

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES ON GREEK MYTHOLOGICAL MOTIFS: THE CASE OF THE VOLUNTARY SACRIFICE OF THE VIRGIN

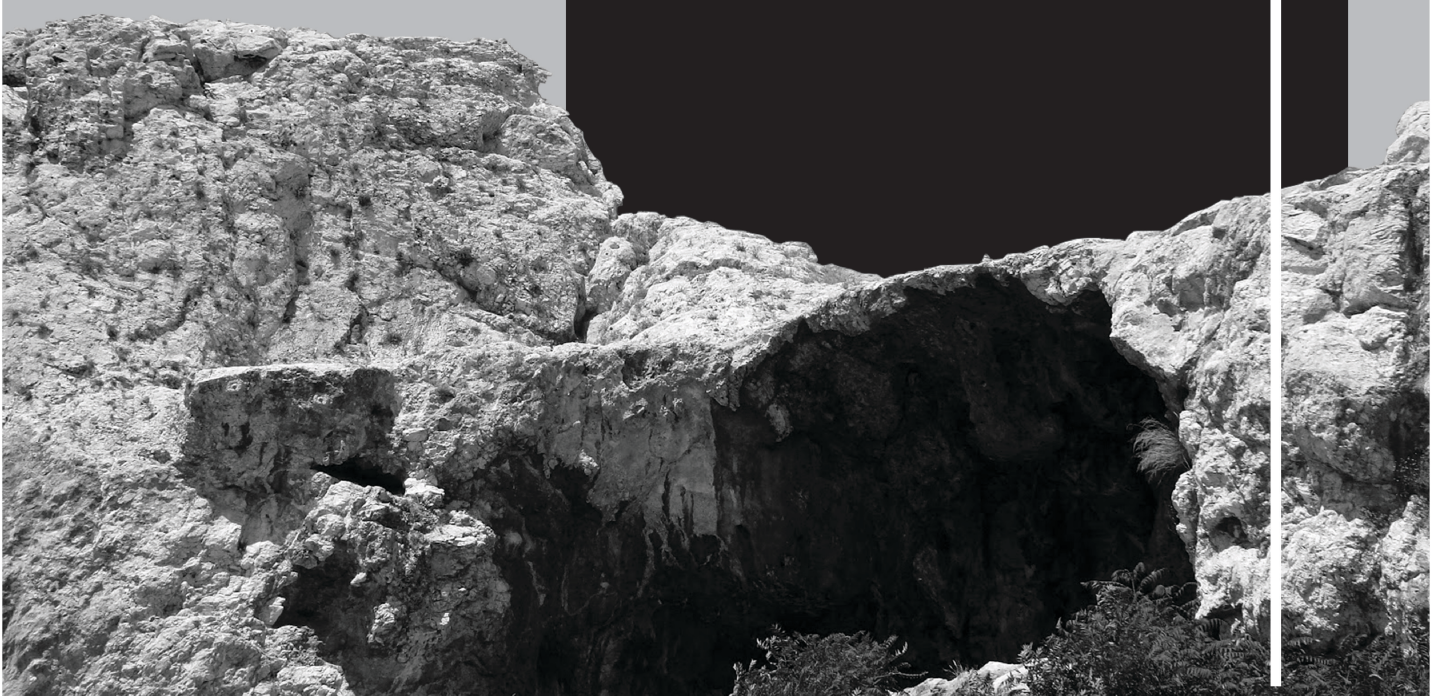
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Dying a glorious death in battle is one of the main prerequisites for the heroization of men. Achilles, in his characteristic monologue in the Iliad (9.410-6), chooses a short but glorious life, instead of a long inglorious one, gaining kleos and hysterothemia by dying in the battlefield. But how can kleos and hysterothemia be gained by women, since they are excluded from war?

The self sacrifice of a female, preferably virgin, for the salvation of the community, "unum pro multis dabitur caput" and the phenomenon of "dying for doing" is well attested in ancient Greek myth. In classical Athens we have several examples of heroines – mostly virgin – who voluntarily sacrifice themselves for the salvation of the city: the Aglaurids, the Hyakinthids and the daughters of Leo. In most of the cases their self sacrifice serves as an "aition" for the establishment of their cult.

This poster serves as an introduction of my upcoming research project on the voluntary sacrifice of the virgin for the salvation of the city. My research will employ an interdisciplinary approach and methodology focusing on the reflection of this heroic act on the perception of the Gender and Identity of women in antiquity.



The sanctuary/cave of Aglauros on the east slope of the Acropolis