

DO THE TOMBSTONES IN BOSNIA REFLECT THE **SHAPE OF**
VISOČICA HILL (SUN PYRAMID)?

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This paper discusses the features of some tombstones/Stecci in Bosnia and Herzegovina that resemble the shape of the Pyramid of the Sun/ Visočica hill. This may point to the fact that ancient people paid respect to this hill and considered it as a sacred/ religious object.

INTRODUCTION

According to the established data, Visoko is one of the oldest inhabited areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The remains of the Butmir Culture were found and are dating back to approximately 7000 years ago. Human presence in Visoko Valley went on throughout different eras due to a unique geographical position, natural resources and climate (Visoko Museum Brochure). Visočica Hill (Nowadays: Sun Pyramid) is the most important archaeological spot in Visoko. The history of this hill is not completely known as there were times where the local settlements completely disappeared and new ones came to replace them. This is a missing link in the history of this area (Personal communication with Mr. Goran Čakić, September 11, 2007).

VISOČICA Hill itself is a huge mass of dolomite-breccia/conglomerate rocks of Miocene age (Geological Map of Bosnia and Herzegovina). The hill itself has a perfect pyramidal shape (Fig. 1) -- also noted by several researchers

(Pavao Andelic et al, 1984). Moreover, the northern side of that hill has a clear triangular shape and is very well oriented. The upper part of the hill (nearly 100 m which rises above the plateau) is more of a regular pyramidal shape than the whole hill. The exposed rocks of this upper section are white color and differ from the surrounding area.

In 2006, the Bosnian pyramids researcher (Osmanagich, 2006) reported that Visočica Hill represents a man made pyramid and he named it “The Bosnian Pyramid of the Sun”-a claim that shocked the scientific community. Currently, the Bosnian pyramids are the subject of heated debates and arguments amongst many researchers; some of them claiming they are just “natural hills”(Rose, 2006) and some consider them to be the pyramids-the

Pyramid of the Sun, in particular; a natural hill, shaped by men into a pyramid (Dr. Barakat, 2007, Barakat, 2008 and Dr. Swelim).

THE TOMBSTONES IN BOSNIA

Most researchers deny the existence of man made pyramids and a possibility of unknown ancient civilization in Bosnia who could possibly construct the pyramids. This may be related to the fact that there is a lack of evidence that such civilization could be possibly capable of constructing the stone structures in the Bosnian region. In fact, the author of this report believes that the tombstones in Bosnia give clear evidence about the existence of such civilization. In Visoko itself and near the Visočica Hill, there are many tombstones that exhibit efforts of ancient human beings who sculptured hard rocks and produced a large number of tombstones; each one weighing several tons. This work indicates that the ancient civilization extracted and transported huge stone blocks from different sites. In addition, this work reflects the religion of ancient peoples. The present work does not aim to describe the tombstones and their different dates and shapes but rather refers to them as the evidence about the ancient culture who believed in life after death. It also emphasizes the fact that some of these tombstones reflect the pyramidal shape.

POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS: TOMBSTONES AND VISOČICA HILL

One of the astonishing features in Visoko is the large numbers of tombstones excavated-- huge blocks of conglomerates and other different hard rock material. The tombstones consist of two parts, the base and the covering. The base has a flat ridge on which the body is residing, while the cover/top is larger and heavier piece made of the same rock material as the base itself. The shapes of the tombstones (the covering parts) resemble the pyramidal form. The upper parts of the tombstones are worthy of interest concerning the argument about the existence of the Bosnian pyramids. In general, the front parts of the tombstones consist of nearly two equal limbs. In front of the museum in Visoko, there is a top part of one tombstone, made of white hard rock. It measures 168 cm in length, 78 cm width and 61 cm in height. The two limbs of this part are not equal, as one measures 50 cm and the other one measures 45 cm.

This feature is worthy of speculation and it must be fully investigated. The logical questions that are raised in this regard are: do they represent a specific purpose? Was their pyramidal shape accidental and meant nothing?

The precise measurements of 45 and 50 cm may indicate logically that accidental work in this concern did not take place. If the ancient architects purposely chose such measurements, one may also wonder why they fashioned those stones in such particular shape. Answering this question required a definite view; the ancient architecture fashioned such tombstones with their pyramidal shape. What did it reflect? One may logically guess that the triangular (pyramidal) shapes were reflecting Visočica Hill. When looking at the Visočica Hill, one may notice its two limbs, one shorter and one longer, a sight that was depicted in the old paintings of Visoko.

If this observation is correct, it brings to question the religious meaning of Visočica Hill and its importance to the ancient people. This must be further investigated by the researchers.

CONCLUSION

The current argument among the researchers is regarding the origin of the pyramidal shaped hill; natural or related to the ancient human activities. Regardless of this argument, the ancient humans may've regarded this hill as a sacred object of great importance. Judging by the established knowledge about the ancient Egyptians who may've designed their pyramids to symbolize the rays of the sun (Edwards, 1961), matching the diamond crystals (Barakat, unpublished report) or the shape of the natural pyramidal hills (El Baz 1981), they are considered to be the primeval hills of the creation (*Benben*).

Definite features may represent evidence that ancient humans respected VISOČICA Hill as its pyramidal shape is quite apparent in the old paintings (Fig. 2). Moreover, they called it "Miser Land", which may indicate a similarity to the Egyptian pyramids (Barakat, 2008).

This may explain why the shapes of the Bosnian tombstones and carved triangles on some of them reflect the pyramidal hill.

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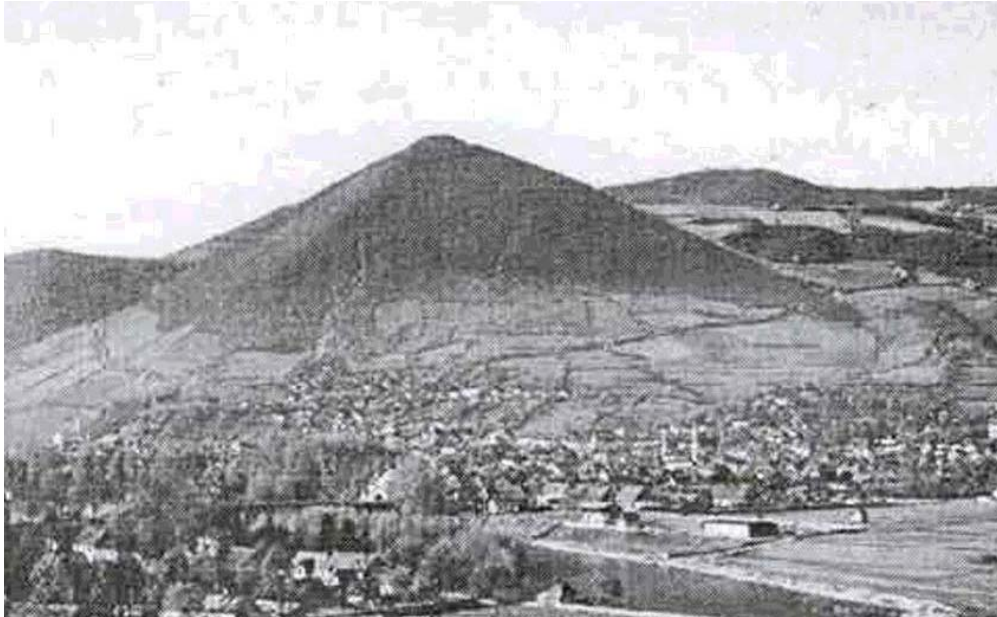


Fig. 1. **VISOČICA Hill of clear pyramidal form**



Fig. 2- Old painting of Visoko Town showing a perfect pyramidal shape of **VISOČICA Hill.**