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Labor and τέχναι in the language of Artemidorus' dreams (*)

Abstract

In prior studies of Artemidorus' *Oneirokritika* (second century CE), it was found that τέχνη, understood as professional activity, is an important key (στοιχείον) to dream interpretation. In general terms, dreams concerning activity, professional or otherwise, are linked to more favorable predictions than ones of idleness. As a consequence, from a psychological point of view, results can indicate to a source of anxiety strong enough to manifest itself as oniric images. Thus, the interpretation of image content is more valuable from a professional viewpoint. Since Artemidorus is a literary and documentary source, it would be expected that we explore it, in whole or in part, in textual and linguistic terms, in respect to what it says about occupations. The objective of this paper is to present, through the analysis of textual elements, how the author recreates social representations and labor related values, that is: which occupations (τέχναι) are represented, their meaning and value, involved actors, instruments and processes.

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