



**THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR, Wednesday May 5, 2021 at 17h Athens time (via Zoom link).**

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***Social Groups and the Cult of Asklepios***

Asklepios was the provider of treatment and a solution of some kind for a large number of people in the Greek world. He was the embodiment of people's deep need for what each of them believed was salvation from a disease, problem or misfortune: the ill person sought treatment, the desperate sought a refuge, and the slave sought his freedom. We can attribute to the meaning of salvation anything that a person considered particularly important for his or her life and happiness: this could be vision for the blind; the ability to walk for the paralyzed; the restoration of a broken vase for a desperate slave; giving birth for women; the return of a lost son for the father who is searching for him; relief for war veterans. Asklepios appealed to those who were in danger of social exclusion. People followed him willingly. Social demand was the main reason for the wide spread of the cult of Asklepios in the ancient world.

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