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[The Sacred Tales - suite]

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Présentation de la fiche

Coteb023_f0194

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

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. 23

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 wintery, 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 dif-
 ferent 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. 24 25

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* 26
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 27
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 impossible²³ to imagine our condition, and into 28
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 toge-
ther 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 29
 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. 30
 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 31
 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 appropriate²⁴
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-

²³ II 28 I add οὐκ before ἐξέστην; cf. II 49.

²⁴ II 31 I accept πρέποντα AST. Keil emended πρέποντι.

