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[The Sacred Tales - suite]

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possible to obtain sleep. But this was rare, due to the tempests of my body. Therefore, in view of this, I decided to submit truly to the God, as to a doctor and to do in silence whatever he wishes. 4

January 4 to February 15 166 A.D. But now I wish to indicate to you the condition of my abdomen. I shall reckon each matter day by day. It was the month of Poseideon, and what a winter it was! During those nights my stomach was upset and I had extraordinary insomnia, so that I could not digest the smallest morsel. Not the least cause was the continuous succession of stormy weather, which it was said even the tiling did not sustain. But I perspired all this time, except when I bathed. 5

January 4, 5 & 6 On the twelfth of the month, the God instructed me not to bathe, and the same on the next day, and the day after that. I passed these three days in a row, both night and day, wholly without perspiring, so that I did not even need to wear an undershirt², and never before did I perceive myself to be more comfortable. I passed the time in walking about the house and in games, as these were holidays. For the Vigil of the God followed upon the preceding holiday in honor of Poseidon. 6

January 7 Night & Day And after this, there was a dream which contained a notion of bathing, although this was far from certain. *I dreamed that I had been in some way befouled.* Nevertheless I decided that I would bathe and that if I had actually experienced this befouling, there was need of water. And immediately thereafter I was somewhat uncomfortable in the bath and when I came out, everything seemed to be full and my breath was like that of a man gasping for air, so that right at the beginning I stopped taking nourishment. After this at night, stomach trouble, which reached such a pitch, that it scarcely stopped a little before noon. But there was a dream vision somewhat as follows: *I was in the warm bath, and bending forward I saw that my lower intestinal tract was in a rather strange state. I determined to persist in not bathing. But someone said that the trouble which had appeared was not in the* 7 8

² I 6 χιτωνίσκου--μεταλαβεῖν A; χιτωνίσκου STD. But a correction to μεταλαβεῖν is not likely; cf. II 78.

bathing itself and that it was not reasonable to guard against bathing as the cause.

January 8 I bathed at evening and at dawn I had pains in my abdomen, and the pain spread over the right side down to the groin.

January 9, 10 & 11 On the seventeenth no bathing after a dream, and on the eighteenth no bathing. On the nineteenth, I dreamed that some Parthians had got me in their power, and one of them approached me and made as if to brand me. Next he inserted a finger in my throat and poured in something, according to some native custom, and named it "indigestion." Later I recounted these things as they had appeared in the dream. And the audience marvelled and said that the cause of my thirst and inability to drink was this, that my food turned sour. Because of this vomiting was indicated and the Parthian ordered that I abstain from bathing today and produce one servant as a witness of this. No bathing, and vomiting, and comfort. 9

January 12 On the twentieth, I dreamed that I was at the entrance of the Temple of Asclepius, and a certain one of my friends met me, embraced me, and greeted me warmly, since he had not seen me for a long time. I said to him that I had been nauseous; and as the conversation continued, I recalled how many things had been disturbed around the Temple. And while we were speaking, we went in. And when we were by the statues of the Good Fortune and the Good God, we stopped and were still conversing. And seeing one of the temple servants, I asked him where the priest was. He replied, "Behind the Temple." For it was about the time of the Sacred Lamps, and the temple warden was bringing the keys. And at this time the Temple happened to have been closed. Still in such a way, so that though closed, a kind of entrance remained and the interior was visible. I went up to the doors and saw, instead of the old statue, another with downcast eyes. And as I marvelled and inquired where the old statue was, someone brought it to me, and I seemed not wholly to recognize it, but I worshipped it eagerly. Afterwards, while walking about, we met the priest and I began the fol- 10 11 12

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