

## STATEMENT

**by: Prof. Dr. Kalin Stoynev Porozhanov, DSc.**, South-West University "Neofit Rilski" - Blagoevgrad, scientific direction *Ancient History*, in professional direction 2.2 History and Archeology, prepared on the basis of Order No. 3 - PK - 275 / 01.07. 2024 for the Scientific Jury of the Rector of the New Bulgarian University, Prof. Dr. Plamen Doinov, DSc, as well as Protocol No. 1 of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury from 07/01/2024.

**to: acquire the educational and scientific degree "doctor" (=PhD)**, by professional direction 2.2 History and Archaeology, scientific specialty *Egyptology*,

**with candidate: Svetlana Ilieva Ilieva**, full-time doctoral student, class of 2016, Enrollment order 3 – PK 40 / 21.11.2016 (faculty number 024975), in the Egyptology doctoral program, Department of Mediterranean and Eastern Studies of the New Bulgarian University, with the right of protection, through Order 3 - PK - 175 / 03.04.2020, with the topic of the dissertation work "*Ritual Practices in the Funerary Literature of Ancient Egypt*" and scientific supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emil Buzov.

According art. 27, al. 2 from the Regulation for the Implementation of the ZRASRB the dissertation consist: title page; content; introduction; exposition; conclusion – summary of the obtained results; declaration of originality (=athorship); bibliography.

In the case of the dissertation, commented on and evaluated, in the present statement, the title page and table of contents are followed by the actual text of the paper, which includes: preface=introduction, exposition comprising three chapters, conclusion, images, bibliography, abbreviations. A total of 584 pages.

In Ch. 1. a General characteristic is made and the Ritual information in the corpora with the Funeral literature is presented. The Pyramid Texts, the Coffin Texts and the Book of the Dead are given here as the main sources with which to work on the subject.

In Ch. 2. The Components of religious ritual are interpreted as activities related to occurrences, meaning and purpose.

Ch. 3. examines and analyzes Ritual Instructions through transliteration, translation and commentary of the Coffin Texts and the Book of the Dead. This enhances the extremely successful presentation and realization of significant contributions of Svetlana Ilieva on the topic of the dissertation.

The Conclusion summarizes the contributions made in the work.

**1. Significance of the researched problem in scientific and scientific-applied terms.** The significance of the researched problem in a scientific sense is determined by the topicality of the topic, which is determined by the lack of generalizing research on the ritual information in the funerary literature of Ancient Egypt, as well as by the selected goals and set tasks for the development of the dissertation, related to the analysis and a cultural-historical synthesis of specific source material such as the Pyramid Texts, the Coffin Texts and the Book of the Dead, which are the main corpora of funerary literature from the Old, Middle and New Kingdom of Ancient Egypt.

**2. Justification of the objectives and the tasks in the dissertation work.** The objectives and the tasks in the dissertation work are well-founded.

**The Objectives** include analyzing the common characteristics of individual corpora through the lens of ritual; typology of ritual components in funerary literature; analysis and commentary of the ritual instructions in the Coffin Texts and the Book of the Dead; establishing interrelated sequences of incantations in a ritual context; clarification of the specific terms associated with the ritual; determining the main characteristics of the rituals, etc.

**The Tasks** are reduced to deriving and analyzing the terms related to the ritual; defining the ritual components in the funerary corpuses; translation and analysis of all ritual instructions; analysis and comparison of the mentions in the texts that fall within the scope of the ritual components; correlation of the reached conclusions with the existing studies, investigation of the problem of the purpose of the ritual according to the textual evidence.

**3. Correspondence between the chosen methodology and research methods and the set goal and tasks of the dissertation work.** The correspondence between the chosen methodology and the set goal and tasks of the dissertation work is present. The chosen research methods fully correspond to the set goal and tasks. They are concluded in the application of: typological, linguistic and cultural-historical methods, which in concrete terms are expressed in translation and complex analysis of the ritual information; contextual, comparative and linguistic analysis through numerous intra- and intertextual parallels; cultural-historical analysis of the results of the individual work phases. Being in full compliance with the set goals and objectives, the paper reaches new proposed interpretations and solutions to the problem situations seen.

**4. Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the dissertation work (description and evaluation), including the presence of an original contribution in science.** The scientific contributions of the dissertation work are substantiated by the work on the source material, through the applied methods, with which the set and achieved goals and tasks are achieved as contributions. The contributions achieved through reading, analysis, comparison and interpretation, in a linguistic and cultural-historical context, in the texts of the funerary literature can be summarized as follows: the transliteration, translations and commentaries of the ancient Egyptian texts of the funerary literature; discovery of ritual practices; presenting them as real actions, inheritances and innovations in development through the Old, Middle and New Kingdom; the role of these practices in the spiritual life of the ancient Egyptians, related to the real world and the afterlife, which was also considered a reality; the created problem situations lead to new interpretations, reached reinterpretations and to new conclusions in the considered issue.

The text is followed by **44 images**, which are a special appendix illustrating what is presented in the exhibition. They are located in **11 pages** (from 545 to 556 p.).

The cited **Bibliography** used in the work (in Latin and Cyrillic) is extremely comprehensive and covers as many as **24 pages** (from 558 to 582 inclusive).

**In addition to the contributions established by me here, I note that I fully accept the contributions of the dissertation listed by the doctoral student in the Abstract.**

**5. Evaluation of the publications on the dissertation work: number, nature of the editions in which they were published.**

**The evaluation of the publications on the dissertation work:** number, nature of the editions in which they were published, with author **Svetlana Ilieva is presented with 5 publications** on the topic of the dissertation: 4 out of print and 1 - under print. All of them are in English and are published in authoritative, reputable publications.

**The Abstract**, in a volume of 70 pages, comprehensively presents the dissertation and meets the academic requirements.

**No plagiarism** is detected in the work.

A minimum of 80 points is specified in the minimum requirements for **educational and scientific degree "doctor" (=PhD)** from the Regulations for the Implementation of the

ZRASRB. **Svetlana Ilieva** forms the following points from: Group A, Indicator 1 (1 dissertation for ESD "doctor" x 50 points) = 50 points + Group G, Indicator 7 (4 articles x 10 points) = 40 points. Thus, **the doctoral student exceeds the minimum by achieving 90 points.**

**In Conclusion**, I highly appreciate the contributions in the dissertation “*Ritual Practices in the Funerary Literature of Ancient Egypt*“. NBU, Sofia, 2024 to doctoral student **Svetlana Ilieva Ilieva**, as well as her publications, I give a **positive assessment and vote YES** for awarding her the educational and scientific degree "*doctor*"(=PhD).

Date: 30.07.2024 г. Signature:

