

DO THE TOMBSTONES IN BOSNIA REFLECT THE PYRAMIDAL SHAPE OF VISOČICA HILL?

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INTRODUCTION

According to the established data (see, *Publications of the Tourist Society, 2003*), Visoko is one of the oldest inhabited sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are remnants of the Butmir Culture (~7,000 years ago). Life in Visoko has been continued through different ages, owing to the 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. Legends explain why the history of the site is not known: "there were times where the local citizens would completely disappear and new ones came to replace them, which caused missing links in the history of the area" (Personal communication with Mr. Goran Čakić, September 11, 2007).

VISOČICA Hill itself is a huge mass of dolomitic and/or siliceous breccia/conglomerate rocks of Miocene age (*Geological Map of Bosnia and Herzegovina*). The hill is of clear pyramidal shape (Fig. 1), which was recognized by several observers, (Pavao Andelic et al, 1984). Moreover, the hill has one side (the northern side) of clear triangular shape and is almost perfectly oriented. The free upper part of nearly 100 m of the hill, which rises above the plateau, has a more regular pyramidal shape than the whole hill. The rock of this upper part is white in color, which makes it different from the surrounding views in case that it has been exposed.

In 2006, a Bosnian pyramids researcher (Osmangich, 2006) reported that Visočica Hill represents a man made pyramid and called it Sun Pyramid. The report of Mr. Osmangich has shocked the scientific community and is subject of argument and heated debate between researchers since then. Most researchers consider the Bosnian pyramids are natural hills (see, Rose, 2006), whereas, few of them consider the Bosnian pyramids, in particular the Sun Pyramid, as natural hills shaped by man. (Barakat, 2007, 2008).

THE TOMBSTONES IN BOSNIA

Most researchers deny the possibility of the existence of a pyramid-shaped ancient civilization in Bosnia. This may be related to the fact that there are no visible evidences of civilization dealing with megalith in the territory of Bosnia. In fact the present author thinks that the tombstones (*Stećak*) in Bosnia are evidence of the existence of such civilization. He attracted the attention to the similarity between the Bosnian Tombstones and the *Mastaba* of the ancient Egypt, which was the introduction to systematize pyramids (**Le site d'Irna, 2007**). In Visoko itself and near the Visočica Hill, there is a large number of tombstones that exhibit efforts of ancient human beings in sculpturing the hard rocks and producing huge number of tombstones each one weighting several tons. This work indicates civilization extracted and transported huge stone blocks from definite different sites. In addition, this work reflects the existence of religious ancient peoples. The present work does not aim to describe the tombstones and their different dates and shapes (see for this purpose "*Stećak*", **via Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, 2008**), but only refers to them as evidence of the existence of ancient peoples who believed in life after death. It also emphasizes that some of these tombstones reflect the pyramidal shape.

A POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN TOMBSTONES AND VIŠOČICA HILL

One of the astonishing features in Visoko is the large numbers of tombstones excavated in huge blocks of conglomerates and other different hard rocks. Most of the tombstones comprise two parts, the base and the covering. In some kinds of tombstones, the base is flat with a ridge (Fig. 2) on which the body is residing, while the cover is a larger and heavier piece made of the same rock as the base. The frontal view of these tombstones matches pyramidal form.

One case of the upper parts of the tombstones is worthy of interest concerning the argument of the existence of the Bosnian pyramids. In general the view of the front of the tombstones is nearly of two equal limbs. In front of Visoko Museum at Visoko Town, there are two covering parts of tombstones (Fig. 4), one of them made of white hard rock. It is measuring 168 cm long, 78 width and 61 height. The two limbs of this part are not equal, as one measures 50 cm and the other measures 45 cm (Fig. 5).

This feature is worthy of speculation. As any feature it must be fully investigated. The question that raises is: Are the tombstones shaped to match a pyramid:

- By purpose?
- Or accidentally?

The precise measurements 45 and 50 cm may indicate that accidental work in this concern is not logical. In the case, that the ancient architectures meant this measurement, the question why they made this shape, rises in mind? Answering this question requires definite view that the ancient architecture tries to assemble in this model of covering tombstones. Which view does this model reflect? The only shape that one can guess that this model reflecting, is the view of Visočica Hill. Looking from Visoko Town to Visočica Hill, you can see that the hill has two limbs, one shorter and one longer, a view that is also represented in the old paintings of the town.

If this observation is correct, it does mean that the Visočica Hill, which resembles a pyramid, was representing something in the ancient people's religious beliefs? A question which must be investigated seriously by the researchers.

DISCUSSION

The present argument between researchers considering the origin of the pyramidal shape of the hill, which may be natural or connected with ancient human activities ((**Omerbashich, 2007**). Irrespective of this argument, the hill may receive ancient human respect, jading from the established knowledge considering that the ancient Egyptians may have 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) which they considered as the shape of the medieval hills of the creation (**Benben**).

Definite features may represent evidence that VISOČICA Hill received human respect during the ancient times may gain from the appearance of the hill in the old paintings (Fig. 5) in the form of well pyramidal view. Moreover, they called it "Miser Land", which may indicate similarity with Egyptian pyramids (Barakat, 2008).

This comes in line with matching the view of this hill in some sorts of the tombstones in Bosnia.

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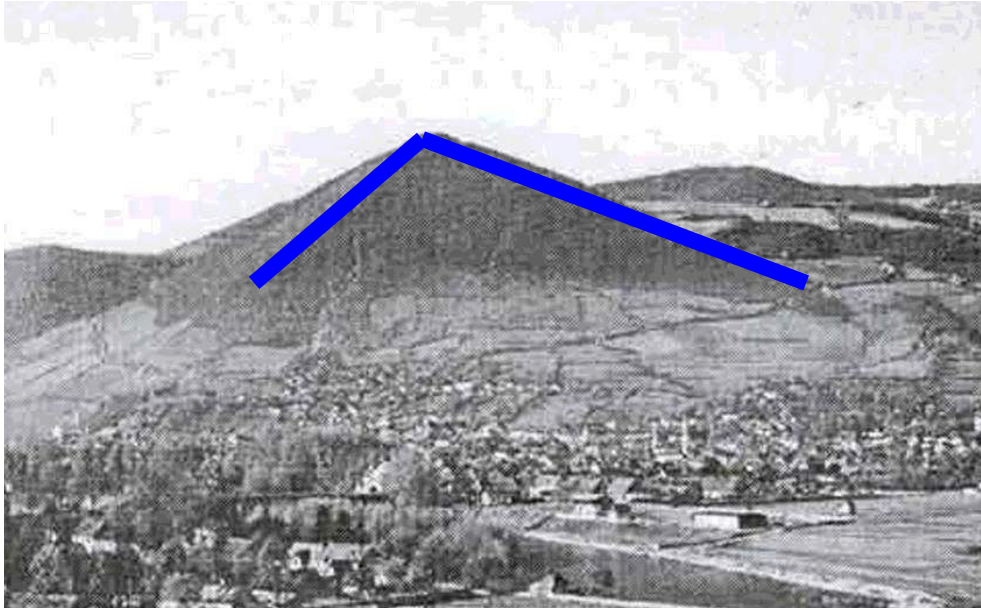


Fig. 1: VISOČICA Hill of clear pyramidal form. The hill shows one side longer than the other as has been seen from Visoko Town.



Fig. 2: Coffin base of hard conglomerate in unrecognized Valley in Visoko, comprises huge number of coffins (each several tons) made of hard different rock types.



Fig. 3: Two different tombstones covering parts in the front of Visoko Museum. The first one shows two different measurements, while the next one shows equal measurements (*photo, Courtesy of Mr. Faris Lichina*).

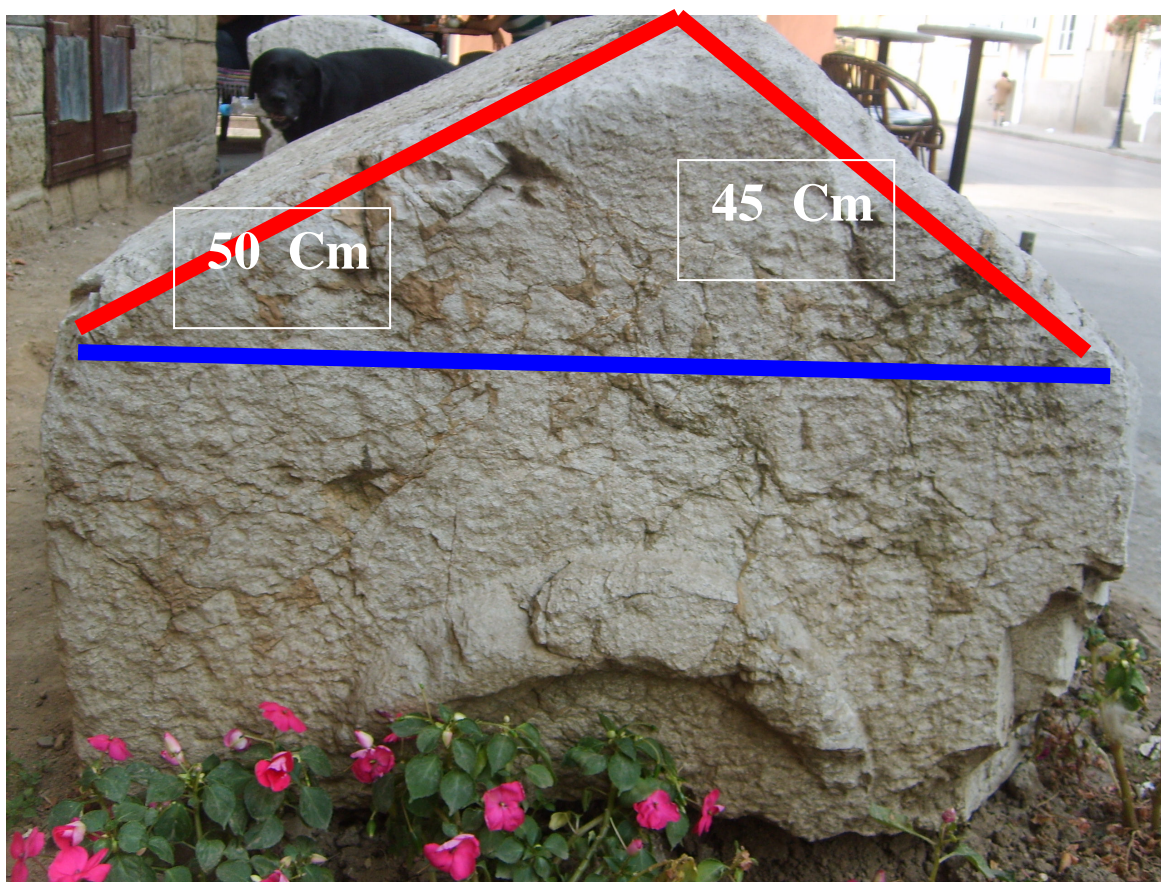


Fig. 4: The measurements of the two sides of covering part of tombstone, showing one side 50 cm and the other side 45 cm (*photo, Courtesy of Mr. Faris Lichina*).



Fig. 5: View of Visoko Hill in old painting showing the Town (*photo, Courtesy of Mr. Jusuf Burić*).