

Emmanuel Voutyras

RELIEF OF THE GOD THEODAEMON

In the storerooms of the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki there is a marble votive relief dating from AD 115/6 which is dedicated, according to the accompanying inscription, to the “God Theodaemon”. The Museum inventory shows that it came from the sanctuary of Demeter and Kore at Derveni, near ancient Lete. The god depicted is an underworld divinity, for he is holding a cornucopia and is accompanied by a serpent — iconographic elements he shares with the Good Genius and Pluto. The exceedingly rare appellation “God Theodaemon” and the presence of a chariot drawn by roosters reveal the particularity of this cult.