

și astfel să reintre în “actualitatea literară”. Sunt convins că pe un asemenea scriitor român nu l-ai stima, chiar dacă i-ai admira opera. “<sup>16</sup> Nu o astfel de “întoarcere” își dorea exilatul de la Chicago, hăituit de puterea de la București, de atunci și de astăzi. Ar fi preferat destinul lui Ulyse; din păcate s-a ales cu acela a lui Ovidiu. În ce ne privește, nu ne rămâne decât să ne îngrijim de scrierile sale; căci, după “semne”, iarăși se anunță noaptea barbară.

**Mircea Eliade is a tragic character, as all heroes of his books he associates with often; tragic, romantic and ever enslaved by a passion for making generous works of art, that may remain as emblems for his nation. He thinks philosophically and religiously, and time and spirit obsess him very much. We speak about time in its double dimension: an ideal one (as well as mysterious), and a common time, fallen both in chronology, and in history. Space is also dual: the space as feast, imagined as a sacred temple, and an axis mundi; and, in opposition, the mundane space, a sordid place, a haven of vices, of a marred existence.**

**The deterioration of time and space had negative effects on man’s perceptive capacities. Opacity and forgetfulness have had their say. Consequently, the individual cannot imagine any world-establishing phenomena coming from illo tempore, unless through an anamnestic effort, and through the deciphering of „signs”, which reveal themselves in a few places, and from time to time. He has at his hand library documents, impressive and sacred, according to their content; at the same time he has access to life experiences belonging to the great initiates, or/and to the cosmic movement, which is also open towards eternity, like a book. From the mythological thinking, and the ritualistic practice, there came philosophical, formalized concepts (space, time, cause), arts and crafts, and savant disciplines. The calculation modalities and the modalities of crossing distances, learned by experiment, have been acquired by modern technicism; but even today, man is fighting with time and space, as he used to in mythological and geological epochs.**

<sup>16</sup> Mircea Eliade, *Europa. Asia. America...* Corespondență. Volumul al II-lea ( I-P ). Cuvânt înainte și îngrijirea ediției de Mircea Handoca. Humanitas, București, 2004, p. 275-276