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[The Sacred Tales - suite]

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Présentation de la fiche

Coteb023_f0193

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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And it was nothing less than by hellebore, as those who had experience in this said, since everything was stirred up by the waves. And he declared everything, how it was fated for me to suffer shipwreck. For that reason these things happened; and now it would be necessary for my safety and in order to fulfill my destiny, to embark in a skiff and to arrange it so that the skiff overturn and sink in the harbor, and that I myself be picked up by someone and brought to land. For thus my fate would be fulfilled. Of course, I did this quite gladly. And the contrivance of the shipwreck, which occurred after a real danger, seemed wonderful to all. Wherein we also knew that it was even He who saved us from the sea. An additional benefaction was the purification.

January 27 After this, he kept me in Phocaea and sent me 15
149 A.D. marvellous symbolic dreams, which pertained not only to my body, but also to many, many other things. And we heard in advance about the winds which would probably occur, so that whenever our host, Rufus, heard our dreams — in other respects he was the first of the Phocaeans, and himself also not ignorant of Asclepius —, he was greatly amazed to hear these things from us indoors, which he had left without, when he entered. Once at the God's command, there was need of milk. And there was 16
none, for it was near a fourth in²¹ the month of Dystrus, according to our usage in Asia. But it seemed necessary to search for it. And Rufus went out to the end of his estate and found a sheep, who had given birth that very night. And he brought and provided the milk.

Finally the God remitted our sailing to Chius, both with signs 17
and other prophecies, and after all these *I thought that the ship had been smashed to pieces and was no more*. There is a region called Genais, not far from Phocaea. He diverted us here for some days, at the warm springs, and then brought us back to Smyrna.

Then when we were in Smyrna, he appeared to me in some such 18
form. *He was at the same time Asclepius, and Apollo, both the Clarian, and he who is called the Callitecnus in Pergamum and whose is the first of the three temples. Standing before my bed in this form, when he had extended his fingers and calculated the time, he said,*

²¹ II 16 I delete δένα in ἐπὶ δένα, see Note 40 to Chapter IV. Keil emended Δύστρου for δευτέρου mss.

"You have ten years from me and three from Sarapis," and at the same time the three and the ten appeared by the position of the fingers as seventeen. And he said that "this was not a dream, but a waking state (Odyssey 19. 547)," and that I would also know it. And at the same time he commanded that I go down to the river, which flows before the city, and bathe, and that a young boy lead the way. And he pointed out the boy. This is a summary of the divine manifestation, and I would place a high premium on being able to recount exactly each particular of it. It was the middle of winter and the north wind was strong and it was icy cold, and the pebbles were fixed to one another by the frost so that they seemed like a continuous piece of ice, and the water was such as is likely in such weather. When the divine manifestation was announced, friends escorted us, and various doctors, some of them acquaintances, and others who came either out of concern or even for the purposes of investigation. And there was also another great crowd, for some distribution happened to be taking place beyond the gates. And everything was visible from the bridge. There was a certain doctor, Heracleon, a companion of ours, who confessed to me on the day after, that he had gone having persuaded himself that if I should fare as well as possible, I should be afflicted with recurvation of the spine or some other such thing. When we were at the river, there was no need for anyone to encourage us. But being still full of warmth from the vision of the God, I cast off my clothes, and not wanting to be massaged, flung myself where the river was deepest. Next, as in a pool of very gentle and tempered water, I passed my time swimming all about and splashing myself all over. When I came out, all my skin had a rosy hue and my body was comfortable everywhere. And there was a great shout from those present and those coming up, shouting that celebrated phrase, "Great is Asclepius!" Who could indicate what came next. During all the rest of the day and night till bed time, I preserved the condition which I had after the bath, nor did I feel any part of my body to be drier or moister, nor did any of the warmth abate, nor was any added, nor again was the warmth such as one would have from a human contrivance, but it was a certain continuous body heat, bringing an even power throughout the whole of my body and during the whole time²².

²² II 22 I accept χρόνου mss. Haury emended χρότός.



