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[The Sacred Tales - suite]

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October When I was brought from Italy, I had contracted
144 A.D. by ill luck many varied ailments from constant
sickness and the stormy weather which I experienced while departing
through Thrace and Macedonia, for I left home while I was still sick.
The doctors were wholly at a loss not only as to how to help, but
even to recognize what the whole thing was. But the hardest and
most difficult thing of all was that my breathing was constricted.
With much effort and disbelief, scarcely would I breathe forcibly
and rarely, and a constant constriction in my throat followed and I
had fits of shivering, and there was need for more covering than I
could bear. Besides, other unspeakable things troubled me. It seemed
best to use the warm springs, if ever I could be a little more comfor-
table or somehow tolerate the climate. For it was now winter time,
and they were not far from the city.

c. December Here first the Savior began to make his reve-
144 A.D. lations. *He ordered me to go forth unshod. And I
cried out in my dream, as if in a waking state and
after the accomplishment of the dream: "Great is Asclepius! The
order is accomplished." I seemed to cry out, while I went forth.*

summer After this an invitation and a journey from
145 A.D. Smyrna to Pergamum with good fortune. To narrate
what came next is not within the power of man.
Still I must try, as I have undertaken to recount some of these things
in a cursory way. But if someone wishes to know with the utmost
precision what has befallen us from the God, it is time for him to
seek out the parchment books and the dreams themselves. For he
will find cures of all kinds and some discourses and full scale
orations and various visions, and all of the prophecies and oracles
about every kind of matter, some in prose, some in verse, and all
expressive of my gratitude to the God, greater than one might
expect. Now let us begin at some place or other, since when we were
in the Temple on the first night, the God appeared to my foster father,
in the form of Sabinus¹⁸, the present consul. But then we did not
know who Sabinus¹⁸ was, but he happened to be applying to the God

¹⁸ II 9 I emend Σαβίνου and Σαβίνου for Σαλβίου and Σάλβιος mss.; see Note 1 to Chapter III.

at that time. My foster father said that in this form he discussed with
him other things concerning these speeches of mine, I believe, and
signified his approval of the project by calling them "the Sacred
Tales." So much for this. After this, he gave me medicines, of which
the first was, as I remember, the sap of the balsam, and he said that
it was a gift of the Pergamene Telesphorus. I had to use¹⁹ it while
bathing and going from the warm water to the cold. Next there was
soap mixed both with raisins and other things, and next thousands
upon thousands of things. But perforce passing all these by, I wish
to recall strange events.

January Where should one begin, when there are so many
149 A.D. different things and at the same time, when all are
not remembered, only the gratitude because of
them? He sent me to Chius, saying that he sent me for a purgation.
Therefore we went off on the road to Smyrna, in much discomfort
and believing that we were without a protector, and that we truly
sailed alone, once we were outside the Temple. Why should one
describe the way that everyone in Smyrna was astounded, when they
saw my unhoped for appearance? When we were at Clazomenae, it
seemed fated to cross straight to Phocaea. For when we were near the
islands, Drumussa and Pele, a breeze from the east arose, and as
we went further, the east wind was now sharp, and finally a porten-
tous gale broke out. And the ship rose at the prow and sank at the
stern, and nearly capsized. Next it was awash everywhere. Then it
turned out to the open sea. The seamen sweated and shouted, and
the passengers screamed. For some friends were sailing with me.
But I was content to say only, "O Asclepius!" After we had faced
many kinds of danger and finally near the landing were turned²⁰ and
driven back countless times and had caused much anguish to the
spectators, scarcely and hardly were we saved. *When night came, the
God ordered me to perform my purgation, and showed me from what.*

¹⁹ II 10, 74, 75, III 21 I accept χρῆσθαι TD; χρῆσθαι A. Keil emended χρῆσθαι, perhaps rightly. But in IG IV² 1, no. 126 (T 432) χρῆμα, etc. is used throughout. Herzog, *op. cit.*, p. 45, regards this as only a matter of orthography. Still in III 24 and 36 χρῆμα is used.

²⁰ II 12 I emend ἀναστραφέντες or ἀποτραπέντες for ἀνατραπέντες mss., which can only mean "were capsized." Cf. similar confusion in 26. 86 K.



