

Nemanja Radulović:  
The Role of Gnosticism in Neo-Bogomilism

The subject of the paper will be the influence of “Gnosticism” and “Antiquity” on contemporary Neo-Bogomil movements. These include Universal White Brotherhood (Bulgaria) and the Slavic Church of Bogomils and Holy Grail (Croatia). Both claim to be successors of medieval Bogomilism and both are still underresearched. In the process of constructing their sense of tradition, these movements in eclectic fashion heavily rely on the concept of “time immemorial” (e. g., ancient lands like Hyperborea, Atlantis, etc.), on Romantic constructs of the Slavic past (i. e., envisioning Bogomilism as primarily Slavic movement) and on the imagining of historical antiquity (Egypt, early Christianity and Gnosticism, and, to a lesser extent, ancient Greece). The last element of this *bricolage* will be presented in the paper. We will try to show how both movements – in spite of their differences – invent their own image of antiquity, focusing mostly on lines of succession allegedly stemming from Gnosticism. The paper will also illustrate how these groups use concepts and motifs characteristic of (or at least attributed to) ancient Gnostic groups. Comparison with other Neo-Gnostic groups in the West and with modern scholarly approaches to Gnosticism will thus show what Neo-Bogomils are interested in, namely, the construction of their own identities.

Keywords:

[Balkans](#), [Christianity](#), [Neo-Gnosticism](#), [Neo-Paganism](#)

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