

Ivan Guerneur

The hand of Atum and the fight against incubi: An unpublished passage from Brooklyn papyrus 47.218.2

A passage from Brooklyn Papyrus 47.218.2, a compendium of iatromagic formulae for the protection of the parturient and her child, features in its last part (col. x + VIII) a hand of Atum and his fingers. The fingers are identified by name, and they are called upon to help the sleeper fight off incubi and other harmful creatures that take advantage of the night to enter his body. The passage presents a number of reading and understanding difficulties that can be discussed at this workshop.