"Stop, O Poison, That I May Find Your Name According to Your Aspect": A Preliminary Study on the Ambivalent Notion of Poison and the Demonization of the Scorpion's Sting in Ancient Egypt and Abroad

Panagiotis Kousoulis

Abstract

The scope of this paper is to present a novel exposition of the ambivalent notion of poison and venomous agents, especially scorpions, in ancient Egyptian magical literature, seeking contemporary variants in Greek mythos and praxis. Emphasis is given to the notion of change and ambiguity in the usage of the relevant terminology (mtwt, mw-mr, ἱός and φάρµακον, venenum), and the employment of certain intertextual motifs that show the lack of any firm background behind the personification of scorpions and venom as distinct/demonic individuals in the texts under examination. On the contrary, their realization is closely dependent upon the contextual framework and verbal methodology (word play in context and formulae) applied in each case, an issue which parallels the ambiguity of the “demonic” conception in the Egyptian belief system.

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Preliminary Study on the Ambivalent Notion of Poison and the Demonization of the Scorpion's Sting in Ancient Egypt and Abroad. Panagiotis Kousoulis. On the contrary, their realization is closely dependent upon the contextual framework and verbal methodology (word play in context and formulae) applied in each case, an issue which parallels the ambiguity of the “demonic” conception in the Egyptian belief system. DOI:10.2458/azu_jaei_v03i3_kousoulis. According to the American Committee to Protect Journalists, 77 Russian journalists have been murdered since 1992 – 41 during Yeltsin’s 8 years in power, 36 during Putin’s 12 years. It is not obvious where the Putin-demonization comes from. I always suspect those who stand to benefit the most. This means most Western businesses with interest in inveigling themselves into Russian assets: oil, timber, mineralization, market. I find it funny how the media were up in arms about the protesters being arrested in Moscow for protesting against Putin, but when all the Occupy protesters were being arrested, pepper sprayed for expressing their democratic right to protest, it was tolerated… Posted by GA_Chris | Report as abusive. May 8, 2012.