

May a *Rusalka* “Hit” You and *Karakondzor* “Drive” You. On Some of the Aspects of the Personifications of Illnesses during the *Rusalska* Week and the Dirty Days

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(Summary)

The article is an analytical psychological and anthropological analysis of the Bulgarian demonological characters *rusalki* [Sg *rusalka*] and *karakondzori* [Sg *karakondzor*] as personifications of illnesses during *Rusalska* week [the week before *Pentecost*] and the so-called Dirty days [the days between Christmas and St. John the Baptist’s Day] in the traditional Bulgarian calendar. The author studies the most important beliefs connected to these two calendar periods staying in close relation to the mythological creatures of the *rusalka* and the *karakondzor* in the traditional Bulgarian culture as well as to the illnesses that these creatures are believed to bring. The author also offers an analytical and psychological interpretation of the beliefs connected to illnesses in parallel with the concepts of psychic unconscious, psychic individuation, psychic archetype, psychic introjection and personification, “soul loss” (obsession by an autonomous psychic complex and psychoticism), etc.

Keywords: psychological anthropology; analytical psychology; *Rusalska* week; Dirty days; *rusalka*; *karakondzor*

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