

[Accueil](#)[Revenir à l'accueil](#)[CollectionBoite\\_023 | Notes de la fin de sa vie pour ses derniers livres.](#)[CollectionBoite\\_023-7-chem | Aristide.](#) Item[[The Sacred Tales - suite](#)]

## [The Sacred Tales - suite]

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### Présentation de la fiche

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school. They recited and sang the following verses, echoing them most sweetly:

"He has saved many from manifest death,  
While they even stood at the inflexible gates  
Of Hades."

These are some of our verses, almost the first which we wrote for the God. Then I marvelled how they had now come to Egypt, and I was exceedingly pleased that I happened to have found my own compositions being sung.

This is a summary of the dreams. When day broke, I mounted my horse, for I happened to have one at hand. And I, who one would not think sufficient for this first exertion, raced the horse and felt more comfortable while it was still running, and much of the heaviness of my upper intestinal tract left me, and a certain strength was collected, as it were, in such circumstances, and again I had hope. At night, I even heard the voice of someone saying: "*You have been cured*," and this when I was in the most extreme difficulty. Because of the abundance of stories and actions, I must omit in what way I got back safely to Pergamum, and under what sort of regimen I lived after that.

summer I went on another journey to the warm springs  
148 A.D. in the height of summer, and it was foretold to me  
to return immediately, once I had bathed and had  
chopped up some cassia and smeared it about my neck. I accomplished the two hundred and forty stades both ways, while it was remarkably stifling, and I endured the thirst more easily than someone going home from the baths. Again he sent me, after commanding me to drink cold water. And I drank it all<sup>39</sup>. And so much for now about these things.

September As to what happened in Lebedus: I was sent from  
147 A.D. the incubation which I was performing in the  
Temple of the Saviors<sup>40</sup>, at his command, though I  
was so weak that I could not even endure in bed at home. And the

<sup>39</sup> III 6 Keil placed a lacuna after σήμερον.

<sup>40</sup> III 7 I accept Σωτήρων mss.; cf. Note 27 to Chapter II. Keil emended Σωτήρος.

doctor Satyrus, a sophist, as was said, of no mean rank, was at this time in Pergamum. This man visited me while I was lying in bed, and felt my chest and abdomen. When during the course of the conversation, he heard how many purges of blood I had had, he ordered me to stop them and not to undermine my body. "But I," he said, "shall give you a very light and simple ointment, which you should put on your stomach and abdomen, and you will see how much it will help." He advised these things. And as regards my blood, I denied that I had the authority to do one or the other, but that while the God commanded the letting of my blood, I would obey whether willing or not, and moreover never unwillingly. Still I did not ignore Satyrus' prescription, but took and kept it. It was no cornucopia.

October When I was taken to Lebedus, and very unexpectedly and scarcely survived, then everything  
147 A.D. seemed to be of value. I needed constant help, and approached the warm springs with difficulty and sparingly. Therefore I decided to put Satyrus' drug on my stomach and chest, as Satyrus had prescribed, for I thought indeed that I was not departing much from the cure which came from the God. Straightway the first application did not please me, but it seemed to be too cold. Nevertheless I decided to persevere and to entrust to the drug, if in time it might accomplish something. And so I developed a terrible chest cold, and a constant and strong cough ensued, and I was in difficulty. And the God showed that it was consumption. And on the following day, there was a pressure in my temples and the whole of my face, and my jaws were locked together, and then, if ever, there was confusion.

When I was a little relaxed<sup>41</sup>, it occurred to me to consult the God in Colophon both concerning my present troubles and general weakness. Colophon is not far from Lebedus, and the Sacred Night happened to be near. These things decided, I sent Zosimus. When night came, Zosimus received the following oracle, which pertained to me:

"Asclepius will cure and heal your disease  
In honor of the famous city of Telephus,  
Not far from the streams of the Caicus."

<sup>41</sup> III 12 I accept ἐχάλασα mss. Keil emended ἐχάλασε. But "the pressure" was only one symptom.



