



Mother Teresa, Skanderbeg ***and the Jungian Process of Individuation***

Dr Gëzim Alpion

The University of Birmingham, UK

Monday 23rd November, 9 am London time.



**Zoom Talk at the invitation of Sezar Jakupi
President of the Albanian Australian Community Association**

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- **Join Zoom**
Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89033643932?pwd=Mk4wdG1MaURTbDIldk5ldlhqNUIOUT09>
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- Passcode: 833945

Abstract:

The talk explores the lives and careers of Gjergj Kastrioti (1405-1468), known mostly by the byname Skanderbeg, and Mother Teresa (1910-1997), née Gonxhe Agnes Bojaxhiu, from an ethno-spiritual perspective. Drawing upon the work of Karl Marx, Émile Durkheim and Sigmund Freud, the first part explores the formative impact of the early years on Skanderbeg and Mother Teresa. Referring to Carl Jung's 'process of individuation', a crucial stage that career experts refer to as 'mid-life transition', the second part identifies the reasons behind the most important decisions Skanderbeg and Mother Teresa made at the age of thirty-seven – defect from the Ottoman Army and part company with the Loreto order, respectively. Alpion concludes that the push and pull factors identified in the talk make Skanderbeg, one of the world's top military strategists, and St Teresa of Calcutta, the most influential religious and humanitarian icon of our times, rather 'unlikely' Albanian heroes.

Gëzim Alpion is a sociologist at the University of Birmingham, UK. He received a PhD from the University of Durham, UK, in 1997. His main publications include *Mother Teresa: Saint or Celebrity?* (Routledge 2007), *If Only the Dead Could Listen* (Glocal Press 2008), *Encounters with Civilizations: From Alexander the Great to Mother Teresa* (Routledge 2017), and *Mother Teresa: The Saint and Her Nation* (Bloomsbury Academic 2020). Alpion is considered the "most authoritative English-language author" on St Teresa of Calcutta, "the founder of Mother Teresa Studies", and "one of the most intelligent and acute observers on the subject of Albanian culture".