



Mundigas Sacrificial Oak (Mundigu Upurozols)

Location

State: Latvia

Region: Kurzeme

County: Talsi

Parish: Lībagas

Other references to the location

On the south bank of the Mundigezers Lake, at the very edge of the water.

Coordinates

lat= 57.2128833333, lon=22.6048666667

57° 12' 46" N, 22° 36' 17" E

Description

The oak is very picturesque, with a beautiful branch form, dense leafage and very peculiar overground root "paws", the circumference of the oak is 7.82 m. A picturesque, very old oak, the age of which can be estimated at about 400 years. An opinion was made that the oak is even older, because in the last decades the increase of its trunk has been very small. It could though point at something else too - the oak has reached its critical age, and its increase diminishes. The worst scenario is supported by the fact that the oak's crown and the general health condition has declined during the last decades.

Narrative

There is a tale that it is a sacrificial oak. As a "Sacrificial Oak in Lībagi parish by Mundigas village" it was first mentioned in written sources of the old tree list "Trees - Nature Monuments in Latvia" ("Koki -



View of the Mundigas Sacrificial Oak



Mundigas Sacrificial Oak

dabas pieminekļi Latvijā") published by the nature researcher Edvards Jansons in 1937. It is known that in his notes the researcher of the Talsi county Tīcs Dzintarkalns in the 20s of the 20th century wrote down news providing evidence that the oak could be also an ancient sacrificial oak, "In former times they used to hang offerings into the branches, but the priest prohibited, put even a guard who stood day and night by it."

Attraction

Average

Availability

Easily accessible. There are no information signs. Located 10 meters off the parking lot, on the bank of the lake.

Infrastructure, management, facilities

There have been no facilitation and maintenance works performed within the territory, no indication signs. Next to it, there is only a parking lot driven by fishermen in an uncultivated meadow, on the bank of the lake.

Local info

There is no information stand on site

Capacity

41 and more

Publicity

Known

Legal Status

Private

Comments

The oak in Latvian mythology symbolizes strength and manhood. For ancestors it used to be a symbol of the mythical world. Its upper part □ the top □ is the dwelling place of divinity and birds and relates to the heaven. The average part, to which the ground corresponds, is inhabited by people, forest animals and livestock. In the lower part, to which the underground corresponds, reptiles, fish, beetles, mice dwell, and it is associated with the ultramundane. In Latvian mythology, the cosmic tree is most often represented by an oak. The cosmic tree in various nations' traditions has several types: that of the Sun, Life and Death, that of the Good and the Evil, etc.