

Vladimir Aleksić, Das Treffen von Stefan Nemanja und Friedrich Barbarossa in Niš 1189  
Beobachtungen zu persönlichen Bindungen in Südosteuropa in der zweiten Hälfte des 12.  
Jahrhunderts

Abstract: The Meeting of Stephen Nemanja and Frederick Barbarossa in Niš 1189.  
Observations on personal bonds in south eastern Europe in the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century  
The solemn meeting of Emperor Friedrich Barbarossa and Serbian Grand Župan Stephen  
Nemanja in Niš in 1189 was an important event in the Third Crusade. The latter was seeking to  
join the political orbit of the German ruler, to take part in the expected future war against  
Byzantium, and to get approval of the previous as well as future potential Serbian conquests.  
Analogies have been drawn between the ritual aspects of their summit and similar phenomena  
happening at the time in the Byzantine and Western world. Vividly staged acts served to regulate  
and solidify public and personal relations. They were often devoid of feudal connotations, as was  
the case in Niš. Functional and formal similarities of ritual practices deriving from disparate  
cultural and socio-political environments made the non-verbal trans-cultural communication  
between two rulers more aligned.

Keywords: Third Crusade – *hominium et fidelitas* – Pseudo-Ansbart – Frederick Barbarossa –  
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