

THE CONCEPT OF HUMANNESS IN ANCIENT GREEK LYRIC POETRY (THE ARCHAIC AND CLASSICAL PERIODS)

Ph. D. Diana Vasileva Nikolova

Diana Nikolova is a lecturer in Ancient Greek and West European Literature at the Department of Comparative Literature, The Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. She has graduated from Plovdiv University majoring in both Bulgarian and Russian Studies. Her publications include the book *From Storytelling to Myths* (published in 1997, co-authored with Svetla Cherpokova), the anthology *Ancient Greek Lyric Poetry* (2001), as well as a number of articles and book chapters on ancient literature and West European art and literature. She has co-authored a range of textbooks and supplementary educational materials in literary studies.

The present book is based on her PhD dissertation. Its research focus offers a systematic approach to the concept of humanness in ancient Greek culture – how Hellenic man conceives and talks of himself and others, of the divine and human spheres and how he renders these conceptions in his art; what the early concepts of humanness are and how they are articulated in ancient Greek lyric poetry; what the typological concepts of human are in an agonal in its nature culture, whereby human existence gravitates towards glory and immortality while memory aims to guarantee them; what the aspects of personality are as revealed through the manifestations of the concept of the individual in the culture of ancient Ellada in the period between the 7th and the early 4th century BCE. In other words, the emphasis falls on the flux of tendencies in ancient Greek lyric poetry from the archaic and classical periods. These tendencies and developments are situated in the larger cultural context so as to follow the ‘long life’ of certain themes, motifs and literary topoi which originated in the archaic and early classical periods and developed in West European culture until the end of the 18th century.

The work emphasizes the traceable continuity between different cultural epochs and artistic practices, the continuity of themes and motifs, of ideological frameworks, of key and stable anthropological categories partaking in the formation of West European culture. It renders in more detail a number of intertextual links evident both within ancient Greek lyric poetry and continuing in the poetic tradition of Europe. From a comparative perspective, the book also discusses the relations between ancient Greek lyric poetry and the developments in artistic expression in the other arts of the period, especially with regard to the emerging canon of representation of man in sculpture and painting. Additionally, the work renders the conceptual relation between lyric poetry and music in the period of antiquity, tracing the origins of solo music.