

# GetoDacian belief - Origins and Impact

## 1 the foundation

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Let's look at some general things, first of all the as we will call them for the sake of easy comprehension Getodacians were a subgroup of the Thracian tribes meaning they evolved with some beliefs from earlier tribes such as:

just war/justice and overall conflict-related beliefs, and a belief in immortality [1] which seem to be connected as a belief in less importance given to your life often results in higher willingness to die.

There was also the cult of the "Thracian horseman" associated with Sabazios, the horseman and sky father God of the Thracians and Phrygians, this Thracian, and so this "Thracian horseman" (/Hroi Karabasmoi/Heros Karabazmos) was a God of the underworld usually depicted on funeral statues as a horseman slaying a beast with a spear [2].

## 2 The importance of their connections with other civilizations

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The Thracians also had a God of lightning and storm, Zibelthiudos which seemed to have inspired Gbeleizis, by which Zalmoxis has been sometimes identified [3], this is also a great time to mention that a lot of our sources of this period come from Greek and Roman accounts that may not be exactly accurate, such as quite importantly:

It is said that Zalmoxis was a slave of Pythagoras that got his freedom growing rich, and leaving Samos where he was, returning back home.

The Thracians at the time were according to Herodotus a "poor ignorant race", "Zalmoxis changing this through commerce with the Greeks and especially Pythagoras, most refined according to Herodotus among even his countrymen at the time, until Pythagoras finished his underground apartment where he vanished from the eyes of the Thracians, which greatly regretted his loss." [4]

And it is believed that only later Zalmoxis after being a reformer was deified as a supreme deity.

Also I should note they had contact with more than the Romans and Greeks, and they took things from people ranging from the Ancient Egyptians [5] to the Persians.[6]

And besides legend we do have lots of Scythian, Greek and so on influence. And of course later, Roman influence as Rome occupied Dacia and used salt mines in the area to supply its salt [7], while only further north the Carpi survived becoming the Free Dacians, which certainly also received Roman influence.

### 3 Before that...

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There is one last important piece of this as the Getodacian tribes unite to fight the Romans under first Burebista's kingdom.

A kingdom founded with the aid of the great priest Deceneu, "a wizard man who had traveled Egypt teaching there prophetic signs" now encouraged the Getodacians to live by the laws of nature, it is said "he taught them Physics, he taught them logic, making them superior to the other peoples regarding the mind"

This kingdom was not to last however fracturing until a new ruler, Decebal, rose to the challenge of uniting the tribes in 2 last conflicts against Rome, though first we should mention one last thing Deceneu did among many like telling people to get rid of their wineries, that is making a new social and religious reform of the Geto-Dacian people famous in the ancient world, "imposing sobriety and temperance, he demanded the people obedience to commandments as the education through righteousness." [8]

#### ●conclusion

In the end we can't even scratch the surface of this deep ancient religion here however we can admire this religion, which would aid in the formation of a medium-sized kingdom, perhaps not as equipped to be a great power yet composed of many intriguing beliefs that tell us more not only about them but also about the surroundings they were in as we study them.

### References

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