

HERMES – POSSIBLE ASTRONOMICAL ASPECTS

The research examines possible astronomical aspects of Hermes, the ancient Greek God. Mythology and visual representations of the deity offer a range of symbols. Some of these symbols can be connected with stars and constellations, representing astronomical lore. Several rods appear in his mythology, one of which is golden and is the gift of Apollo, the solar deity; Hermai, the pillar-shaped statues of the deity, which were widespread in ancient Greece, could easily have the function of gnomons, which lead to the hypothesis that Hermes represents (among other things) the divine personification of a gnomon. None of the Temples of Hermes is preserved from classical period, not even archaeologically identified but the locations of these are known. Therefore, the archaeoastronomical analysis has to be limited. It is possible to analyse the gnomon's shadow at these locations, on solstices and equinoxes together with the zenith position of some stars and constellations during the morning (or evening) dusk. The obtained results are consistent with the symbols tied to the deity.

Key words: Hermes, Herma, gnomon, Krioforos, Aries, Lyra, Turtle