

Abstract

Main goal of present thesis is to compose an overall, complete, and coherent view of the solar deity's role in ancient Ugarit by detailed study of Ugaritic texts regarding Sun Goddess Shapsh, particularly focusing on images and expressions used to characterize mentioned deity. Several texts referring to solar deity are chosen for this purpose: fragments from the Baal cycle – the most extensive Ugaritic work preserved, as well as three other tables (KTU 1.100, KTU 1.107, KTU 1.161) are decided on as those are the ones most related to the Sun Goddess Shapsh. An integral part of this study is translation with commentary and detailed grammatical analysis of selected texts. The thorough study of selected texts yields portrayal of Ugaritic solar deity as a, to a certain degree, chthonic deity connecting the world of gods, men and even the dead. Ugaritic Sun Goddess Shapsh wandering through the heavens and the underworld daily, acts in the name of El, the supreme deity, as the omniscient protector of order, symbol of justice and royal might. Non-Baalic texts furnish other aspects of sun goddess in particular: bond with horses (1.100) and her capabilities of treating the wounds of snake bite (1.107).