

January 27, 2018

## Theme for 2019

### "Walk on a God"

Through the ages, the moon has inspired many myths. It has been source of dreams, inspiration or enlightenment, a bright point that has guided man to infinity.

The moon paces and controls the flow of time. Several people have thus divided the year into months, thus creating, thereafter, the calendar. The Romans also dedicated to him the first day of the week: Lunae dies, "day of the moon".

The Lunar God was considered by many civilizations as the Lord of Time and Wisdom.

In the Babylonian myth, Sin is the Lunar God, who every evening rises on his boat appearing in the form of a crescent moon and casting its light on the darkness of the nights to hinder the dark forces of the shadow. In the Egypt of the Pharaohs, Thoth is the lord of the divine words, counting with minutiae the months and the years which flow. It symbolizes the Moon whose path in the sky allows him to divide the time and set the calendar and preside over the writing of History. Always in Egypt, Khonsu, carrying a crescent Moon on the head, is the navigator who grows and decreases each month in the sky.

In India, Chandra was the God of the Moon, represented the head adorned with a crescent moon. He was the symbol of life, death and rebirth. His eclipse was considered as heralding great disasters. Soma, another Hindu God, represented in a chariot drawn by white horses, crossing the sky, was also the incarnation of the Moon.

In Japan, Tsuki-Yomi's function, as Lunar God, was to count the passing months. He had the power to control the scroll of time and illuminate the darkness.

In ancient Greece, Selene, daughter of Hyperion and Theia, having learned that her brother had drowned, rushed from the top of his palace. The affected gods placed her in the sky and changed it into a star.

In July 1969, USA planted their flag on the Moon : Armstrong's second and last spaceflight was as commander of Apollo 11, the first manned Moon landing mission in July 1969. Armstrong and Lunar Module pilot Buzz Aldrin descended to the lunar surface and spent two and a half hours outside the spacecraft. It was the first time to mankind to "walk on a God".

This theme should be an opportunity to address the philosophical, through the past millenars and now, role of the Moon in the various aspects of art. It could be possible, for the countries to return to the moon, like China, to refer to this issue.