

BOOK REVIEW

Polytheism and Monotheism. Between Moses and Akhnaton.

Myth or Reality

Paul Emil Rascu

Alma, Craiova (2004), 106 pp., ISBN 973-8443-27-X, \$ 12.00

As many other persons working in the field of science and/or technology, Paul Emil Rascu, an experimented Energetic engineer, is also preoccupied by the connexions that could exist between science and religion.

One of the subjects of interest for Mr. Rascu concerns the possible scientific explanation of different events presented in the Old Testament. Among these, the Hebrews exodus from Egypt has received special attention from his part. After more than 15 years of study consisting of travels to various countries, like Egypt, Israel, Greece or Italy, and researches in many libraries, Mr. Rascu presented his conclusions in the above book.

From the very beginning we must to mention that this is not a religious volume, nor a romanced history, but a scientific attempt to find proofs about the existence of Moses and of the events described in the books of Pentateuch, belonging to the biblical archaeology domain.

After the Preface written by N. Cajal, member of the Romanian Academy, and his own Foreword, the author has divided the content of his work in seven chapters:

- The importance of monotheism in the world's spirituality
- Selection of the first monotheist religions
- Achievements of the initiators of monotheistic religions
- The modern world on the traces of Moses
- The formidable antique eruption of the volcano from Santorini Island
- The simultaneity between the volcanic Santorini eruption and the Hebrews exodus from Egypt – the real miracle of Yehova
- Final considerations.

Finally, in the annexes at the end of the book, P.E. Rascu makes the critical analysis of two papers dealing with a related subject, written by the Egyptian researcher Ahmed Osman, 'Stranger in the Valley of the Kings' and 'Moses – Pharaoh of Egypt'.

The work of Mr. Rascu is based on a number of assertions that were neglected or ignored by other researchers, allowing him to formulate a well-founded and logical sequence of the events in the life of Moses and of the

participants to the Exodus. The author also succeeds in justifying the attitudes adopted by Moses along the events described in the Old Testament books, bringing plausible arguments in support of his interpretation.

Concluding this brief review, we may say that apart of the scientific evidences brought by Mr. Rascu, the book has an appropriate motto, taken from the 'Amores' of the Latin poet Publius Ovidius Naso, that renders the main spirit of the work: "Felix qui quod amat, defendere fortiter audeat" – Happy the one who dare to firmly defend whatever he believes in.

Dr. Iulian Rusu