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#### Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:

Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

### СПНУУІФУНС EKKAHCIA TIMIOY CTAYPOY CAVERNOUS CHURCH OF HOLY CROSS

# The Cave Church "of holy cross" in Kalamáfka Asclepius dominate the "Church Mountain" in shadowy existence

Kalamáfka is located about 15.5 miles south of Agios Nikolaos and is best reached over the North coast road (of Agios Nikolaos towards Sitia). In Istro (located after Ammoudara and Vathi) turn south towards Prina. The next bigger village after Prina than is Kalamáfka on the south-east edge of the Dikti-Mountain.



The Cave Church of Kalamáfka is located on a hill on the edge of the village (see fig.) 230 stairs lead uphill from the village centre to a plateau and the entrance of the church. She is located within a cave, to which a

few stairs lead down; whitewashed rocks illuminate the Church room in the cave (see fig.). From the plateau you have a wonderful view on the village Kalamáfka and the Dikti Moun-

tains. The Holy Cross (see fig.) is on the north-eastern part of the plateau and is accessible via "beaten path" (left of the Church entrance).



More (annotated) pictures of this sight: see photos at the end of the body. The mountain plateau was (according to the archaeological studies of P. Faure) used since the medium Minoan time (1700 BC) to the classical period (4<sup>th</sup> Century BC) and served in this time also as refuge (Cave).

#### Ο "ΠΕΤΡΙΝΟΣ ΘΕΟΣ"

Η κορυφή του Καστέλου εκτός από τη σχηλαιώδη εκκλησία

-πρώην ιερό σπήλαιο- φιλοξενεί και τον "πέτρινο θεό".
Ευρίσκεται στο δυτικό μέρος του υψιπέδου και είναι ένα τεράστιο "γλυιτό" πίνω στην πέτρα, που απεικονίζει το κεφάλι κάποιου αρχαίου θεού.

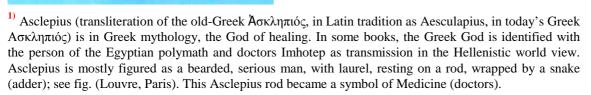
Για πολλούς ο θεός αυτός είναι ο Ασκληπιός, δίναντας έτσι συνέχεια στην ιστορία που τον θελει να λατρεύεται περιοσότερο από κάθε άλλο στην ακρόπολη της αρχαίας Λάρισας

Το "θεικό" αυτό κεφήλι είναι ορατό από το δρόμο που οδηγεί στην Ιεράπετρα, επτακόσια μέτρα περίπου από εδώ και η θέασή του οφείλεται στον κατάλληλο φωτισμό από τον ήλιο.

Προσοχή! Τα χαροκτηριστικά του προσώπου είναι ευδιάκριτα κυρίως στη διάρκεια των καλοκαιρινών μηνών και στις ώρες 16.00-17.30. Προς το τέλος του καλοκαιριού το "γλυπτό" γίνεται ορατό με καθυστέρηση ενός ημιώρου.

The "Church Mountain" is by the way, according to an info panel (see fig.) also a visible "God seat". About 700 m after the village exit (on the main road towards Ierapetra) is a rock formation to be

seen on the western part of the mountaintop, which should depict the head of the Greek deity Asclepius <sup>1)</sup> during the appropriate position of the Sun (see red mark at fig. 1). His "facial features" should be visible (in the influence of shadowing) especially during the summer months between 4 p.m. and 5 P.m.!



















The upper series shows a "look back" on the first 100 steps to the mountain plateau, from where you have a wonderful view of Kalamáfka and the Dikti mountains.

The middle series show the entrance to the Church on the rock plateau as well as access to the cave of outdoor and indoor. The two bottom pictures show the Bell Tower in the battlements of the mountain.

**Pictures:** *U. Kluge / H. Eikamp* (19.12.2006)

Translated by Michael Bloechinger-Daeumling







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