



THE ATHENS GREEK RELIGION SEMINAR OCTOBER 15, 2019

Clay hands from the Cave of the Nymph Coroneia, in Boeotia. Gestures, rituals and the dynamics of symbolism of the hand

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ABSTRACT:

This paper examines a collection of Classic terracotta hands discovered in the Cave of the Nymph Coroneia, Boeotia. The study analyses the gestures and the symbology of the gestures on a diachronic scale, throughout a typological paraphrasis from other archaeological contexts of the Eastern Mediterranean compared with the finds from the Boeotian cave. The verbal expression, as the prototype of every immediate way of communication, connected with the archetypical mimesis of the silent exposure of the human behavior is presented here.