

Abstract for the  
**13th Conference of the FIEC**  
(Fédération Internationale des Associations d'Etudes Classiques)

a) Contributor's name and complete mailing address, including email:

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b) Preferred panel:

5. The Powers of Persuasion  
or  
15. Greek and Roman Epic

c) Title of the paper:

The power of Persuasion in the imaginary world of Homer

d) Length of the paper:

20 minutes

e) Outline of the content, max. 300 words:

### **The power of Persuasion in the imaginary world of Homer**

The Greek epic, replete with divinities with soul and reactions very similar to those of humans', continuously shows the divinities' determination in controlling the human action, particularly in Iliad. The dreams described in the Homeric Poems fit in this scenario that translates an ancient vision of the human existence, very dependent and focused on the divine world. They reflect the epic Gods' partial way of acting, quite far from the ethic dimension they will have in the classic era: directly involved in the action, they are responsible for the visions dreamt by the Homeric characters, with the purpose, sometimes mean, of making them take a determined action.

The reflexion suggested for this Congress intends, however, to focus on how even the divine world feels the need to fit the demands of Persuasion, whether it is in the choice of the dreamt vision, or also in the transmitted message. In this sense, there will be considered as dreams the one of Agamemnon (*Il* 2. 1 sqq.), or the one of Nausicaa (*Od.* 6. 15 sqq.), testimonies of the relevance given to Πειθώ as guarantee for the efficiency of the wanted action. Similarly symptomatic of the importance given to Persuasion by the Homeric dreams is the fact that Ulysses, "the man of the thousand artifices", applies to the dream for his own benefit in order to convince his interlocutor of the purposes that drive him (*Il.* 14. 457 sqq.); or still the interpellation of ψυχή of Patroclus to Achilles, in name of the φίλῖα that kept them together in life, instigating Pelida to provide him the funeral honours that are him due (*Il.* 23. 62 sqq.) – both episodes will deserve, naturally, an analysis.

Susana Marques Pereira

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