

LIMINALITY OR THE PATH OF PREPARING FOR ROMANIA NATIONAL DAY

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Abstract: This paper is representing a research about Romanian peoples' perception over the National Day of Romania, and how they are preparing themselves for it. It is known that for this day, many people starting from politics, army and others organize a parade that it is held in every city and village in Romania, honoring the day when Transilvania was united with Romania, becoming a single state. . For this article I used a meta-analytical method and an observative participation on how people are preparing for it on the last week of November and how they are reacting to the fact that this day has become more an occasion for them to go to a vacation and not spending it on the streets to see the parade. In the last years, people were divided in two groups: the ones who spend their free time outside watching the parade and actively participate in it, and the seconds who prefer to watch it from home or another place through television or internet. Both are right as long as they understand the importance of this day for Romania, honoring the past.

Keywords: national day, Romania, anthropology, celebration, liminality

Introduction

The national day is represented in fact a tradition created by a memory of an event that happened in the past. December the first has an apart significance for Romania, where the people are celebrating the union of the Romanian nation. The feelings of union and nationalism are encouraging people to celebrate the national day on a high level of importance. However, before 1th December, Romanian society enters into a process of recognition of its cultural and historic past. Official personalities, people from the army and normal people are entering into a liminal state in the last week of November until the first day of December. If for normal people, their presence is enough for the ceremonial of the national day, we couldn't say the same thing about the official personalities or people from the army.

National day

According to history, 1 December is the most important event from the history of Romania, when the Great Assembly voted the union of Transilvania with Romania, creating a single state. That's why it is so important for us, Romanians, to celebrate this day and honoring it through a series of rituals such as military parade, officiality holding discourses and putting crowns for people who manage to create this union. This day had begun with a commercial aspect, especially with the need of media to promote this event in order to have succeeded. This is not a bad thing because with the help of the media, the history can go further in the future and all people are learning and understanding why is so important this day for Romania (Hedeşan, 2005; Rusu-Păsărin, 2005; Cerban & Panea, 2011).

There are a series of rituals that were created in order to give a tribute to the past. So, in order for the national day to be celebrates, officialities and army have to create a moment of spiritual meaning according to the importance of the day (Ticlea & Ticlea, 2013; Wild & Vivas, 2013; Motoi, 2017). The army parade is the most awaited moment in that day and without it will be impossible to consider it a celebration. Although this parade has a profane composition, and it doesn't have a religious value, the presence of people and priests makes this ritual a sacred one. Because people are not obligated to attend this ceremony, but they participate every year, create a spiritual bond between the significance of the day and

Romanian society. So, it may seem that this day is in an equilibrium between profane and sacred rituals if the society is reported to the true meaning of what they are celebrating.

If we compare people from civil world and the army, we can see that the seconds are obligated to participate in the ceremony. But even if is a job duty, this can erase the fact that they are creating a spiritual meaning to the national day through their presence and participation in the parade. This ritual is responsible to maintain an order to the behavior of people and also the celebration itself. Without this ritual, the National Day of Romania will lose its own perception of what is important and sacred for the nation. If the militaries are participating in the celebration of Romania's national day, they are entered in a religious space and are created with the priest a sacred moment where the past is celebrated. December 1 becomes sacred through the presence of all Romanians who are coming to attend an historic event. Authorities or military, no matter who occupies these posts, become compelled to assist and actively participate in the celebration of the event, creating a bond between past and future.

Before the big day when everything has to be in order, people are starting to understand that this day is coming and is bringing with it a period of joy and celebration. Also, it is important to know that they have a free day and are being urged to participate in the ceremony and not staying at home. Although the people from the army have to big responsibility to create a successful parade, not only they are exposed to this ritual, but also the officials: the president, the prime minister and the leaders of the country participate in the event both in Bucharest and in other cities throughout Romania. In the province, at the event are assisting mayors, prefects and others from the local government. They have to attend this ritual on the day of December, considering the fact that their presence is an official state and are urged to participate in an another historical date. For Romania, the National Day means the moment when all the parts of the country were united; so, because of the historical and important moment, they have to create every year a parade and to honor the people who managed to do it. As I said before, this celebration is a profane one, but according to Natale Spinetto, when a large number of people are attending the same event and we can find their from normal people to facilities, priests and it, it may consider it a profane ritual with sacred values. It's right to say that the sacred values are given by the people.

The officials also entering in a state threshold, and they have to separate from their routine and start to act different from their own routine. Caught in liminality, they are entered in a series of preparations for the National Day, but to the differences of people from the army, is consisting in the way in which they are attending the event. In the liminal state, they have to understand the importance of the event and to manage to give further the values of this ceremony, in order to create a bond between the past and present, honoring the historical meaning of the day.

I asked myself what is the meaning of this day? If it is reported to the historical fact, that this is representing an honoring of the historic day. But what are its values? Nationalism? Patriotism? I think they are both and in fact, they are representing the essence of creating a spiritual space in this day. The spirit of nationality is the one responsible for the manifestation of these rituals that are creating a sacred world.

Once the liminal state is over, people are starting to participate in the parade. They engage in ritual, making it a point of interest to the entire local and national community. Throughout the country, both religious and civil manifestations take place on small or large levels. That parade of the army has the role of reminding all Romanians of the importance of Romania's national day. Sacrality occurs when this parade is pursued by a large number of people who are participating without obligation. The importance of the ritual is sacrificing. The profane becomes sacred. Like national unity, people are all united to witnessing the

celebration of a historic event full of emotional, cultural and social load. This ritual takes place every year, regardless of the country's problems.

The state of threshold is affecting normal people also. In the last week of November, they have started to feel the emotions of what will be on the first of December, especially of the fact that they have a free day. In the last year, they started to celebrate Saint Andrew as a pre-celebration of the next day. So, if Saint Andrew has his special day, which is a free one for all the people, the next day, which has a moral and civic character is considered to be the most important day for Romania. Although, people are seeing the National Day as important as other big celebrations from Romania: Christmas, Easter, etc. National Day and Saint Andrew are creating a mini-vacation for people and are generating a positive effect on people from two points of view: the first one who is applied more on a moral and civic thing, where people understand the importance of these celebrations and are celebrating it through their active participation on it and second point has a more commercial effect; Here, people are seeing the fact that they are receiving free days from the state, an occasion that can be celebrated in going on a short vacation, and mountain resort are just full on this time of year. So, how people are celebrating National Day? They are divided in two groups: the ones who are going on the streets and support the militaries who are marching in a parade to honor the historical event and the others who are spending their time at a mountain or maybe even at home and prefer to watch the parade at TV or through internet. Neither of them is wrong. As long as people are understood and support the National Day, the spirit of love to Romania is maintained and sent to the next generation, making safe the future. Romania has the need to protect its values and history and to do that, people are the ones who are responsible to support it and honor the past (Quffa, 2016; Ferencová, Ślusarczyk, Kot & Mišenčíková, 2016; Frunză, 2017).

December the first is a rebirth of the cultural and traditional elements of the Romanian spirit. People need to attend these festive events to mark the repetition of a past event. The repetition or accentuation of the need to integrate the present with the past to its continuation in the future makes people feel strongly justified in celebrating past celebrations. Traditional holidays are rituals meant to further the need for unity and nationality. Romania is a country loaded with traditions precisely because of this - the desire of people to keep their culture intact made Romania today to know the same notions that the people of the past knew.

A tough work of acquiring and celebrating traditional events becomes easier to accomplish as long as the whole nation participates in it. Rituals mark the transition from a neutral plane to a full of emotional or cultural load. It can even get sacred shades if people willingly participate in these rituals. Thus, even a profane ritual can become sacred. Effective participation in large numbers celebrates the recreation of an important event in history. If we look back on our history in the past, Romania has always been a country known for its traditionalism, with the village world becoming the cornerstone of today's modern society. The modern Romanian society was born in the country. Its transition from traditionalism to modernism was not culturally damaging, but managed to keep its cultural elements almost intact. Of course, modernity has had its influence on new society, but has managed to keep its tradition alive.

The necessity of managing this sort of celebration has a positive effect on people (Pasatoiu, 2014; Bușu, 2015; Călin, 2015; Colhon, 2015; Herndon, 2016; Sauvageau, 2017). Based on their values as nationalism, patriotism, right and love for their nation, the national celebration has begun an important celebration with full rights. Even it doesn't have a sacred value or it isn't a very old celebration, December the first is way ahead of other civic celebration. This celebration is consisting in reunited all the values of romanian, standing in front of what may seem almost strange in our world where everything is fast forward.

Conclusion

Today, Romania is strongly influenced by other cultures, but the National Day is the one who is not affected by them. The need to preserve the historical facts and its own traditions makes the society to honor a past event and to make a day all about it, without celebrating another thing. The culture of the country is heavily divided by the need to know other cultures, but at the same time it is fascinating if we are to think that our people are passing from generation to generation wonderful stories and rituals. These realities are the ones that create Romania's need to maintain traditional and living rituals. Through the participation of all people in National Day, the first of December is becoming a sacred celebration. In order to teach children about the importance of the national day parade, the adults have to be proud about the Romania history and to honor it.

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