

Dawn

Sarcophagus of Lorenzo de Medici, Duke of Urbino

Located to the right of Lorenzo's sarcophagus, it was derived like the *Evening* from the figures of ancient river gods represented in the reliefs of the arch of Septimius Severus in Rome. What distinguishes it is the melancholy and meditative attitude and the pose, so languid that the figure seems to be slipping from the sarcophagus on which it rests. The cloak that descends from the unusual headgear underlines the torpor that *Dawn* has such difficulty in shaking off. The sash under her breast has been interpreted as some by an allusion to the bondage of human nature to matter, by others as the garment used by women to support their breasts in ancient times.