

Florin Curta has recently formulated and based four questions, which should help to clarify how the Slavs came into being<sup>1</sup>. The questions and the arguments show that he has not fully read the quoted publications. Moreover, what he has read, he did not fully understand. And even what he understood, he is not willing to take fully into account. If he had read, understood and considered the whole, he would have not posed these questions.

But he has shown very convincingly that the arbitrary citation can prove anything. In his case, this is a self-esteem of a noble prince who defends a princess “The past of the Slavs” against the evil dragon Pleterski. Why is such self-esteem needed, he knows only himself. But he has the democratic right to think about himself, what he wants. On the other hand, there is absolutely no likelihood that such an image will be recorded in the research history, which will not be written by himself.

Because he already mentions in the title of his contribution the fairy tale about the Slavs, I understand it as a recognition for my book *Kulturni genom*<sup>2</sup>, which shows the importance of fairy tales for understanding the Slavic history. For this compliment I am grateful to Curta and call him: “Thanks Florin!”

Florin Curta je nedavno formulirao i utemeljio četiri pitanja, koja bi trebala pomoći razjasniti pojavu Slavena<sup>1</sup>. Njegova pitanja i argumentacija pokazuju da on nije u potpunosti pročitao citirana dijela. Osim toga, i ono što je pročitao, nije u potpunosti razumio. Pa čak i ono što je razumio, on ne želi u potpunosti uzeti u obzir. No, da je sve pročitao, razumio i uzeo u obzir, ne bi postavljao svoja pitanja.

Tim svojim tekstom pokazao je vrlo uvjerljivo da arbitrarno citiranje može dokazati štošta. U njegovom slučaju, to je samoshvaćanje plemenitog princa koji brani princezu - *Prošlost Slavena*, protiv zla zmaja - Pleterskog. Zašto mu je takvo samoshvaćanje potrebno, to zna samo on. Ali, svakako, ima demokratsko pravo misliti o sebi, ono što želi. S druge strane, ne postoji apsolutno nikakva vjerojatnost da takva slika može biti zabilježena u ovoj povijesti istraživanja koju neće napisati on sam.

Budući da već u naslovu svoje rasprave spominje bajku o Slavenima, ja to razumijem kao priznanje za moju knjigu *Kulturni genom*<sup>2</sup>, koja pokazuje važnost bajki za razumijevanje povijesti Slavena. Za ovaj kompliment sam zahvalan Curti i kličem mu: „Hvala Florin!“

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<sup>1</sup> F. CURTA, Four questions for those who still believe in prehistoric Slavs and other fairy tales / Četiri pitanja za one koji još vjeruju u prapovijesne Slavene i ostale bajke, *Starohrvatska prosvjeta*, ser. 3, sv. 42, Split, 2015, str. 286-303.

<sup>2</sup> A. PLETERSKI, *Kulturni genom. Prostor in njegovi ideogrami mitične zgodbe*. *Studia mythologica Slavica, Supplementa*, suppl. 10, Ljubljana, 2014.