

MITHRAISM AND ITS ROLES ON THE FORMATION OF RITUAL ARCHITECTURE



Architecture

KEYWORDS : Mithraism, ritual architecture, Abrahamic religious, sacred number Seven, underground temples

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ABSTRACT

Mithraism is an oriental rite. It did advent from Atropatians (Medes Empire) and improved by Persian Empire but it should not be forgotten its ceremonies is one of the most effective rites that could dominate Abrahamic religious and Zoroastrianism before overspreading into borders of Roman Empire when the Jesus was not born. Its special-sense and form of temples are comprehensible considering sequential temples of Zoroastrians, Jews, Romans, Christians and etc. Symbols such as; Apis-bull of Samaritan, stone fire-temples of Zoroastrians, Romans underground temples, cross formed churches and the sacred number of seven that can be comprehended regarding to the account of weakly days, ancient planets, holly candlesticks, steps of king Cyrus temple, are some signs of Mithraism effected other religious tangibly. In this paper, the role of Mithraism concepts those effected the formation of ritual artworks have been investigated to show the similar base of the mentioned religious using of architectural clues.

INTRODUCTION

Mithraism is an oriental rite, religious and myth overspread in the west spatially among Roman Empire before Christ. The antiquity of discovered temples in Azerbaijan-Iran shows it did advent from Atropatene (Medes Empire) and improved by Persian Empire. It should not be forgotten its ceremonies is one of the most effective rites that could dominate Abrahamic religious and Zoroastrianism before overspreading into borders of Roman Empire when the Jesus was not born. Its sense of space and form of temples are comprehensible regarding to the sequential temples of Zoroastrians, Jews, Romans, Christians and etc [1].

Symbols such as; Apis-bull of Samaritan, stone fire-temples of Zoroastrians, Romans underground temples, cross formed churches and the sacred number of seven that can be comprehended regarding to the account of weakly days, ancient planets, holly candlesticks, steps of king Cyrus temple, are some signs of Mithraism effected other religious tangibly. This paper investigates the role of Mithraism concepts effected the formation of ritual artworks to display the similar root of the religious by architectural signs [2].

MITHRAISM

The oldest document that is mentioned to the Mithras name relates to Hittite peace treaty with Metanian in 14th century BC, located in Bogazkoy-Turkey but Mithras myth has a root in Paleolithic era.[1] Mithras is the rite of duality[3].

There are a lot of caverns and buildings have recognized as Mithras, the cult centers of the mysteries of Mithras. The classical symbols of the bull emerge in the Mithras temples. Mithras' killing of the bull is the most obvious of symbol of Mithraism (figure2).



Figure1: Mithras born from the rock (marble, 180–192 AD), from the area of S. Stefano Rotondo, Rome



Figure2: Tauroctonus Mithras Sources: Marble group of the second century, British Museum

Carrying the night and day torches, the shepherds, young Mithras born out of the cave and the signs of the zodiac. *Fight for the Light in the dark* is its main slogan that influence Zoroastrianism (Figure1).

In fact, Zoroaster is a direct heir of Mira religion rather than an independent profit. Subsequently, it is viable to represent Mithras by Zoroastrianism considering its specific paternities. However, there are some spatial factors that make them differ. The next part has presented some clues to distinguish their effects.

Duality is the base of Zoroastrianism that is received by Mithras. Mithras was being fought against darkness but it was vital killing the bull to reach the light. It should be mentioned bull is a symbol of badness God that causes the darkness. Obviously, the knife and fire on his hand indicate the mentioned mystery. Also, Ahriman or Demon was the God of the darkness and Mazda or savior was the God of lightness in the Zoroastrianism (Figure3) [4].

Figure3: Frvahar



THE SACRED NUMBER SEVEN

The number seven was the fullest in the many cultures and religions because of connection with the creation story. According to the holy books' narration; all the universe was created in six days or six stages then the lord spent the seventh day to relax.[5], [6]. In many other cultures similar views have been expressed about the creation.

RITE OF MITHRAISM REPRESENTING BY OTHER RELIGIOUS

Mithras was the god of the covenant and obligation and mutual faithfulness [7]. Mithras was born out of a rock in a cave. It reveals the bull to the ground and sits on its back and plunged the knife into the bull's shoulder.

Bull was symbol of terrestrial power. So, rock and soil are holy that caused to build underground rocky temples. Also, fire which represents lighting was the symbol of felicity. Subsequently, Sun-worshipping was another attribute to be recognized.

There was a complex system of seven dignity of initiation with ritual meals that was sacred for Mithras worshippers. It was called *syndexioi* among initiates that "united by the handshake"(Figure4)[8].

Figure4: Candelabrum from Carthage, dated to the sixth century BC



They met in underground temples called Mithraea (Figure5). The cult became manifest to have had its center in Rome[9]. It should not be forgotten that, there are many archeological finds with the usage of shrines, meeting places, monuments, and artifacts related to the Mithraism rite throughout the Atropatena, Persia, Anatoly and Roman Empire [10].

MITHRAISM AND SUMERIANS

The most ancient ethnic that regarded to the number seven were folk of Sumerians. The planets like; (Venus, Jupiter, Mercury, Saturn, Mars, Earth and the Sun) discovered for the first time by these tribes that were worshipping them as Lord and gods of phenomenon. At the same period, Sumerians had found seven specimens of some natural factors like planets discovered the ancient world, and it also confirms the superiority of primary colors such as; (red, silver, white, black, purple, blue and green) and metaphysical aspects were seven.

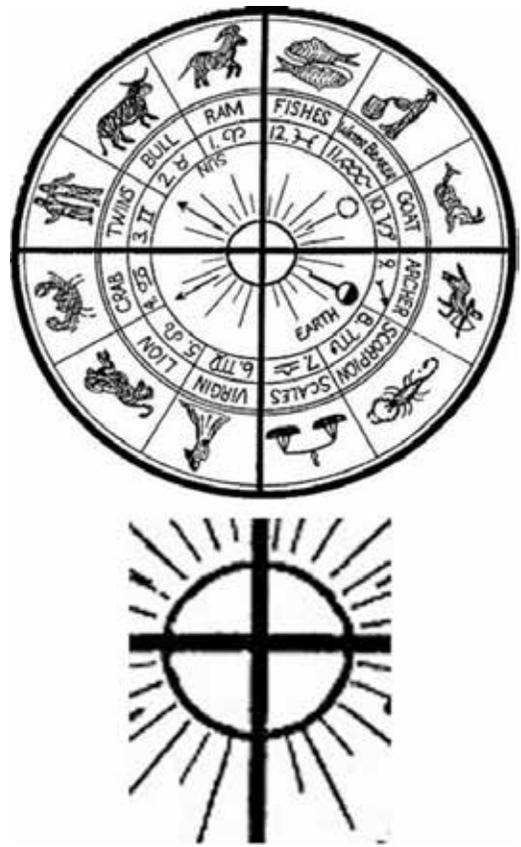
Then, number seven was very important in religions, join the world's mystical traditions and customs. Also, the sacred number seven was the number of so many activities and natural factors. Among Indo-European peoples' sacredness of number seven is obvious. In ancient Greece the figure for Apollo, god of medicine, poetry and industry was also the seven. The caves in the culture of Mithras have seven doors and niche [11]. Seven reliefs had been seen on some cedar of Mithraism. Degrees of initiation among the cult had seven stages.

MITHRAISM AND CHRISTIANITY

In the early centuries after Christ, Mithraism was a serious rival of Christianity. Mithras was only a savior and represents a way of life and faith at that time. December 25, the birthday of Mithras was the birthday of "Christ"[12]. Then, the ideas of Mithraism started to penetrate Christianity. At the beginning, Mithraism was the main part of the Christian religion but the Roman Empire began to treat against the idea of oriental when finds new official religion[12].

East and west did trust on the sun god that was called Mithras. It was Invincible and they called themselves the servants of the "Father Mithras". Mithras was born in a dark cave and the shepherds were the first people that found it[13]. Then, they presented gold, aromatic and fragrant as a gift. This is the story same as the Gospel[14].

The holy birth celebrate of the Mithras occurred in the darkest cave in 21st December when is the darkest night of the year[15]. Mithras's birthday signs the birth of light, the appearance of signs of hope and rebirth of nature. Also, holy Jesus is celebrated on this night at the time of the winter solstice(figure 5).Figure5;



symbol of the Sun from the center part of The Zodiac is the exact symbol of Christianity (TheMystery Religion of Babylon www.sabbathcovenant.com)

Crypt tombs have been used between third to fourth centuries continuously. It is estimated that close to four million bodies buried in the crypt only the monuments of Rome. The tombs were used as hiding places for refugees in the days of persecution [16]. Features such as; block and separate steps, indentation and secret passageways, hidden input and output doors might assert of mentioned statement. Albeit, their main role was to replace the apostles dead but some Christian rituals were performed in the cellars affecting Mithraism rites (Figure6).

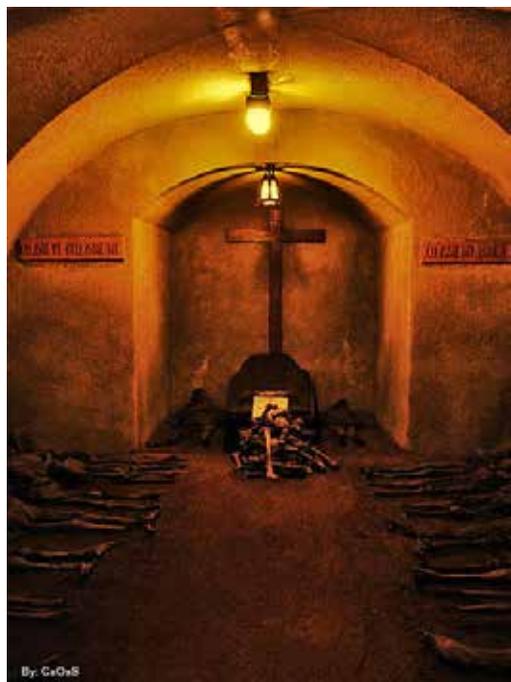


Figure6: Inside the Capuchin Crypt:
(Cxoax 1999)

It is asserted that the Mithraism is the religious of duality that effected opinion of trinity in Christianity. Signs like the sun and encircled cross the can be seen in the holy dining (sanctified food) of the Mithras. Four corners of the cross were a sign of beginning the solar year in Mithraism rites. Two corners of that-showsthe day and night. The other corners mark the solstice.

On the hand the central fire-temple of Nushijan tapa in Ec-batana had been constructed resembling cross-shape in first millennium BC, when the shape of cross could not authenticate the Christ crucifixion story before his nascence (Figure7).

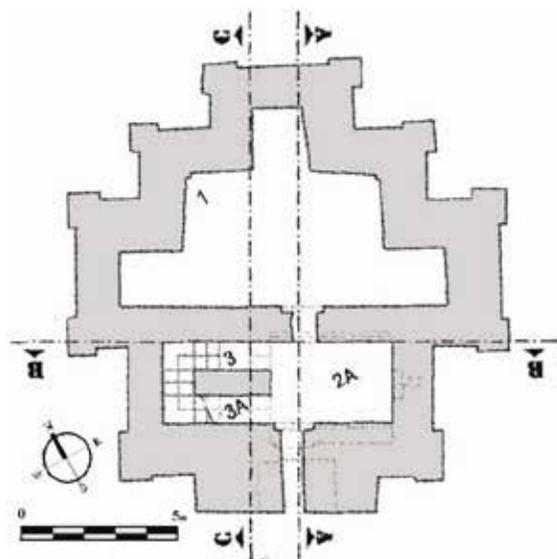


Figure7: Central temple of Nushi-jan-Tapa in Ecbatana, First millennium BC

Mithras and Jesus were presenters of the Holy Fathers` demands that sent by him on the ground. The difference is that Jesus is the Son "Jehovah" and Mithras is the Son of God but Jews de-

scribed Jehovah as the God in the Bible says.

MITHRAISMAND JUDAISM

Bull worship was common in ancient cultures. Apis was a comparable object of worship in Egypt [16]. According to the exodus narrative the Hebrews had recently come which the tribe believe the Hebrews were reviving in the wilderness; When Moses went up to mount Sinai, the Israelites did worship the golden calf. Moses went down from the Sinai that did aware the story and became angry. Finally, he burnt the calf in a fire [17]. This milestone alike Mithraism rites when it narrated Mithras plunged the knife into the bull's shoulder. Then, he spark on fire to guide the people.

On the other hand, according to the Biblical narratives, all the universe was created in six days or stages, and the Lord spent the seventh day for rest. In many other cultures, similar opinions have been expressed about the creation. It should be remained, there was a complex system of seven dignity for Mithras worshippers that was called *syndexioi* among initiates that "united by the handshake". Also, the seven candlestick that has concept of "a light unto the nations" used in the Jewish temple affected by Mithras candlestick (Figure8) [18].



Figure8: Jewish Candlestick
www.kjv1611.org.uk

Candelabrum from Carthage, dated to the sixth century BC, showing that the seven branched Menorah of the Jews was not peculiar to Judaism, and matching the description of Moloch [19]. Supposedly the Moloch and Mithras had affected by a same root adverted from the Mesopotamia or summered. It can be proved regarding to the fireplace located on the final stage and dividing his chest into seven parts (Figure9).



Figure9: The Idol of Moloch (A Germany artist, 18th-century)

CONCLUSIONS

We can say that for 1m³M20 grade of concrete consumption of fine aggregate is 775.96 kg. Here in specimen M-3 we replace fine aggregate by 24.62 kg of crumb rubber for 1m³M20 grades of concrete. So, we can say that up to 15% foundry sand utilized for economical and sustainable development of concrete. Uses of crumb rubber in concrete can reduce the harmfulness to the environment and produce a 'greener' concrete for construction. An innovative supplementary Construction Material is formed through this study.

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