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## [The Sacred Tales - suite]

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### Présentation de la fiche

Coteb023\_f0189

SourceBoite\_023-7-chem | Aristide.

LangueFrançais

TypeFicheLecture

RelationNumérisation d'un manuscrit original consultable à la BnF, département des Manuscrits, cote NAF 28730

### Références éditoriales

Éditeuréquipe FFL (projet ANR *Fiches de lecture de Michel Foucault*) ; projet EMAN (Thalim, CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne nouvelle).

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Notice créée par [équipe FFL](#) Notice créée le 19/03/2021 Dernière modification le 23/04/2021

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was troubling me. Then I awoke, and I found that it was that very hour, in which I thought that Theodotus spoke to me, and friends had actually now come to visit me.

These dreams appeared to me while the doctor had arrived and had prepared himself to help, as much as he knew how. But when he heard the dreams, being a sensible man, he also yielded to the God. And we recognized the true and proper doctor for us, and we did what he commanded.

February 15 Now my night was comfortable in every way and everything was without pain.

c. December Later he gave me goose fat in the form of the 58  
166 A.D. temple warden, Asclepiacus, and told me to inquire of the God, "for whom they make assembly in the Mysian plain." For he said that I would learn from that God whatever I wanted. And the God declared that nothing would be difficult.

Winter Why should one speak of not bathing? I have 59  
171 A.D. now not bathed for five consecutive years and some months besides, unless, of course, in winter time, he ordered me to use the sea or rivers or wells. In the same way, the purgation of the upper intestinal tract has taken place for nearly two years and two months in succession, together with enemas and phlebotomies, as many as no one has ever counted, and these things with little nourishment and that forced. And we spent the whole period of fasting<sup>14</sup>, both that still before these things and that which came afterwards, nearly to this winter<sup>15</sup>, beyond reason in writing and speaking and correcting that which had been written. And mostly we worked on<sup>16</sup> until no less than midnight. Next on each following day, having performed our usual routine, we took some little food. And when fasting followed upon vomiting, this work and study was my consolation. So that whenever I consider Socrates who passed the day in the Lyceum after the symposium, I think that I should owe no less thanks to the God for such endurance and strength.

<sup>14</sup> I 60 I accept τὰς γε ἀσιτίας mss. Keil added παρὰ before τὰς γε.

<sup>15</sup> I 60 I punctuate ἐν τῇ χειμῶνι τοῦτον σχεδόν; cf. I 59, II 16, IV 34.

<sup>16</sup> I 60 I accept παρτείναντες mss. Keil emended παρατείναντες.

October to January So much for my abdomen. But like the matter 61  
148 A.D. of the abdomen, many years before, occurred that of the tumor. For the God predicted for a long time that I should beware of dropsy, and he gave me various drugs and Egyptian slippers, which the priests are accustomed to use. And it seemed best to him to divert the discharge downwards. And a tumor 62  
grew from no apparent cause, at first as it might be for anyone else, and next it increased to an extraordinary size, and my groin was distended, and everything was swollen and terrible pains ensued, and a fever for some days. At this point, the doctors cried out all sorts of things, some said surgery, some said cauterization by drug, or that an infection would arise and I must surely die. But the God gave a 63  
contrary opinion and told me to endure and foster the growth. And clearly there was no choice between listening to the doctors or to the God. But the growth increased even more, and there was much dismay. Some of my friends marvelled at my endurance, others criticized me because I acted too much on account of dreams, and some even blamed me for being cowardly, since I neither permitted surgery nor again suffered any cauterizing drugs. But the God held quite firm, and ordered me to bear up with the present circumstances. He said that this was wholly for my safety, for the flow of this discharge was 64  
upwards, and these gardeners did not know where they ought to turn their channels. Wonderful things kept happening. There were approximately four months of this kind of life. But during these, my head and upper intestinal tract were as comfortable as one could pray for. There was also, as it were, a national assembly in the house. For my friends, who were the foremost of the Greeks of that time, were always coming to see me and were present for my speeches, which I delivered right from my bed.

Then we were ordered to do many strange things. Of what I 65  
remember, there was a race, which it was necessary to run unshod in winter time. And again horse back riding, a most difficult matter. And I also remember some such thing. When the harbor was stormy from a south west wind and the boats were being tossed about, I had to sail across to the opposite side, and having eaten honey and acorns, to vomit, and the purge was complete. All these things were done while the inflamed tumor was at its worst and was spreading up to my navel. Finally the Savior indicated on the same night the same 66



