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## [The Sacred Tales - suite]

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that concerning me the Mother of the Gods holds the same opinion as Asclepius. For first from that source I received the name 'Theodorus.' " 55

He also gave me a demonstration concerning his nature, partly by sight, partly by word. It was as follows. The morning star had risen, when the dream occurred. I dreamed that I was walking on a certain road through my Estate, and was gazing at the star which had just now come, for my journey was towards the east. Pyrrallianus, a man from the Temple, a comrade of ours, and one highly trained in Plato's dialogues, was present. Jestng and bantering with him, as it were on a leisurely walk, I said, "Can you tell me by the Gods — we are entirely alone — why you Platonists put on this mummery and scare men?" This was in reference to his dialogues about nature and being. And he ordered me to pay attention and attend after him. Then he led and I followed. And having gone a little ways, he held up his hand and showed me a certain place in heaven. And at the same time, as he showed it, he said, "This, as far as you are concerned, is what Plato calls the soul of the Universe." I gazed up and I saw Asclepius of Pergamum established in heaven. And just after this, I woke up, and I perceived that it was the very hour, in which I dreamed that I saw these things. 56

January 148 A.D. Then too I remember the following other dreams. I dreamed that I saw Plato himself standing in my room, directly across from my bed. He happened to be working on his letter to Dionysius, and was very angry. He glanced at me and said, "How suited do I appear to you for letter writing? No worse than Celer?" — meaning the Imperial Secretary. And I said, "Hush! Remember who you are!" And not much later, he disappeared, and I was held in meditation. But someone present said, "This man who spoke with you just now as Plato is your Hermes," — meaning my guardian deity. "But," he said, "he likened himself to Plato." 57

c. autumn 147 A.D. I had this dream in Smyrna, but another somewhat before this in Pergamum. Whoever it was who gave the reason, gave the Planet Jupiter as the reason for these dreams and the manifest care of the Gods. For he 58

said that it split the exact center of the meridian, when I was born. And moreover the astrologers say that Leo was then in meridian and Jupiter was beneath Leo and in quartile dexter aspect to Mercury, both planets oriental. 213

I began to behold nearly all the other ancients who were most famous in literature, both prose writers and poets alike. The affair of Lysias is also worthy to narrate. For I was sick with a very grave tertian fever, and I saw the orator Lysias, a not ungracious youth. The day of the attack came, and the fever did not occur, but at this time the disease was ended. 59

And once I thought that the poet Sophocles came to my house. When he came, he stood before the room where I happened to be living. And while he stood there in silence, his lips of their own accord sounded as sweetly as possible. His whole appearance was of a handsome old man. Then I was glad to see him, and rising, I welcomed him, and asked: "Where," I said, "is your brother?" And he said, "Have I any brother?" "It is Aeschylus," I said, and at the same time, I went out with him; and when we appeared to be at the front door, one<sup>66</sup> of the very distinguished sophists of our time slipped and lay to the left a little apart from the door. 61

We saw others of different appearance and form, dignified and familiar, according to the occasion. The following also contributed to my high spirits. When, in my dream, I was giving a rhetorical display and was winning much approval, and someone of my audience said in praise, "Just as so and so," whom he admired most of the ancients, I dreamed that my teacher, who was present, grew fidgety and said, "Will you not also add such and such?" And he intended to mention others in succession, since no one man should be compared to me. 62

September 153 A.D. And I had determined, when I had said these things, to bring my speech about these matters to an end, but another wonderful thing has occurred to me, if any other, worthy of no little thanks to the God. When the orator Quadratus entered upon the Governorship of Asia, I thought that it was opportune for me to address him especially since I had certain troubles from former times, which will be told immediately. 63

<sup>66</sup> IV 61 I accept σοφιστῆς τῶν κατὰ mss. Keil added τις before τῶν.

