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Title:

Look on the bright side of war! The illuminating epiphanies of Artemis, Hekate, and Parthenos.

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Abstract:

Look on the bright side of war! The illuminating epiphanies of Artemis, Hekate, and Parthenos.

This paper focuses primarily on epigraphic and literary material that relates the *epiphaneiai* of Artemis Phosphoros, Hekate Phosphoros, and Parthenos of Chersonesos in a siege context. All three deities seem to be involved in narratives where light plays the prominent role and the emphasis is laid on the distinction between the deep darkness of the night, and the light shed by or associated with the goddesses. From the perspective of this paper, discussing whether an epiphany really took place or not in the course of a battle and explaining them away as literary conceits is beside the point. What is important is that a culture provides various explanatory models by which an individual or a group can make intelligible a potentially incoherent perception of reality due to life-threatening or life-changing situations. Epiphany is one such model.