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[The Sacred Tales - suite]

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lowing conversation with him: "I also had dreams in Smyrna that I had spoken with you about the Temple, and believing the matter too great for me, I kept silent. And now recently I have had dreams concerning these very matters." And at the same time, I intended to speak about putting the statue in its old place. While I was walking about, a slipper fell off one of my feet, and the priest picked it up and brought it to me. And I was pleased by the honor. And wishing, as it were, to requite and honor him, I bent over to receive it. At this time, a bull came up to me by the God's Ears. I was afraid and tried somehow to protect myself. Yet he did nothing else but press against my right knee. Theodotus took a lancet and cleansed it. Therefore I intended to say to him, "that you yourself made it a wound." This was what appeared and here my fear ceased. And there was a small sore, like a carbuncle, beneath my right knee, and it seemed to be good for the upper part of the digestive tract.

January 13 On the twenty-first, I dreamed that I had the clothes of a priest and that I saw the priest himself present. I also dreamed that when I saw one of my friends limping because of some trouble about his seat, I said to him that rest would cure this. Vomiting was also ordered through many tokens, and this was the fifth day in a row without bathing. It is worthwhile also to tell of collateral dreams. I dreamed that as in my accustomed practice of rhetoric, I was studying some Demosthenes³ and spoke to the Athenians as if I were he: "You ask through the herald, 'Who wishes to speak?' But I would rather ask you. Who wishes to act?⁴" And I said, in reference to the Telemessians of Aristophanes, that there someone contended with words but not deeds (CAF I 529).

January 14 On the twenty-second, I dreamed that, as it were, in Smyrna, I went at evening to the Temple of Asclepius, which is in the Gymnasium. And I went with Zeno. And the Temple was larger and covered as much of the portico as was

³ I 16 I accept Δημοσθένη mss.; cf. LS sv. II 6 b. Keil emended Δημοσθένους τινος.

⁴ I 16 I accept Büchner's deletion of the words after πράττειν: ἡ κομψοδία γε τὸ λοιπὸν ἔστιν, AST.

paved. At the same time, I also pondered about this, as it were, about a vestibule. And while I prayed and called upon the God, Zeno said, "Nothing is more gentle." And he himself addressed the God and named him a refuge and such things. I noticed, as if in this vestibule, a statue of me. At one time I saw it, as if it were of me, and again it seemed to be a great and fair statue of Asclepius. And I recounted to Zeno himself these things which appeared to me in my dream. The part about the statue seemed to be very honorable. And again I saw the statue, as if in the long portico of the Gymnasium.

And concerning the bath, I dreamed the following: First, as if in the middle of rubbing myself down, I entered a private bath where admission is charged. Then I said, when I had entered unawares, "These now are days of not bathing⁵." Next it seemed to me that Phoebus was present and encouraged me, so that I entered the water now without hesitation.

Again I dreamed that at the Temple of Asclepius a certain young athlete, still beardless, was talking about bathing establishments, praising the great ones and assuming that such were the pleasures of life. Therefore I showed him the sea and asked him if it were also better to bathe there or in a small space. "In a small space," he said. After this, I showed him a lake and asked him if it were also better in so great a lake or a small space. Here also he agreed that bathing in a small space was preferable. "Then," I said, "the greater is not everywhere preferable, but there is a certain charm in the small." And at the same time, I thought to myself that if I were declaiming somewhere it would be fair to say that the pleasures of other men are in danger of being the pleasures of pigs, but that mine would be purely that of a man, as I attend to and delight in words. The youth seemed to say these things about the bath by the Ephesian Gates. Finally it seemed to me fitting to try. When else to be bold, if not now? Thus I decided upon the noon hour as then it is safest to move about. When the hour came, I accused Bassus of procrastinating. "You see," I said, "how the shadow is passing by?," indicating the shadow of the columns. We went, and when we arrived, standing at the pool of cold water without⁶, I tried the water. Unexpectedly it seemed to me not

⁵ I 18 I accept ἡδῆ mss.; cf. surprise in I 50. Keil emended ἡδῆ.

⁶ I 21 I accept τοῦ ἕξω A.; cf. Pseudo-Lucian Hippias 5. It is omitted by STD and by Keil.



