

**Francesca Alesse**

**‘The Inner Citadel and Its Enemies’**

*Abstract*

*Marcus Aurelius’ simile of human mind as an akropolis (VIII 36) was used by Pierre Hadot in his celebrate monograph as a clue for reading a peculiar character of ancient philosophy: the vision of (philosophical) life as a constant exercise to preserve intellectual autonomy and to defend it against any attack. In my presentation I shall examine Marcus’ focussing on some kinds of attacks and their causes, rather than his description of mind. Materiality and temporality of the outside world as well as irrational human impulses are the major enemies of mind.*