

Closing in on the gods.
Remarks on current ideas on interaction between mortals and immortals

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There is an absolute line between mortal and immortal beings. In mythology, even heroes with superhuman powers die, albeit with the possibility subsequent divinisation.

But in the ancient Greek world, this line did of course not hinder frequent and varied interaction between gods and men. Lately, a lot of thought-provoking research has been done on this arena where gods stepped into the world of mortals and men approached the divine through various channels. The actual meeting between humans and divinities, such epiphanies has received attention, likewise the vexed question of divinisation, for example. This paper explore this trend of interaction with a focus on materiality and the way the material world of humans shaped (ideas of) the gods and provided mortals with an approach to the divine realm.