

Zora Žbontar

Visions in Dreams in Antiquity and the Middle Ages

The article addresses the interpretations of dreams in Antiquity and the Middle Ages. The interconnectedness of visions and dreams helps to shed light on numerous phrases such as *somniis visionem videre*, *visio in somnis* and *somnium in visione*.¹ The article analyses the rituals associated with the practice of medical incubation and the healing potential of visions in dreams in the worship of Asclepius. It presents experiences related to the shrine of Asclepius through records found in Epidauros (*lamata*) and the diary of Aelius Aristides. Providing several examples of the fusion and collision between Christianity and earlier mythical concepts, the article shows that the customs of the common people can tell us how the rules of the dominant religion were interpreted. These interpretations usually deviated from the official dogma and therefore there was never just one single response to a depiction. This reveals a complex world in which different traditions, including those inherited from prehistoric religions, superstitions, magical practices and other elements merged.