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Forest, religion and museums

Forest has in Finland many special symbolic meaning as well as in Russia and many other countries. Different eras have raised interpretations of the forest, which can be far away from the “real” world. For example Finnish past folk religion includes many “exotic” views including the world of the king of the forest Tapio and the branches of Kalevala.

In my paper I will point out some religious dimensions of the forest and how they are described in different contexts, especially in exhibitions. It is also important to ask, what kind of connections can be established between the traditional relationship between forest and today’s changing culture and also the continuums of religious world.

At the same time it is important to analyze the exhibition media, what it can tell and what not.