

**Key words:** special births, twin pregnancy, twin brothers mythology, bastards

## **Children of a Special Nature**

### **Summary**

The study focuses on the case of special births, such as twin pregnancy and children out of the wedlock. Both situations are uncanny for the community, since they break the natural or the social rule, and they have always been treated with awe along the humankind cultural history.

Field data from Moldova seem to sustain the idea of the complementary twins that can build together a world (such as The Egyptian Osiris and Seth, the Romanian Fârtate and Nefârtate for example) or a country (Remus and Romulus). In various villages from Moldova people say one of the twins is bold, the other is shy, one is smart, the other less intelligent, and so on.

All the practical ideas on twins and bastards do nothing but to cover superstitions, with the same result: pointing out what is supernatural, uncanny, that is to say, out of the ordinary and designating the sacred as opposed to the profane. Pragmatic attitudes fear twins because the amount of effort to raise them is double, and young women dread unwanted pregnancies because of the social difficulties, but if we dig deeper in the mankind's cultural history we find out that twins and bastards used to be killed in order to avoid calamities coming over the community. Cultural memory hide the archetypes, while ethnographic information can unveil them.