

## **SYMBOLISM OF THE SUN AND THE MOON ON SERPENTINITE FIGURINES FROM BELICA**

On all stone figurines of women giving birth, from the older Neolithic (approximately 6200-5500 BC) from the Pojate-Pojila site in Belica, the lower part is shaped like a crescent moon or half moon. Interestingly, all maternity figurines, viewed from the sides, have the appearance of a male sexual organ, while in several specimens the upper part is even in the form of a naturalistically modeled phallus or there is an urethra, a sign of the penis, on the opposite part of the statue from a realistically shaped vulva before childbirth. Obviously, the lower part of all the figurines depicts the Moon. In addition, a significant number of maternity figurines are in the shape of a crescent moon, half moon or "with a hump". Judging by a statuette with a large circular perforation, which is mainly a sign of the Sun, the upper part of the ginomorphic representations symbolizes just this star, and the same symbolism have the phallus and arched depression, the symbol of the urethra, at the top of the statuette, as well as the ithyfallic appearance of these figurines on the side. It is clear that the stone figurines of the women in labor from Belica symbolize the unity of the Sun and the Moon, that is, the universal seed of God, light and heat and the place of fertilization, development and birth of a new individual.

**Key words:** archaeoastronomy, older Neolithic, Neolithic figurines, celestial symbolism, Belica