and dance.

The event was historic, since a majority of participants were representing younger generations.

Immediately following the event, the author of this paper was invited by the mayor of the municipality of Kobarid, to attend the budgetary session of the parliament of the city and to substantiate the proposed budget item for the establishment of museum of nature-centered faith artefacts in Kobarid, near the sacred worship place at Mrzli studenec (Cold Spring Shrine). The municipality of Kobarid granted support for the museum and the collection of Pavel Medvešček (see Medvešček, 2015) will move in 2026 from the present venue where the collection was established within the program European Cultural Capital GO!2025, to Kobarid.

These are good reasons to spread the message of optimism!

Bow to ancestors, and bow to generations to come!

15.1. 2026

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<sup>15</sup> Tabor used to be a traditional place for gathering of slavic community. The event was titled the Seed of the Sound. A sound of awakening the collective Heart. <https://www.semezvoka.si/>

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