

Conference Program

Friday - August 26, 2016

08.30 - Registration

09.00 - Opening Ceremony, Opening speeches, Key Note speech

09.30-17.30 Conference sessions will be held in 2 halls simultaneously including the Lunch Break at 12.00

18.00 - Closing Ceremony

Saturday - August 27, 2016

10.00-17:00 **Visit to Mount Nemrut and the God King of Commagene**

This is an EXTRA PAY trip including lunch. The fee for this ancient site trip including lunch will be around \$50, subject the number of participants is over 12.

Mount Nemrut and the God King of Commagene



<http://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-asia/mount-nemrut-and-god-king-commagene-001900>

Mount Nemrut (Nemrut Dagi in Turkish) is a monumental site belonging to the Kingdom of Commagene, a small, independent Armenian kingdom that was formed in 162 B.C. This was a period during which the once mighty Seleucid Empire was beginning to disintegrate, allowing certain areas of its empire to break free from the centralised control of the Seleucids.

Located in the eastern Taurus mountain range in southern Turkey, near the town of Adiyaman, Mount Nemrut is home to an ancient complex built by the fourth, and arguably the most famous, king of Commagene, Antiochus I Theos (the 'God King').

King Antiochus I, ruler of Commagene from 70 BC to 36BC, was a most unusual king. He claimed descent from Greek conqueror Alexander the Great on his mother's side, and from the Persian King Darius the Great on his father's side, thus combining the west and the east. But what was particularly salient about this king was his unerring pride and his over-extended ego. Antiochus I claimed he had a special relationship with the gods and instituted a royal cult in the Greek form of the religion Zoroastrianism with the clear intention of being worshipped as a god after his death.



Antiochus commissioned the construction of a magnificent religious sanctuary on Mount Nemrut (Nemrud Dağı), a 2,100 metre high mountain where people could come and pray to him. Antiochus wanted his sanctuary to be in a high and holy place, close to the gods in order to be in rank with them, and high enough that the whole kingdom could see it and remember him.

The tomb-sanctuary was built in 62 BC and consists of a pyramid-shaped mound of stone chips with a diameter of 145 m and was 50 m in height. Two antique processional

routes radiate out from the east and west terraces. The scale of this structure and the amount of labour that was required to build it are impressive on their own. Nevertheless, it is the cultural assimilation reflected in this monument that sets it apart from most other superstructures.



Based on the inscriptions at their bases, the statues have been identified as representing Antiochus I himself, the All-Nourishing Commagene, Zeus-Oromasdes, Apollo-Mithras-Helios-Hermes and Artagnes-Herakles-Ares. The statue of Antiochus I shows that the Hellenistic ruler cult was adopted by the Commagenian king. This adoption of Hellenistic religious practice is reinforced by the presence of standard Hellenistic deities such as Zeus, Apollo and Ares.