Abstract

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Beauty beyond aesthetics: the abstract thought and the universal language of the natural world to the Sumerian/roman farmer’s eyes

Farming and herding had an important role for society’s genesis. In this sense, such dependence had an intrinsic influence on the cultural matrix of the entire Mediterranean region, regulating the daily activities and interfering with the conceptualization of the surrounding cosmos and giving meaning to all manifestations of nature. The way the natural world is reflected in the abstract thought, inevitably, would state basis for ‘linguistic creativity’. That ‘metaphoric’ language is not exactly the expression of literary telluric feelings, but rather the manifestation of a simplistic and obvious image to an interlocutor who recognizes meaning on images culturally transmitted by traditional preconceptions. Our aim is to analyse the way this prejudgement, based on common sense, is constructed and maintained in a defined cultural context, far behind the expression stated in literature. In order to understand how the allegorical images’ and the mechanics on crystallization of traditional bias are built, we intend to identify possible traces of ancient ‘traditional linguistic thought’ in textual sources, which matrix was formed by the contact with the natural world and goes back to a pre-historical time. The abstract images from the surrounding landscape are still present in the mechanics of modern linguistic expression, albeit the contact with is not the same anymore. We aim to understand the motives and the processes for such phenomenon by identifying prototypes of construction of images representative of beauty and by proposing a dialogical analysis between expressions of beauty based in the agricultural cosmos.