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The *Derveni Papyrus* and Heraclitus

The *Derveni Papyrus* is arguably the most exciting of recent discoveries in the field of ancient philosophy. Although it was found more than fifty years ago, the discussion regarding its proper interpretation and the general purpose still continues. Being an allegorical commentary upon an Orphic poem, it combines together various philosophical currents of the late Presocratic period, most notably the Anaxagoreans, but also Heraclitus.

The presence of Heraclitus in the *Derveni Papyrus* is well attested, among other things by a quotation of two of his fragments which were identified in column IV. Moreover, some scholars suggest that loose paraphrases of the text of Heraclitus' book and various parallels with his thoughts possibly appear also in other passages of this intriguing, early Greek philosophical document.

In my talk, I would like to discuss possible influences of Heraclitus on the *Derveni Papyrus*, especially in the opening columns which describe a kind of ritual performed by the magi and mystes (col. VI). Building upon the work of previous scholars, I want to argue that the influence of Heraclitus' ideas, not only here but also in other parts of the papyrus, is possibly more pervasive than generally thought. A confrontation of some particular testimonies and fragments of Heraclitus with the text of the papyrus can perhaps help us gain a better understanding of both the content and the intellectual context in which the *Derveni Papyrus* originated.