

“Babeş-Bolyai” University – Cluj-Napoca
Faculty of European Studies

**Gothic Cathedral as a Means of Knowledge
Transmission**

Ph.D. Dissertation

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Summary

Studying the Gothic cathedrals from the point of view of their importance in transmitting knowledge required the use of several scientific disciplines: history, art, architecture, theology, epistemology, engineering, geometry and alchemy.

The disciplinary researches represented only the starting point of our research, during which we intend to discover what lies within, between and beyond these disciplines, bringing to study the problem from a transdisciplinary perspective.

In the first chapters, we have presented the disciplinary basis of our transdisciplinary study and we have defined terms like transhumanism or transhistory, paying special attention also to the reports between subject and object in history and to the transdisciplinary elements in Romanian education.

In the chapter where we have studied the seven sacraments, we noticed how each of the sacraments manifests itself by multiple levels of reality and how their action is profoundly unifying: each time, there is created (the three initiation sacraments) or restored (in repair sacraments) a connection between human and divinity, between the believer and the Christian community, between the body and the soul of the believer. And this unification is achieved through the intervention of a third party, located in the non-resistance area. The priest has that role of intermediary between the non-resistance area and the reality of everyday life and that makes possible the manifestation of a hidden third.

In the next chapter we have studied the king's coronation, especially in the Medieval France, where it was considered the "eighth sacrament". We have studied the transformative power of this ritual for the royal person and its decline, in the Modern Era.

A second perspective of cathedral as initiation space goes beyond Christian religion, without denying it. We referred to Gothic cathedral studied in terms of alchemy and sacred architecture. We found, on this occasion, that the alchemic and architectural symbolism from cathedral is not specific only to cathedral, but to larger historical period and geographic area.

Talking about Gothic cathedral as transdisciplinary sacred space, we tried to emphasize not only the relationship between Gothic and transforming life in the sense of transcendence, but the contribution of the gothic man brought to the creation of an European identity.

Thus, we have shown how the cathedral appears as a complete way of transmitting knowledge, addressing to the human being as a complete being, not only to the intellect of that being.

One of our fundamental ideas was in the Gothic cathedrals where to unified two types of initiation - the Christian initiation and the alchemical initiation - which both aim to achieve the unity of the human being.

It is legitimate to describe the cathedral as a transdisciplinary sacred space within which transreligious attitude was a reality many centuries before this concept was defined.

Keywords: transdisciplinarity, integral education, Gothic cathedrals, transhumanism