

Qr 40 The double sacrificial site near the village of Krasen

The altars (sharaptashi) in the Lomovete valley are widespread. They can be found in Rusenski, Cherni, Beli, Baniski, Mali Lom, but the most numerous are in the area of the village of Krasen. The first two, located on the outskirts of the village of Koshov, were described by Karel Shkorpil in 1914. Most of them are carved into monolithic rocks, and the smaller one into portable stone slabs. The altars are not of the same type, they differ in shape and size - they consist of two interconnected troughs or of cut grooves reaching a trough, but other variations are also found. Sometimes there are additional small openings for the upper wooden part. Most of those who have dealt with these sites at Lomovete associate them with the First Bulgarian Kingdom, others attribute them to antiquity, and it is entirely possible that they were reused over time. According to Prof. Ancho Kaloyanov, “Undoubtedly the most interesting is the double altar near Krasen with two rectangular troughs and two platforms – a large and a small one, surrounded on the east by traces of seven stakes in an arc and another row on the south, which is why it can be assumed that they served to determine the days and hours observed during sacrifices.” He believes that the altars outlived Old Bulgarian paganism and were used even after the adoption of Christianity.