

# **Bronze Age Adyta: Exploring Lustral Basins as Representations of Natural Spaces and Places**

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**Abstract:** *The architectural feature known as a ‘lustral basin’ or ‘adyton’ is enigmatic and highly intriguing. This paper will explore the Aegean adyta and their associated archaeological artefacts and architectural features, including frescoes, pier-and-door partitions or polythyra, and moveable artefacts, and will then consider various interpretations of the evidence. Analysis and comparisons of adyta with other Bronze Age artefactual and architectural evidence will reach the conclusion of corresponding equivalence between adyta and underground natural spaces such as ‘peak sanctuaries’ and ‘sacred caves’. These observations of equivalence are evidenced by comparative analyses of architectural similarities as well as associated archaeological artefacts.*