



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

A good omen? A grave associated with Late Bronze Age divination practices at Lernakert, Armenia

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Abstract

How far north did the Near Eastern cultural sphere extend in the 2nd millennium BCE? An exceptional Late Bronze Age tomb was discovered in Lernakert (Shirak province, Armenia) in the summer of 2023 during a recently initiated Armenian-German excavation project. It contained a collection of artefacts, including 65 knucklebones of sheep or goats, which link it to ritual practices of divination similar to those recorded in Hittite and Mesopotamian textual sources. The grave inventory has direct parallels in the inventory of contemporaneous sanctuaries in the region at the northern fringe of the Aragats mountain. Together with the sanctuaries from Gegharot, they provide parallels to divination practices in the Ancient Near East and the associated ritual personnel

Keywords

Divination, Burial archaeology, Late Bronze Age, South Caucasus

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