

*Nymphas nudas vidi*. Religious Thought and Dacian Wars

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- abstract -

The aim of this paper is to analyse an inscription discovered at *Aquae Flavianae*, province of Numidia (IDRE II 456). The epigraphic text, an almost versified epigram, belong to a *primus pilus*, being, in fact, a list of desires and achievements. The officer has taken part to the Dacian Wars, has accomplished a civile magistrature, being, as a reward, promoted *primus pilus*. The last verses of the epigram suscite many discussions: did the veteran really see the nude Nymphs, where did he saw them a.m.m.m.

Our interpretation came from the historical religious field. Could the Nymphs mentioned in this inscription be integrated to the domain of the soldiers religion? Or should we, rather, put them in connection with the personal pantheon of the worshiper that lives in a thermal city? Which could be the relation between the experience of the war and the epiphany of the Nymphs?