

## **Emperor Julian's theology of the Sun**

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Some of Julian's theological writings clearly testify to the vital role of the Sun in the emperor's theological vision. The most essential document of his solar theology is his prose hymn to the Sun "the king of the universe", based on a lost treatise by the Neoplatonist Iamblichus. In this work, the emperor discusses the (dual, i.e. physical and transcendent) nature of the Sun god, his origin from the first principle, and his major works both in the cosmos and beyond it. The primary aim of the talk is to summarise the results of a new analysis of Julian's solar hymn in the context of his other theological works. Moreover, we will also consider the emperor's theology of the Sun in a broader perspective: against the background of the Platonic tradition, in relation to the Christological debates of the period, as an attempt to revive the imperial cult of the Sun, and as a personal experience of Julian.