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## [The Sacred Tales - suite]

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him before. And when I came forward, I received all due respect 91  
from him and from the ranks of the assessors, as well as from the  
pleaders who stood by, and from all the others who were present, and  
there was more of the air of a rhetorical display than of a lawsuit. For  
their goodwill was wonderful, and then they signified their eagerness  
for my speech both by their hands and voices, and they behaved 92  
entirely like a lecture audience. Five measures of the water clock  
(an hour and a quarter) were used up, and I spoke rather freely and  
insinuated how one would behave while making this speech in the  
presence of the Emperor. Then after one of the public prosecutors  
from the city appeared briefly and deferentially against us, finally  
Severus, out of respect for the Council and in the belief that it would  
be the same for me, and that this was the best decision, sent me 93  
again to the Council with an honorable letter. And it befell to me  
not only to have my immunity confirmed, but with such great honor  
and pomp, that I seemed to share this privilege with no one else. He  
did not even mention to me the other office to which he himself  
nominated me, nor did we to him, but he wrote of his own accord  
to the officials and ordered them to appoint another instead of me. 94

Thus the God's prediction was fulfilled. And when I calculated  
what had been spent, both as fees for the notaries and as travel money  
for my servants, if I sent any somewhere because of these matters, the  
sum turned out somehow at about five hundred drachmas.

July Again a similar thing happened nearly a year  
152 A.D. before these things, when Pollio was Governor of  
Asia. I had just now gone to the Council Chamber, 95  
after a long rest, as I said, since the God was encouraging me in  
rhetoric. All were in hopes that I would now also teach the young.  
The wretched sophists were dying with fear, not all, but those who had  
the sense to be distressed. I was chosen tax collector. The matter 96  
came to the Legate. He confirmed the election, in my absence, in the  
courts in Philadelphia. After this, the Legate's verdict was read in  
the Council. And an appeal was made by us to Rome, and letters were  
sent — what they said can be imagined — to Pollio himself and to  
the Legate. But the God gave the following sign. *I dreamed that my* 97  
*steward Alcimus, whom I had sent for this purpose, returned and*  
*brought me Demosthenes' oration On the Crown, which was not as*

now, but otherwise and differently composed. And again there were  
promises, that the consul ordinarius Glabrio would lend a hand in  
setting everything to rights. He happened then, I think, to be in  
town. I also received oracles from Sarapis and Isis. *They said that*  
*"the matter would be accomplished, and you will make friends with*  
*your enemies."* And such, in summary, were the oracles and dreams. 98  
Those, whom I had sent, came to Philadelphia, and, as they said, it  
was an holiday when they presented my letters. But Pollio read them,  
and — when there was an opportunity, it was made clear by those  
present at the appeal how Festus, the former Governor, had exempted  
us<sup>68</sup>, — recognizing the simplicity of the Legate, he ordered him  
to come immediately, hold court and correct his verdict. The Legate  
did this and convened his court for this single purpose and gave 99  
another decree to the Council. When this was dispatched, the Pre-  
sident, who had opposed me with the utmost vigor and had read out  
the opposite decree before, was now disturbed and frightened, and  
inquiring what to do, sent to the Governor's staff<sup>69</sup>. But they gave  
no answer. Then he came to me and begged my pardon. And I went  
to the Council, was exempted from the service, and obtained immunity.  
First then, and afterwards, the President was my closest friend, and  
the Legate too was my closest friend.

September 23 Come now, as if we were ever ascending a 100  
147 A.D. ladder, let us recall another of the things before  
this. Festus<sup>70</sup>, whom I mentioned a little before,  
was Governor. When the year began and the first assembly was being  
held, men came from the People to summon me, since I had come to  
Smyrna after a long time, and at the same time they announced that  
they intended to sacrifice publicly on my behalf, which they had  
also done many times before. When I came to the assembly and the 101  
People shouted their customary approval, those, who had prepared  
themselves, held to their work, applauding and offering me the

<sup>68</sup> IV 98 I emend and supplement <ἐδὴ λώθη ὡς ἀπίται ἡμᾶς ὁ Φήστος δ>  
πρὶν ἡγεμόν for πρὶ ἡμῶν mss.; cf. Note 17 to Chapter IV.

<sup>69</sup> IV 99 I emend τοὺς τοῦ ἡγεμόνος for τοὺς ἡγεμόνας mss.; cf. V 46 (Note 81).

<sup>70</sup> IV 100 I emend ὁ Φήστος for σοφιστής mss.; cf. Note 17 to Chapter IV and  
Note 39 to Chapter V.



