

[Accueil](#)[Revenir à l'accueil](#)[CollectionBoite\\_023 | Notes de la fin de sa vie pour ses derniers livres.](#)[CollectionBoite\\_023-7-chem | Aristide.](#) Item[[The Sacred Tales - suite](#)]

## [The Sacred Tales - suite]

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### Présentation de la fiche

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### Références éditoriales

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first cold water, then milk. Therefore I was in doubt and said to Zosimus that I was neither thirsty nor hungry, "Why then should one eat?" And after this fasting was sanctioned, for the priest seemed to drain my lips. This was a day of fasting.

February 5 & 6            And the following of not bathing, and the day after that of not bathing and vomiting.

February 7            On the fifteenth, I dreamed that the Governor 41  
sent me a letter and addressed me so: "Greetings to Aristides the Priest." And this too was a day of not bathing.

February 8            On the following day, it was necessary to overturn some casks<sup>8</sup>. Next no bathing.

February 10           On the eighteenth, Metrodorus, the poet, seemed 42  
to me to be in a contest of poets in Smyrna, which was taking place almost on that very day. Before he entered, he spoke to me about certain things and at the same time ate leek leaves and an egg with bread, and left a portion of the egg. I, moreover, after a slight pause, said to him, "Take care to contend well." There was also a discussion about the Temple in Pergamum and the Well, how it was to approach it oneself, and drink from it, how to see another person drink from it, how to see it itself. I dreamed that I thus discussed these things and that I happened to have heard that if I should be in the God's hands, there would be hope. And somehow at the same time 43  
I stood, as it were, at home, on the porch, and since my foot was numb, I went into the main house. And one of those from the Temple of Olympian Zeus came in. I recounted to him how I had dreams from the God, and ordered him to serve me. But he too said that he had had a dream, that he took a ham hock and when he had prepared it in the way which I am accustomed to employ, he put it to sleep in

<sup>8</sup> I 41 I emend *καταχέουσι* for *καταχέσθαι* mss. Aristides understood this as a token not to bathe.

<sup>9</sup> I 42 Keil placed a lacuna after *εἰπεῖν* and referred *ἐπισηγών* to Aristides' instructions to Metrodorus.

the Temple of Asclepius. After this, I dreamed, as it were in Pergamum, that I sent a large sized crown to the God, the sort which men particularly bring to Asclepius. And I ordered the man who took it — his name was Agathion — to bring back another to me from the temple warden. But when he brought it, I put it on, while I happened to be lying on the right side of the bed. After this, I thought that I 44  
was somewhere or other. But getting up, I sought my nurse. She was living opposite me. And someone answered that certain obstacles had arisen for her, before in fact I saw my nurse herself approaching and my foster sister, Callityche, following behind. My nurse bore, as I first conjectured, apples. Next they were three boiled and peeled eggs, as if I now were going to eat. When she brought them, she said, "Some things from the country." And I marvelled and said that the eggs came by the will of God. "For the God bade," I said, "that today I use eggs, and greens, and put on a crown from the God." I did these things. The crown was from the Temple of Zeus Asclepius. No bathing was also indicated through many tokens.

February 11           On the nineteenth, I dreamed that I was staying 46  
in the Palace, and that the care and honor of the Emperors toward me was marvellous and unsurpassable in all the various things which I was doing. For I alone was granted everything, and no one else had even a small part of these honors. And in this way I passed my time within and shared their lodgings, and none of those fearsome sophists was present. Later they took me along on a tour. They went off to inspect some drainage ditch, which they happened to be putting about the city, to prevent the inundation of the river from causing harm. I also saw the excavation of this ditch taking place. They acted marvellously toward me during the trip. For 47  
many times I was between the two of them, and whenever I wished to go to one side so that the elder stood in the middle, the younger himself did this. And I remained always in the same place. He also seemed to have the age of a boy. And this happened many times. And when, as it were, a ladder must be placed at some steep point, 48  
first the younger one assisted me up, and I exclaimed how grateful I was. Next above at the end of the ladder, the elder Emperor assisted me. And when he asked, "How did he help<sup>10</sup>?" I said, "In all and

<sup>10</sup> I 48 I accept *πῶς* mss. Keil emended *πῶς*.



