

**SPATIAL REPRESENTATIONS IN MARTYRS' REVELATIONS
(PASSIO SANCTARUM PERPETUAE ET FELICITATIS,
ACTA MARTYRUM)**

Anca MEIROȘU
Independent researcher

Abstract: *In their last moments of life, many of the martyrs experience a state of exuberance due to receiving divine messages, which encourage them, alleviating their natural fears of execution. The world beyond, the road to the world beyond, the preceding evidence of this spiritual journey are presented as sensory-laden spaces, in which reality is not completely abandoned, but in which the disposition, dynamics and versatility of the elements transgress its conventions. In Passio Sanctarum Perpetuae et Felicitatis, the intermittence with which these spaces invade the inner space of two of the characters generates a cinematographic seriality, translated by the intertwining of narrative instances. The intensity of the descriptions strengthens the hope of salvation and acquires, through the voice of Perpetua and Saturus, the contours of a testimony of faith. The present paper aims to analyze the way in which space appears in their revelations, as a symbolic indicator of the states that martyrs experience, offering a complex view of their relationship with the divinity.²*

Keywords: *spatium; pastor; martyr; time; revelation*

² Some months ago I published a short presentation of the passions of Perpetua and Felicitas: “Perpetua,” *Convorbiri literare* (June 2020): 168. Online https://d56c82fa-293d-46a9-9b333efe914beffb3.filesusr.com/ugd/6ef4f1_d53328f20f7943429e6e16ff0f73b4e3.pdf.