Bulgarian Language Journal 60 (2013), 2, 65-74
ISSN 0005-4283

Kalina Micheva-Peycheva
Institute for Bulgarian Language, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Sofia, Bulgaria

ILLNESS-INDUCING EVIL IN OLD BULGARIAN APOCRYPHAL PRAYERS

(Abstract)

In this paper I study a selection of apocryphal prayers, which I subdivide into several different categories. The first category comprises prayers against illnesses, such as fever, the demon *nezhit*, rabies, constipation, difficult urination, etc. In the second category I propose, the paranormal demonic power which causes suffering is not fully identified with the illness itself; these are the prayers against witches, devils, spells, etc. The third category comprises prayers against damage–causing elements such as winds, thunders, calamitous rains. Through such analysis I construct a multi-faceted yet consistent image of the illness-inducing evil.

Keywords: apocryphal, prayer, illness, demon

✉ Kalina Micheva-Peycheva
kalina.micheva@gmail.com

Published: 12 July 2013