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## [The Sacred Tales - suite]

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### Présentation de la fiche

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### Références éditoriales

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My mental state was nearly the same. For there was neither, as it were, conspicuous pleasure, nor would you say that it was like a human joy. But there were certain inexplicable high spirits, which counted all things second to the present moment, so that when I saw other things, I seemed not to see them. Thus I was wholly with the God.

But now it is your task, O Lord, to make clear what came next and to reveal, by saying what and by turning where, we would do what is gratifying to you and would best continue our tale. Since I have mentioned the river and the terrible winter and the bath, am I next to speak of other things of the same category and am I to compile, as it were, a catalogue of wintry, divine, and very strange baths? Or dividing up my tale, shall I narrate some intermediate events? Or is it best to pass over all the intermediate things and give an end to my first tale, how the oracle about the years held and how everything turned out? For the God also gave me many other signs when he snatched me from the dangers, which ever beset me, and which were frequent every night and day, different ones confronting me at different times, sometimes the same ones reoccurring, and whenever one was quit of them, others taking their place. And antidotes for each of these things came from the God, and he consoled me in various ways by word and deed.

end of March      This one thing, I remember, was also done by  
146 A.D.      him once. *He said that it was fated that I die in two*  
   *days, and that this was inevitable. And at the same*  
*time, he gave me tokens about certain events on the following day,*  
*and the state of the weather, and where the constellation of the*  
*Charioteer would appear, and he gave me other tokens of his truth-*  
*fulness. But he said that it was necessary to do the following. First*  
*having mounted a wagon, to go to the river which flows through the*  
*city, and when I was at the place where it is outside the city, to make*  
*sacrifices "at the trench" — for so he called them. Therefore it was*  
*necessary to dig a trench and to make sacrifices in it to whomever of*  
*the Gods it was necessary. Next upon turning back to take some small*  
*coins, to cross the river and cast them away. And he ordered some*  
*things, I think, in addition to this. After this to go to the Temple and*  
*make a full sacrifice to Asclepius, and to have sacred bowls set up,*  
*and to distribute the sacred portions of the sacrifice to all my fellow*

*pilgrims. Also it was necessary to cut off some part of my body for the sake of the well being of the whole. But since this was difficult, he remitted it for me. Instead of this, he ordered me to remove the ring which I wore and dedicate it to Telesphorus — for this had the same effect, as if I should give up my finger — and to inscribe on the band of the ring, "O son of Cronus." And if I did this, I would be saved. After this it is impossible<sup>23</sup> to imagine our condition, and into what kind of harmony the God again brought us. For we engaged in all this, almost as if in an initiation, since there was great hope together with fear.*

Winter      But in conformity to this, both being to the same  
146 A.D.      purpose and occurring later on, was the cause of  
   my drinking wormwood. It is obvious that it would  
be in every way more terrifying and clearer to narrate the simple  
visions themselves, but in most things it is necessary to use the basis  
which I have determined, and to give cursory summaries, however  
they come out in the tale. The other temple warden was Philadelphus.  
On the same night this man had a dream vision which I too had,  
but somehow a little different. Philadelphus dreamed — for so much  
can I remember — that there was a multitude of men in the Sacred  
Theater, who wore white garments and were assembled because of the  
God, and that standing among them, I spoke and hymned the God,  
and that I said many different things, and how many another time  
he averted my fate and recently when he found the wormwood and  
commanded me to drink it diluted with vinegar, so that I might not  
be nauseated. And he reported a certain sacred ladder, I believe, and  
the presence and certain wonderful powers of the God. Philadelphus  
dreamed these things. But the following happened to me. *I dreamed*  
*that I stood at the propylaea of the Temple. And many others were*  
*also gathered together, as whenever there is a purificatory ceremony.*  
*And they wore white garments, and the rest was of an appropriate<sup>24</sup>*  
*form. Here I cried out other things to the God and called him "the*  
*arbiter of fate," since he assigned men their fates. And my words*  
*began with my own circumstances. And after this there was worm-*

<sup>23</sup> II 28 I add οὐκ before ἔξεστιν; cf. II 49.

<sup>24</sup> II 31 I accept πρέποντα AST. Keil emended πρέποντι.

