

Where does the belief in such locations of power come from?

The concept of “ley lines” and locations of power is an invention of the esoteric world of the 20th century. To be found within Irish poetry, this idea strongly influenced the “mystics of national socialism”. They too already searched for old Germanic locations of power. Fantasy stories of the 1960ies about mystical Atlantis picked up on ideas of energy lines and locations of power. What started as an idea for a novel, was soon claimed to be the truth by the adherents of the esoteric world. Water diviners and users of the pendulum have only fairly recently started to search for such sources of power from below. They hope for everything good from the power of the earth. But such powers only exist within the heads of those believing in such rays.

The true “power” in the church

For Christians churches are locations of power, they invite to prayer and to times spent in silence



Spiritual strength will come not through earth powers, but through the encounter and relationship with the living God.

before God. The Christian hopes for spiritual strength – not through energies, vibrations or earth powers - but in an encounter and a relationship with the living God. Basically the believer does not have to go to a special location, because Jesus Christ himself said, that the father is being “adored

in spirit and in truth”. The outer form of a location, a sacral room, separated from the profane world can encourage concentration and the symbols and signs displayed in such locations remind the believers of the spiritual realities. The Christian will thus always direct his thoughts towards God and in the prayer for the Holy Spirit it is also said “Come Spirit from Above”.



Those trusting in the Lord gain new strength, they gain wings as eagles. They run and do not get tired, they walk and do not slow down”.

Jes 40, 31

Sources (selection):

Cowen D. R., Arnold C., Childress D. H., *Ley Lines and Earth Energies: An Extraordinary Journey into the Earth’s Natural Energy System*, Adventures Unlimited Press 2003

Park Robert, *Voodoo Science. The Road from Foolishness to Fraud*, Oxford 2000

Time Life Books, *Earth Energies (Mysteries of the Unknown)*, Time Life 1991

On the subject of New Age, there is an informative document issued by the Church:

“Jesus Christ, the bearer of the waters of life”. Considerations on New Age from a Christian viewpoint. Rome 2003. This document can be downloaded via the following internet address: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/interelg/documents/rc_pc_interelg_doc_20030203_new-age_en.html

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Catchword

Earth Mysteries

Within the esoteric environment it has become fashionable to search for “ley lines” with the help of a pendulum or dowsing rod. It is claimed that even people in pre Christian cultures have felt these special energies within the earth and have erected their cultural centres and temples in such places where ley lines cross. It is also claimed that even the Christians apparently searched for such locations



It is claimed that old cultural centers have been erected in such places, where „ley lines“ cross

and preferably erected their churches on the locations of old pagan cults. Moreover locations with energy are said to have been taken into account while building churches, in order to optimise such powers for the delivery of sermons and mass celebrations. People using the pendulum and rod thus look for such energy lines even within churches and they often “find“ them underneath the ambo or near the pulpit. In fact it is said that the pendulum or the rod tends to move more strongly in such locations.

Have Christians thus really erected their churches in such locations, where particularly strong earth powers affect the spirit of man? Were such locations of power really known to man in pre Christian times?

Where did Christians erect their churches?

It is true that during the Christian evangelisation it was not rare for Christian churches to be built on locations of pagan sanctuaries or cult places. Sometimes the old sanctuaries were simply built upon.



The cathedral in Syrakus (4th century). The old Greek temple was simply surrounded by a stone wall. Its ancient pillars can still be seen today.

This practice was meant to make it easier for the indigenous population to give up the old cult and to accept the new Christianity. In Christian evangelisation it was the aim to penetrate all cultures with the gospel, also some existing forms, wherever this was possible, to integrate them without becoming subject to pagan thinking..

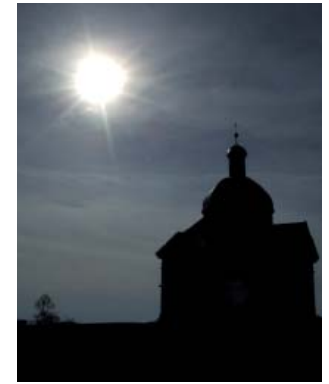


Neither the old peoples nor the Christians were thinking of earth energies while erecting their holy places. Holy places of the pagans were erected in locations which were either optically or geographically visible in a certain way (mountain tops, wells, caves, especially formed rock formations...), or in locations where something special had been experienced (hunting success, successful battle...). Even when consulting the bible it can be seen, that Israel’s founding fathers also especially marked such locations and turned them into culturally important places, locations where they had a special God experience, or where important things had happened (i.e. Genesis 35, 14; Jos 4, 3 ff.). The special choice of a location had nothing to do with a particular quality of its “earth” energy, but rather with a relevant historical situation.

Orientation downward?

The claim, that Christians had oriented themselves downward in order to use special powers emerging from the earth is absurd. Starting from the old world

view before Copernicus, people imagined the earth as the centre of the universe. Surrounded by the planets and the highest heavenly spheres, the earth was the lowest point in creation. Underneath it – so they generally thought, only hell could be found. Anything coming from



In former times churches had to be oriented towards the East, because from the East the arrival of Christ is expected. Anything coming from below could therefore not be anything good. It suffices to study the history or legends of a church’s foundation, or of a place of pilgrimage to explain, why they were erected where they now are. Never is any mention made of any energy sources, never do we hear that people with dowsing rods determined or searched for the most apt location of a church. But we frequently hear of certain situations or apparitions, of the finding of pictures, of particular encounters which specially mark a location and thus have led to the erection of a church or chapel. When churches were being built, there was one rule that had to be obeyed above all: churches had to be oriented towards the east, i.e. in the direction of the Orient. Because from the Orient – so says Holy Scripture - Christ will come again (see Mt 24,27). Thus the priest celebrates Holy Mass in the direction of the rising sun. Not energy lines or fields of power determine the construction of a church, but the promises within Holy Scripture and its orientation towards Jesus Christ.