

# Predrag Kovacic Sculptor MA

## www.predragkovacic.com

### About stone

Every culture has a certain beliefs about some specific stones which are related to history and spiritual development of a particular society. Should we start to explore and compare we shall see that there is a great number of opposite opinions. There is no single definite opinion, symbolic or anyone else that could be strictly related to a certain stone, and that has given us a possibility to interpret it and to experience it as we might feel it.

It is believed that some particular type of stone has supernatural powers. Those beliefs reach back to the period before the first known writing (cuneiform writing) and are related to the stones which were believed to stimulate conception and birth, as well as the oldest human feelings – love and hatred. We can also find them in Babylonian astrology, as well as in Old Greece, where people believed in their healing powers. Early Christian church opposed to magic and talismans, but, in the same time, approved them in healing causes, developing thus special symbolic of their use. During the Middle Ages belief in power of stone was part of science, not part of magic.

Only in the second half of seventeenth century the question about truthfulness of powers and direct influence of stones was propound. But even in those times, people had no answers or steady opinions about those questions. Even when physicians were denying the existence of magical powers, there were always people who testified about their magical efficiency, based on their own experiences.

On the basis of this short mythological preview about stone throughout history, we can conclude that stone has had a grate importance in cultural and spiritual lives of many civilizations. The earliest trace of stone worshipping comes from Paleolithic period, when some stones were collected only because of their aesthetic characteristics, not because of their practical or magical usefulness. Later on, man has given them all sorts of features

### O kamenu

Svaka kultura poseduje izvesna verovanja za specifično kamenje koja su povezana istorijom i duhovnim razvitkom određenog društva. Počnemo li istraživanje i poredjenje dolazimo do zaključka da postoji veliki broj suprotstavljenih verovanja. Ne postoji ni jedan jedini način, a ni simbolika ili bilo šta što bi bilo jasno povezano sa određenim kamenom te nam to ostavlja mogućnost da svaki tumačimo i doživljavamo kako ga osećamo.

Veruje se da određene vrste kamena poseduju natprirodne moći. Verovanja dosežu u period pre postojanja prvog poznatog pisma (klinastog pisma) i odnose se na određeno kamenje koje podstiče zaceće i rođenje kao i najstarija ljudska osećanja - ljubav i mržnju. Ona se sreću u astrologiji Vavilonaca ali i u ranoj Grčkoj gde se veruje da imaju lekovita svojstva.

Ranohrišćanska crkva je protivnik magije i talismana ali ih ujedno tolerise pri upotrebi u medicinske svrhe i vremenom razvija posebnu simboliku pri korišćenju istih. Verovanje u moći kamena je deo nauke tokom Srednjeg veka a ne deo magije.

Tek u drugoj polovini sedamnaestog veka postavlja se pitanje o istinitosti postojanja moći i direktnog uticaja kamena. Ni u tom razdoblju ne postoji ustaljeno mišljenje koje bi tačno odredilo istinitost tvrdnje o moćima kamena. Čak i kad bi doktori opovrgli postojanje magičnih moći uvek je bilo ljudi koji svedoče o uspesnosti određenih moći na osnovu ličnog iskustva.

Na osnovu ovog kratkog mitološkog pregleda o kamenu kroz istoriju možemo zaključiti da mu se oduvek pridaje veliki značaj u kulturnom i duhovnom životu raznih civilizacija. Najraniji trag o obožavanju kamena potiče iz paleolita gde se određeno kamenje skupljalo zbog estetskih oseća prema njemu i bez neke racionalne misli da im to kamenje može nekome konkretno služiti (ni u upotrebne svrhe a ni u

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and purposes, due to those same aesthetic characteristics. A great number of those believes can also be found today, but, basically, no one doesn't observe stone with some greater emotions, they just accept those believes. Even the earliest societies had "felt" characteristics of a certain stone by letting themselves to be enchanted by its beauty.

Experts in stone mythology or not, we can all be amazed and truly impressed, if we allow ourselves to be carried away by its structure. Only if we correlate like this to the oldest known art material, we can have a true "collaborator" in modeling process. If we go even further and start to consider its structure, its organic and inorganic contents, we might discover a profound bond between sculptor and material. That gives us a possibility of absolute honesty in a "life-creating" process – in process of creating a sculpture

Predrag Kovacic, February 2011.

magijske). U kasnijem periodu im je zbog određenih estetskih svojstava čovek pripisivao različite osobine i kao takve koristio u mnoge svrhe. Veliki broj verovanja je i danas aktuelan, a niko u samoj sustini ne posmatra sam kamen sa nekim većim emocijama nego samo prihvata verovanja. Najranija društva svojstva određenog kamena "osecaju" jer im se u potpunosti prepustaju da ih očara njihova fizička lepota. Poznavajući ili ne mitološka svojstva određenog kamena i ako mu dopustimo da nas općini njegovom strukturalnom gradnjom definitivno ostavlja neizbrisiv i dubok utisak postovanja i divljenja. Kad uspostavimo takav odnos sa najstarijem poznatim materijalom dobijamo iskrenu "saradnju" pri modelovanju u njemu. Ako odemo i korak dalje i razmatramo samu strukturu, organski i neorganski sadržaj dobijamo potpunu povezanost modelara i materijala. To nam daje apsolutnu mogućnost iskrenog odnosa pri daljem stvaranju novog "života" - skulpture.

Predrag Kovacic februar 2011.