

Rujevit

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About **Rujevit** (Ругевит, Rugiewit, Rugiwit) we can consider to be the local version to Perun, a God which was worshiped by baltic slavs from Rugia island. For Ilie Danilov (slavist from Romania), *Rujevit* is identify cu **Iarilo**.¹ *Rujevit* shows up like a god of war asociated with Rugia island.² The origin of the name mark a calendar function, where *ruenū* represents the autumn when young animals mate.³ In medieval records *Rujevit* come out in the latin name of *Rugevithus*. The latin version in which the God refers to the Rugia island, the God was designate "the one from Rugia".⁴ An idol of oak with seven faces of God existed in Karentia on Rugia's island.⁵ The dimension of it were impressive. Bishop Absalon, high on tiptoe, could barely touch his chin with a spear.⁶ Saxo Grammaticus sees *Rujevit* the God of Mars from Roman mythology:

*"So, the servants [...] have stretched hands to the curtains inside of the temple; After were given aside, he showed himself to the world[...] A statue made of oak, called Rugiaevithus[...] Upon his head were the seven faces, similar to human faces. The artist placed seven swords in his own sheath, but the eighth sword was placed in his right hand so it couldn't be taken away from him. The statue was considerably bigger than a human body, that Absalon, high on tiptoe, hardly could reach it with his spear. They were thinking that this God, similar to Mars, lead the battles."*⁷

When the Danes enter into the idol's sanctuary and find him in a very deplorable condition, dirty, where birds made their nests on to the idol's seven faces. Even the chronicler show up to be sad towards to the condition the statue was find in, exclaiming: "*Worthy divinity...his figure is so dirty because of the birds...*" Bishop Abalon commands as the idol to be destroyed. After this happenings, it is briefly recounts: "*Soon, the disciples started to stike the statue's legs with an ax.*" After these were cut down, the trunk was pushed and fell down making a deafening sound. Seeing that their God could't defend "*the townspeople changed their reigion in contempt*". *Rugevith*, also known as, *Rinvit* it is mentioned in the Danish epeope: *Knytlinga*

¹ Ilie Danilov, *Dicționar de mitologie slavă*, Editura Polirom, București, 2007, pp.110

² Mike Dixon-Kennedy, *Encyclopedia of Russian & Slavic Myth and Legend*, Editura ABC-CLIO, Santa Barbara, 1998, pp.235.

³ Mircea Eliade, *Istoria credințelor și ideilor religioase*, Editurile Univers Enciclopedic și Științifică, București, 1999, pp.494.

⁴ Anca Irina Ionescu, *Mitologia slavilor*, Editura Lider, București, 2000, pp.128.

⁵ Marija Gimbutas, *The Slavs*, Thames and Hudson Ltd., London, 1971, pp.152.

⁶ *Ibid*, pp.126-127.

⁷ Marija Gimbutas, *op.cit.*, pp.127.

saga (Historia Knytidarum, XIII Century).⁸ Also mentioned, is God **Karevit** (Karewít), protective deity of Karenta, from Rugia's island. Karevit was represented naked, with two heads, an ox head on his chest and a cookhead on his belly. Karevit is also described to have six heads, four male and two female, on his chest finding a lionhead.

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Rujevit by description of Saxo Grammaticus

⁸ *Ibid*, pp.128.



Rujevit idol in Kemerevo-Russia