

Pegasus, the Horse of Perkūnas

Summary

A series of articles has already been published by the author on the opposition between coagulation and solution in mythology, a particular aspect of which consists of the stagnation and flow (standing, stagnant, “dead” water and flowing, streaming, “living” water, for instance). To this wide subject also pertains mythical images of the overthrown, demolished, or split apart rock (the stone itself being an image of final coagulation, stagnation, stiffness) and the spring, fount, stream launched out from (below of) it. In Baltic mythology, this feat is sometimes done by the thunder-god Perkūnas, particularly by Perkūnas riding the horse. It is quite reasonable to include among such images also the mythology of antique Pegasus which in some

aspects come very close to corresponding Baltic data. This article is intended exactly to demonstrate this kind of evidence. The article, thus, consists of two parts: in the first one, the Baltic (and Balto-Slavic) Perkūnas’ horse is discussed; in the second, surfaced correlations (of different plausibility) between the Pegasus’ mythology and the corresponding Baltic data are presented. At the same time, by the way, the benefit and even imperative necessity of the comparative studies is indicated, and for the both parts – not for the Baltic mythology only but also for those areas of Indo-European culture investigation which not only too often ignore Baltic material but perhaps are even not aware of its existence.

Keywords: Perkūnas’ horse, Pegasus, fount from (below of) the rock, Baltic and ancient Greek mythology, comparative studies.