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**COMPARISON OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN
THE LOCATION OF BOSTANISH, BUNISHT OF
ZHUNICA WITH OTHER LOCALITIES IN THE
MORAVA AND TOPLICA VALLEY**

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Abstract

This study was conducted by archaeological analysis of two localities Bostanisht and Bunisht of the village Zhunica which is located in southern Serbia near the E75 highway on the border with Macedonia. This paper will provide arguments about Albanian autochthony in the Morava Valley, which is now known as the Presevo Valley. The artifacts will be presented with materials found in two sites now well known to many world archaeologists such as the locality Bostanisht and Bunisht. Also, the very name of these localities is related to the Albanian words.

The purpose of this paper based on archaeological findings in these localities, and comparing them with other localities in the South of Serbia, is to present the scientific opinion based on facts that in this area is a rich area with similar archaeological findings. This resemblance of artifacts implies a wide spread in the Morava valley of the ancient population. Based on the antiquity of the materials

found in many localities of the Morava valley, it is about the Dardan tribe which was and is in these places populated by the Albanian people as their descendant. Patterns of pottery as well as stone figures are facts of the Middle Neolithic. Also as a basic conclusion are the findings of the huts that document a culture of the ancient Starcheve 7000 years ago. The tumulus necropolises are an argument of the antiquity of the Albanian people in this area.

1. Introduction

The Balkan Peninsula is an area of great ethnic instability. As a crossroads of some of the main roads between East and West, North and South, between Europe and Asia, with all its geographical advantages. This is an area where the population will be settled from prehistoric times. Many groups of people with diverse languages settled in these ancient spaces. The static image of the Greeks and Romans, and the first indigenous inhabitants Illyrians, and new strata of - Celts, Goths, Slavs, represent a movement of many empires which leads to numerous invasions of Dardanians from their lands 7000 years AKr. These successive invasions have led to numerous changes of toponyms or settlements. From this action, the linguistic traces in these Dardanian areas have been lost. However, archeological and linguistic traces could not be completely destroyed and based on these documents we can restore the anthropogenetic meaning in these populated areas before Christ (BC) and beyond.

2. Material and methods

As materials which are the basis for the Albanian autochthony in this Valley are numerous. In this paper we will present the mother hut of the Middle Neolithic, the Starcheve culture of the VII-VI millennium BC, ceramic tiles, necropolis cemetery with photos, relief, animal teeth and the names of both toponyms.

Archaeological findings and linguistic sources of ancient sites speak for this scientific work. Therefore, any work with a scientific basis, which reveals a reality, has not only scientific but also cultural significance, regardless of the ethnicity of the author. The Roman baths discovered in Toplica and Zhunica are of the same architecture and model and belong to the III-IV century AD. However, the pottery and other findings that are present in these local baths document us that these are from the most ancient period as we noted above AKr. And so by debating anthropological antiquity in these regions of the Morava Valley based on documents, archaeological material we can uncover many dilemmas of scholars who write writings or comments not with their heads but with their anger in order to cover the archaeological and anthropological truth.

The iron, bronze layers were taken as a method for decipherment, in the locality in the south of Serbia in Zhunica, next to the river Moravica, where the locality Bunisht is located, in which a Middle Neolithic underground hut was found. Here, according to the artifacts, is the layer of the Iron Age I (A2-B2, according to the Rajneke chronology), according to Bulatović, Tomović, Kapuran 2005.

3. Results and discussion

Archaeological discoveries in the Morava valley and the toponyms where these findings were made give us anthropogenetic arguments. According to the names of localities or settlements, it is thought that the ancestral Albanian people Pelasgians-Illyrians lived in these lands. In the south of Serbia in Zhunica, along the Moravica River, is the locality Bunisht, in which the underground Neolithic hut was found, in which is the layer of the Iron Age I (A2-B2, according to the Rajneke chronology), according to Bulatović, Tomović, Kapuran 2005., the culture of Bvrnica as well as the Starčeve culture of the VII-VI millennium BC. This locality is named especially on the basis of this hut where early in the night there were lodgings during the residence to be protected from frosts and other attacks they may have. The word Bunisht itself in the literary language has the meaning of huts or

the word hut. The word Bunisht is very similar to the word overnight because they have the same meaning. In Serbian this locality is called Bunishte which in Albanian d.m.th. fertilized place that argues that in this locality there were cattle where farmers rested daily and slept in underground huts surrounded by willow twigs. It is true even though most of the ancient toponyms have changed but nevertheless the words from the first primitive societies could not be completely lost but still exist to this day. Also systematic findings such as the pottery of the Bwrnjica culture, the Bronze Age and elements of the Iron Age give a systematic existence in these lands.



Figure 1. Ceramics of the α model, π of the necropolis tumulus) in the locality Perc of the century. I p.Kr., 2010 (N.Kamberi-Zhunica).

Thanks to a favorable strategic position, on the one hand, and the slopes along the fertile valley in Leskovac, there are archaeological finds, necropolises of settlements of prehistoric times to the present day. A large number of architectural objects were discovered in these localities, many ceramic materials, coins, glass, bones and stone, which document an ancient anthropology from the VII millennium in Hisar of Leskovac. The remains of ancient settlements date back to the Middle Neolithic. We have the same settlements in the Presevo Valley that belong to the same age and the same culture. With this it is concluded that we are dealing with a single type of human population which was undoubtedly Dardanian based on archaeological findings such as necropolises, pottery, ornaments and Illyrian coins. This is confirmed by the pottery of the model π which belongs to the period of the century. I BC, (Figure 1.).

The villages of Gradac and Zlokučan are located near Leskovac located in the valley of the South Morava River. The material found here belongs to the culture of Vinca (New Neolithic) around 4000 years BC. We should know that a similar culture has been discovered in the east of the village of Ternav-Preshevo along the river valley on the right bank. Halfway from Leskovac to Grdelica, in the village of Mala Kopashnica (Mountains near the Gardens) a Roman cemetery with burnt graves was discovered. Bronze coins, ceramic vessels, benches made of glass and gold paste, weapons, tools, etc. were found in all the graves. It is assumed that this is a village destroyed in the VI century BC. The village of Donja Toponica (Lower Toponica) which lies on the right side of South Morava and on the left side of the E75 highway between Nis and Aleksinca according to the authors Trbuhović, Vojislav B. 1970 contains the Dardanian cemetery (necropolis). In Pločnik of 1927, important settlements were discovered based on architectural and archaeological remains found during excavations belonging to the Late Neolithic (New Stone Age and Early Copper Age), V-IV millennium BC. The smooth development of these societies in these areas of Morava from west to east was interrupted by the arrival of colonizers. According to scientific sources based on

archaeological findings, cemeteries and architectural constructions, the autochthonous inhabitants in these areas were the Dardanians-Illyrians, the ancestors of the Albanians. Archaeologists Trbuhović, Vojislav B. 1970 and Spremo-Petrović, Nevenka, 1925-1970 also acknowledge the greatest truth. declaring that in the twentieth century. XIII BC, here were the Illyrians, Thracians, Tribals and Dardanians. The same cemetery from our excavations has been found west of the city of Presevo, which belongs to the 15th century. I p.Kr. This is confirmed by the pottery which was both the cover and the bed of the tomb and which had the alpha and π pattern (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Ceramics of the alpha model, pi of the necropolis tumulus) in the locality Perc of the century. I BC., 2010 (N.Kamberi-Zhunica)

A burnt urn has also been found as a form of burial of the Dardanian period (Fig.3.). The tumulus was 4m above road level. The shin cemetery is located east-west, while on the north, south, west side it was surrounded by white limestone while the cover or roof was two aqueducts composed of ceramic tiles. Surrounded by stone, while they were covered with ceramic tiles of the Dardan alpha and π model. In these waters the Urna in which the ashes were placed after the burning of the body and we came across a tooth which duets in the Urna. So the Dardanian model of tiles and the Urne artifact document that in this area was inhabited by the Illyrian tribe called Dardan.



Figure 3. Urne, tooth, limestone, plates π and α .

We say so because the burial was done by burning the corpse and the ashes were placed in urns and that the position of the graves was in the east-west direction as a Catholic tradition (Dardanian). It

should be borne in mind that the Starce culture was present in places along rivers, water sources, near meadows, fields where there were opportunities for livestock and agriculture. At this time we have the presentation of works of animal or anthropomorphic figures from stone, fantastic figures of animals (Fig.4.), Figures in columns without signs of genitals, hermaphroditic forms of figures, cemetery lids with figures of people, etc.



Figure 4. Head-zoomorphic sculpture from stone-culture of stars, locality Bostanisht -, 2004 (N. Kamberi-Zhunica).

During the IX, X and XI centuries Toplica began to be conquered by the Slavs but under Byzantine leadership. Prokuplja at that time was called Toplica from the hot-water baths that d.m.th. in the opinion of warm-hearted Serbian archaeologists. These baths were of the ancient period of the century. III-IV M.Kr. Since the baths were with hot water and from a geographical position, the accumulated water formed environments that in Albanian are called Toplicw (place with water-To π ll) according to which the word this place is named Toplicw (place with water-To π ll). The Roman city of Hammemum was built in Prokuplje, confirmed on the basis of the findings of the foundations of Roman culture, because the city was important and as a crossroads of the road Naissus-Lissus (Nish-Lezh-Albania). Roman remains have also been found on the hill of Hisar (Turkish name for Krushevc) in the Latin cemetery.

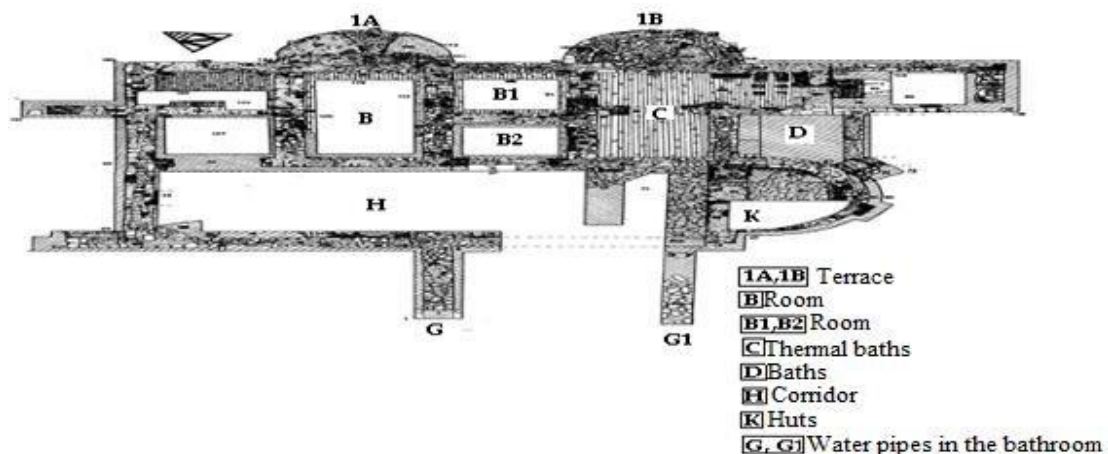


Figure 5. View of the foundations of the public bath (terma) known as a place of rest and entertainment - called Hane (locality Bostanisht - Zunica, 2005)

The discovery of thermal baths are among the main arguments of Roman architecture and were part of the urbanization of the ancient city of Hammemum. The thermal baths were resting places-hamams for the leader of civilization, places of amusement. There were enslaved Dardanian workers

who took care of cleanliness and other activities in the household, livestock and agriculture. Ancient civilization is also found in the Bostanisht locality of Zhunica where the same public-public baths are located. The foundations of the public thermal bath and water supply have been discovered in this locality. This locality is also called Crkvishte (crkva-church) thinking that here were the foundations of the church. However, excavations have shown that this is the basement of a hot bath - a holiday bath or hane-hame (Fig. 5.).

The basements of the public baths in the Bostanisht locality were also documented by archaeologists Tomović, Bulatović, Kapuran and numismatist Rexhep Kadriu-Llucani, 2005. (Scientific paper published: pp.319-353).

Probably, in addition to water for freshness, they also used watermelon from this locality so today it is called Bostanisht. Ceramic π pes placed on stone slabs that have brought clean drinking water have also been discovered here (Fig. 6.).



Figure 6. View of ceramic water π pes in the canal in a narrow and wide profile at a depth of 55 cm-Bostanisht., 1980 and 2010 (N. Kamberi-Zhunica), III century A.K (After Christ).

However, the discovery of a relief from White Marble at a depth of 2.5m which was below the last level of the base (foundation) of the bathroom and which had an ancient production made us think that this locality is from a period of the century. V, PKr. In this marble relief with vorbe or π itose-shaped appearance (π -tose) teeth and horn bones have been found (Fig. 7).



Figura 7. Relief Hyness , of the sacrifice of the child before the battle (1980-Bostanisht locality) and tooth bones and horns in the marble relief of the 5th century BC.

According to Neritan Ceka, this relief is of Attic production, c. V PKr. This marble relief around is equipped with sculpture of the Goddess, the Deity and the Goddess with children in hand and animal figures. The various Dardanian deities in Bostanisht were not erased from their memory, even after the Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and Slavic conquests. They continue to live in their superstitions even today. In a word, the Romans settled in the settlements previously built by the Dardanians only to make renovations and modifications to adapt the settlements which were destroyed by the wars of the Roman colonizers themselves. And all these localities are a continuation of many other em π res and invaders. But the reality is always clarified and so according to the authors Trbuhović, Vojislav B. 1970 it is confirmed that in the village Toponic of Toplica are found the Dardana necropolis (cemetery). Therefore, many historians make descriptions only of the period of the VI and VII century BC, while the Late, Middle Neolithic period, the culture of Bernjica (Dardanian culture), the Starcheve culture 7000 years BC, and which is encountered in the locality Bunisht of Zhunica they forget it. So we have to accept the reality that in these territories of the South Morava Valley (Presevo Valley) and beyond were established the first primitive societies which originated from the Pelasgians and from them the Dardanians, Thracians, etc.

4. Conclusion

1. Ceramic patterns as well as stone figures are facts of the Middle Neolithic.
2. Many groups of people with diverse languages settled in these ancient spaces. The static image of the Greeks and Romans, and the first indigenous inhabitants Illyrians, and new layers of Celts, Goths, Slavs, represent a movement of many em π res which leads to numerous invasions of Dardanians from their lands 7000 years p. Kr.
3. Based on the materials in the locality of Bostanisht and Bunisht and comparing these with other localities of Toplica and the surrounding villages we can conclude that in this area there was an Illyrian people.
4. So the Dardanian model of tiles and the Urne artifact document that in this area was inhabited by the Illyrian tribe called Dardan.
5. The statements of other archaeologists about the existence of the Daradane necropolises imply that they were inhabitants there, worked, lived and died. Therefore a real collaboration in this view brings a scientific and unshakable result Fig.3.

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