

## **Summary - The Image of Paradise –or an Image of a Colony**

The tailoring of Bled Island as an ideogram of Slovenia's spiritual liberation

This is a Story about (de)colonisation of the Bled Island in Slovenia through the tail describing the formation of a (to-be) Museum of Slovene Symbols and Documents from the times of arrival to the Present Home-Land (first millennia) till the Independence (1991).

This ground- research based paper is a chronicle of a Republic being locked into post-colonial reflexes and pressures of Rome Catholic Church. This substantially hits democracy and constitution even when it comes to programing and financing of an eminently public program – such as a national museum of special historic meaning in the presented case. The chronicle displays proofs of a biased, non-constitutional, illegal actions of the Government of Slovenia, the State President and the public servants involved, including the experts and management of Slovene National Museum.

The story is being told by participant-observer of the civil-society led campaign aiming at democratic, participatory, inclusive, transparent, non-biased, non-ideological and – in terms of history – truthful, neutral and balanced design of a collection of documents and representative artefacts/ symbols of Slovenia, its traditions and cultures.

The paper is calling for European internal processes of Decolonisation as a step towards spiritual liberation and true sovereignty. Revival of deep roots and spiritual traditions of our European ancestors shall become a priority of European Cultural Policies, since this heritage represent the foundations for viable Sustainable Development Policies.

The author serves as a co-founder and a head of a Cosmological Society UPASANA, [www.upasana.si](http://www.upasana.si), registered under the Law of Religious Freedom in Slovenia, and co-Founder, former chair and present co-chair of Association of Slovenski Staroverci (Slovene Nature Centered Faith Association) [www.staroverci.si](http://www.staroverci.si). Both organisations were instrumental in the campaign and the research presented.

The paper presents the state of the art of archaeological, ethnological and history research on wider region of Bled, concluding, that the isle of Bled served as a place of worship long before the Christianisation, and

was continuously used as such. It is revealed, that the sacred geometry of the ancient shrine was preserved even in the epoch of first Christian churches being erected on the isle, while later architecture has covered the hierophany to a substantial degree. The paper continues with arguments regarding the unjustified and unmoral claim of the Catholic Church over the property of all buildings on the island, and presents in detail the – decade long - civil struggle for the implementation of an agreement sealed between the Government and the Rome Catholic Church regarding the public collection of Slovene Symbols and Documents under the auspice of National Museum.

The paper ends with a description of a potential of such collection for national Reconciliation and Peaceful Coexistence. This shall be based on acknowledgment and (legal as well as cultural) rehabilitation of pre-Christian spiritual traditions of heathen/pagan Slavs. This heritage of Slovenes has been neglected and oppressed over centuries while the contemporary Slovene Nature Centered Faith organisations – in solidarity with global de-colonisation campaigns of indigenous peoples around the world – struggle for the respect of constitution and equal treatment of all spiritual organisations.

The book is dedicated to all brave indigenous campaigners for spiritual liberation and factual decolonisation on the planet.