

Professional scientific sessions for art, architecture and urban planning Thursday evenings

Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 30.10.2014

Title: Taazieh (passion-play) and storytelling in urban spaces

Speakers and panel members: Mr. A. Taheri and Mr. A. Fanaieyan

A summary of the speeches are presented as follows:

The first speaker was Mr. A. Taheri who began his speech talking about the Iranian iconography that we have inherited from the ancient times. He mentioned the icons examples that belong to Maads, Assurians and Acheminian eras. One of the last examples that belong to these eras is the icon made in the Khashayarshah era that presents a sculpture of man and the winged cow. Mr. Taheri believes that some aspects of iconography are reflected in public storytelling and some kind of theatrical presentation. In these presentation there is an actor that acts on behalf of the story's personalities. Continuing his speech he talked about the tradition of Taazieh (passion-play), that generally explained is a national artistic- traditional expression and manifestation. This cultural-national manifestation includes different artistic elements, that the poetry and music are the principle components. Talking about the Ashkanian dynasty era Mr. Taheri said that there were two general kinds of shows, as fun and sad.

Mr. Taheri reported that many researchers believe that the Taazieh show is the result of a traditionl show evolution that was enriched, after the appearance of Islam in Iran by the Karbala's event, that the shiee Iranians celebrated and commemorated the martyrdom of Imam Husseyn and his companions. The same manifestation is repeated every year by the Iranian Moslem society, to remember and follow the Imam Husseyn School.

Mr. Taheri talked about the Iranian ancient mourning ceremonies after the advent of Islam. During the dynasty of Deylamian celebrated mourning ceremonies when lost members of their society, similar to the ceremonies that today are held during the month of Moharram in Iran to commemorate the Ashura advent. From the 11th century the day of Ashura was declared as a mourning day, that is considered as the beginning of the manifestations that continue to be held in different parts of Iran. These ceremonies were completed and enriched during the Safavid dynasty that stressed both the religious and national content of the ceremony, to oppose the Ottomans Sunnies considered extrimists in the religious and national behavior and beliefs. The mourning ceremonies were extended to other Moslem counties like Pakistan, India and countries in the African continent, and also in some European countries like Spain as a Christian manifestation of Crist's passion.

The second speaker was Mr. A. Faneiyan who talked about the Taazieh ceremony as an artistic expression that reflects the traditions of the Iranians to commemorate and honor the persons. One

of this kind of commemoration was the cup of Ghity with the sculptures of the national heroes. After the advent of Islam in Iran during the mourning ceremonies were used signs that were transported before the manifestants. The religious chiefs imposed the members of the society to dedicate the religious-mourning ceremonies to the Prophet Mohammad and his dynasty, so the artist planed and designed the ceremonies celebrations according the title and content of the event that had to be commemorated. Mr. Fanaeiyan that the Taazieh is not an Arab artistic expression because it existed under other aspects and content before the conquest of Iran by the Arabs. Of course because of the devotion of the Iranians to the Prophet and his dynasty, celebrated ceremonies in their memory. Ending his speech expressed the idea that the ceremony of Taazieh has changed losing part of its content and far from the traditional beliefs, like the musical ceremonies that are held in the streets of the cities to commemorate Imam Husseyn.