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The legal norm as a sign of the chronotope

As a rule, the socio-cultural time is seen in two aspects – as absolute (abstract) time and real (qualifying-content) time. It refers to ancient Greek description of time as “chronos” and “kairos”. Chronos can be defined as an “arrow”, or a straight line, which is on the constant increase. It consists of a great number of pieces, and everyone is a concrete “kairos”. Modern researchers distinguish not two, but three measurement of time – the Everyday life, History, and Chronos. The Everyday life is defined by a person’s activity or an ethnos existence. History is measured by a state life, and Chronos is estimated by a nation or a meta-culture development.

Every legal norm as a current rule exists in History and is realized (or not) in Everyday life. But it can be “read” as a legal (juridical) sign only in Chronos, when this legal rule (norm) is completely visible in a specific socio-cultural paradigm, in a concrete text of a socio-cultural code. A legal sign came into existence at the age of civilization. It was connected with the life of an ethnos, but proved to be a proper unit of a bureaucratic “language” of a History of the concrete State, which existed in a specific dimensions of a space – time continuum. This point of time and space interaction can be called “the chronotope” (after Michael Bakhtin). For example, the prohibition of capital punishment in modern Europe is existing synchronically with the Shariat applicable law about cutting of a head for a grave crime. From the Chronos point, these two legal norms are the signs of two different “chronotopes”, which in History we relatively define as “the modern time” and “the Middle Age”.