

## *Antiqua Divinatio: Explorations of Ancient Fortune Telling*

Will I ever find true love? Will I be wealthy? Will I get the promotion at work? For thousands of years, humans have sought information on the upcoming future. From ancient Babylon to Egypt, we see various methods of astrology and fortune telling to bring hope to everyone seeking guidance on the future. In this presentation, I explore the methods of ancient Greek fortune telling, highlighting the importance of divination to the religious and ritual traditions of the culture (Evans, 2018). This presentation features additional information on various forms of Greek divinations (both inductive and inspired) including ornithomancy, extispicy, cleromancy, dice oracles, and oneiromancy (Addey, 2021.)

To engage the audience, my poster will also include a section on *Sortes Homericae* that will allow people to roll dice and receive a snippet of the *Homeromanteia* to further highlight examples of dice oracles (Salvatore, 2022). This section will also include a brief literary analysis of Homeric texts to highlight the importance of soothsayers in the narrative and their connection to Greek culture.

From my research I concluded that divination in ancient times was different than what we might expect in a modern context. Ancient Greeks turned to fortune telling to find the will of the gods and other surrounding entities to harmonize themselves with them as well as to gain clarity on subjects not always relating to the future specifically. I conclude that divination in the ancient world had epistemic value to Greek culture.

## Works Cited

Addey, Crystal. *Divination and Knowledge in Greco-Roman Antiquity*. Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY;: Routledge, 2021.

Evans, Richard J. *Prophets and Profits: Ancient Divination and its Reception*. Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY;: Routledge, 2018.

Johnston, Sarah Iles. *Ancient Greek Divination*. Oxford; Malden, MA;: Wiley-Blackwell Pub, 2008.

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Salvatore, Costanza. "Rolling Dice for Divination, Gambling and Homeromanteia." *Board Game Studies Journal* 16, no. 1 (2022): 431-447.