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[The Sacred Tales - suite]

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quite for the last time⁵⁴. And a farmer, who did not know me, except by reputation, had a dream. He dreamed that someone said to him that Aristides had vomited up the head of a viper. Having seen this vision, he told one of my people and he told me. So much for this.

When he sent me to the Aesepus, he ordered me to abstain from the baths there, but he prescribed other regimens every day. And there were purifications at the river by libation, and purgations at home through vomiting. And when three or four days had passed, *there was a voice in a dream, that it was over and it was necessary to return*. It was all not only like an initiation into a mystery, since the rituals were so divine and strange, but there was also coincidentally something marvellous and unaccustomed. For at the same time there was gladness, and joy, and a cheerfulness of spirit and body, and again, as it were, an incredulity if it will ever be possible to see the day when one will see himself free from such great troubles, and in addition, a fear that some one of the usual things will again befall and harm one's hopes about the whole. Thus was my state of mind, and my return took place with such happiness and at the same time anguish.

Since the Gods so granted, from this time, the change in my whole body and regimen now became clear, and it was easier to bear the climate and to travel more or less the same as those who were extremely healthy. And I dispensed with excessive covering, and the nameless catarrhs, and pains in my head, and throbbing⁵⁵ of my pulse and nerves ceased. My eating habits now became in some way more regular, and we engaged in full scale rhetorical contests at home and in public. And under the guidance of the God, with good fame and fortune, we visited the cities.

summer And years later that plague occurred, from which
165 A.D. the Savior and Lady Athena manifestly saved me.
And for some six months after this, my condition
was wonderful. Then I became very constipated, and other things
troubled me, all of which the God settled, and to say it by his grace,
he still settles them by daily regimens and predictions.

⁵⁴ IV I accept *σχέδον οὐκ εἰσάπαξ* mss.; cf. V 20. Keil regarded these words as corrupt, but the cure was not complete.

⁵⁵ IV 8 I add after *οφθαλμοί* <εἰς τὴν κεφαλὴν καὶ τὰς οἰς>; cf. II 57 and III 1.

c. January Then on my return from the Aesepus, just as 10
153 A.D. I was drawing near, both children and others made
propitious remarks, and in their play, they cried
out, "Hail to the Master!" And my nurse immediately got up and met
me, and regained her strength, and behaved as is likely in such
circumstances.

*Then the God commanded — since this must be done in place of
being buried — to sprinkle some white earth on myself, in the manner
of the wrestling ground, for security and so that in some way the
burial also might be fulfilled. And also to bathe in cold water, that
is, to bathe in snow.* So snow covered everything, the ground, the
trees, and the springs. And it is clear that we gladly obeyed these
things.

152/153 A.D. Such happened in my journey to the Aesepus 12
and my return again from there. The Governor of
Asia was then a close acquaintance of mine, Severus, a man from
Upper Phrygia, during whose time wonderful things, of special im-
portance to me, were done by the God. Concerning these, it would
probably be best to speak next. First, as I said, it was my intention 13
to recount immediately his benefactions in this matter. Then it seemed
best to go back to former times and to preface, as far as possible, the
other honors from the God, first as many as there were in regard to
my speeches, and then those which pertained to legal actions in each
governorship. Then whenever the past events⁵⁶ are settled with, an
end will be set to the first part of the speech, to which it will be
necessary to connect the rest.

144/145 A.D. During approximately the first year of my 14
sickness, I gave up the study of rhetoric, since I was
in such great physical discomfort. And at the same time, I became
despondent.

c. autumn While I now rested in Pergamum because of a
145 A.D. divine summons and my supplication, I received
from the God a command and exhortation not to abandon rhetoric.
It is impossible to say through the multitude of years whatever dream 15

⁵⁶ IV 13 I emend *τὰς τῶν* <ἄνω> χρόνων for *τῶν χρόνων* mss.



