

[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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And I wrote to him, and made it clear who I was, and what was my profession. On the day on which he was going to receive my letter — 64 for we learned this later from reports, but it was also possible to reach this conclusion right away by calculating the days —, it seemed to me that he who is still the present priest of Asclepius and this man's grandfather, in whose time, as we have learned, the God performed many great operations — and he is still the most distinguished of all up to the present — these men seemed to me to enter the residence of Quadratus, and to be closeted with him, the one 65 sitting by his side, and the elder sitting at the head of his bed. Then they recommended me to Quadratus with great zeal, and they said other kind remarks, and how the elder priest was taken with my speeches, which also had to be praised to Quadratus. "Concerning the speeches———," he said, somehow stressing his voice and pausing intentionally, since he intended especially to interest him in what was going to be said next. But while he was still intending to praise them, Quadratus interrupted him and said, "Then will you 66 give the proverb, 'It is fitting either to marry such a woman or not to marry at all (CAF III Anonymus 235)?'" Some such things were said on either side. After this, I dreamed that they departed, and that I went out with them. And when we were at the postern gate, where the turn off to the Temple is, they went straight to the Temple, but taking my leave, I shook their hands and thanked them, because they honored me in every way and were much concerned with my affairs. 67 How the letter won immediate approval, since it was read by the Governor himself to everybody, and every one fought to get it, and what he replied to it, and what he did in conclusion, when he left office, if one recounted this, it would seem to be boastfulness, because of the excessive praise which was involved; and in another way, it would be a kind of pettiness to linger over these things, after the honors from the Gods. But thus indeed did that happen, which pertained to the present subject.

170/171 A.D. And these things took place in former times. 68 But when I reached this part of the speech, and I intended to turn to the other benefactions of the God, and to write in order those which occurred under other Governors and other circumstances, in the midst of composing, I had a dream, which pertained

somehow again to these things. It was as follows. *I thought that I was 69 giving a rhetorical display and spoke among certain people, and in the midst of the speech with which I contended, I called on the God in this way: "Lord Asclepius, if I excel in rhetoric and excel much, grant me health and cause the envious to burst."* I happened to have seen these things in the dream, and when it was day, I took up some book and read it. Then I found in it what I had said. In wonder, I told Zosimus, "Behold, what I dreamed that I said, I find written in the book." Thus these new things have been added to the old. If we have hit upon God's will, he himself would know well.

As to the practice of rhetoric, how he brought us to it anew, and 70 what was his verdict about my career, and how many oracles he gave which pertained to this, and how he added "Theodorus" to my old name, and what sort of things he revealed concerning his nature, and as much as there is of this character, not nearly all has been said, but as much as was ringing in my ears, and from which it is possible to conjecture about the rest.

January I shall return to where, a little before, I said that 71 153 A.D. I would check my speech and leave the tale about how clear were his other signs and deeds and that he was in every way my protector. Severus ruled as Governor of Asia, I think, a year before our comrade. He was a man proud in his ways, and he would not concede to anyone whatever he decided and approved. While I was staying at the Aesepus and again at the Temple of Zeus, he did the following. In those times there was sent 72 to the Governors from each city each year the names of the ten leading men. The Governor had to examine these and appoint one, whomever he approved, from each group, as Police Commissioner. From a town in Mysia, whose name I have no need to say, the preselected names reached him. Knowing nothing certain of my affairs, 73 except that he had heard that I had possessions in this place, and, I suppose, that my other rank was not undistinguished, he ignored and dishonored all the names which had been sent, and chose me to hold office, and considered neither that it had been Smyrna's right⁶⁷ to submit my name long before the others had hopes of being a city, nor

⁶⁷ IV 73 I accept the emendation of Wilamowitz, *op. cit.*, p. 333, προσήκον for προσήκει mss.; cf. 53. 3 K.



