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## [The Sacred Tales - suite]

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### Présentation de la fiche

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### Références éditoriales

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32. p. 217, 20 P a nurse means death for a sick man. I 45, 78.  
 33. p. 242, 8 P for the orator, another orator signifies his professional career. IV 61 (see III no. 6).  
 34. p. 248, 25 P crowns impede travel. V 35; cf. I 44, 45, III 31.  
 35. p. 279, 6 P viper means a rich man; cf. p. 127, 14 P. IV 5.  
 36. p. 283, 20 P dreams have nothing to do with the dreamer's horoscope, nor do the benevolent planets, when unable to do any good, give pleasure through dreams. IV 58.  
 37. p. 285, 19 P the dreamer's country signifies his parents. I 43, IV 28, 48, V 10; but cf. III 13 with III 16.  
 38. p. 293, 3 P what a god says when not in his proper form, is a lie. IV 50. (see III no. 4).  
 39. p. 294, 6 P an ascent to heaven is deadly for a sick man. III 48. (see I no. 30).  
 40. p. 318, 16 P a god apparently granting a request by nodding down signifies for a sick man death; p. 318, 22 P a god apparently refusing a request by nodding up signifies safety. I 71.

## THE SACRED TALES: I\*

Winter  
 170/1 A.D. I believe that I shall speak like Homer's Helen. 1  
 For she says that she would not tell all "the toils  
 of stout hearted Odysseus (*Odyssey* 4. 241)." But  
 she selects, I think, some one deed of his and narrates it to Telemachus  
 and Menelaus. And I myself would not tell all the achievements of  
 the Savior, which I have enjoyed to this very day. Nor at this point  
 shall I add that Homeric phrase, "not if I had ten tongues, ten mouths  
 (*Iliad* 2. 489)." For this were too little. Not even if I should surpass  
 all human strength, speech and wisdom, could I ever do justice to  
 them. I have never been persuaded by any of my friends, who have 2  
 asked or encouraged me to speak or write about these things, and so  
 I have avoided the impossible. For it seemed to be the same as if I  
 should swim under water through every sea and next be compelled to  
 render an account of how many waves I encountered, and how I found 3  
 the sea at each of them, and what it was that saved me. For each of  
 our days, as well as our nights, has a story, if someone, who was  
 present at them<sup>1</sup>, wished either to record the events or to narrate the  
 providence of the God, wherein he revealed somethings openly in his  
 own presence, and others by the sending of dreams, as far as it was

\* Since no Greek text has been included, I have not provided an apparatus. I have noted only those places where I differ from the text which is printed by Keil; but I have not thought it necessary to indicate my disagreements with Keil's interpretations. Four manuscripts comprise the tradition of the *Sacred Tales*. In order of quality, they are A (Laurentianus LX 3, written in the 10th century for the Bishop Arethas); S (Urbina Graecus 122, also from the 10th century); T (Laurentianus LX 8, from the 11th century); and D (Laurentianus LX 7, from the 12th century). In my estimation, the most serious corruptions in the *Sacred Tales* are misreadings of "an uncial" bookhand, and are therefore quite early. Lacunae occur, but much less frequently than Keil suspected. Occasionally in some or all manuscripts, there are traces of the annoying habit of tidying up textual corruptions, and thereby making them harder to detect.

<sup>1</sup> I 3 I accept παρών mss.; cf. II 56, IV 20. Keil emended παρ' ἐν.



