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## [The Sacred Tales - suite]

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the Sacred Lamps. While I waited for those who had been left behind, and an inn was being got ready, I spent my time, just as I was from the road, walking about the Temples and going up and down about the sacred precinct. Now, in the late evening, I found my servants and I washed here by lantern light, and after some very little food, I rested. And other things took place clearly with the God's help, the eagerness of the people, the assemblies to hear me speak, and the fear that we might leave too quickly.

167 A.D. These same things also happened later, when we were in Smyrna. Moreover before I even entered the city, people came to meet me as in the oracle which I had received, and the most distinguished young men offered themselves as students. And now a certain kind of lecturing had been arranged, and the summons was exact in every detail. About this time, a certain little Egyptian danced into the city and corrupted some of the Councillors, and caused even some of the private citizens to think that he would take part in the government and exercise his wonderfully great ambition through bribery. He burst into the theater somehow, and great shame held the city. I did not know of these things, except that I heard about them afterwards, since I was conversing with friends at home. Just now he was intending to go to the Odeon by the harbor and hold a lecture there, either through a public decree or in some other way. And I had a dream. *I dreamed that I saw the sun rising from the market place, and had on my lips, "Aristides will lecture today in the Council Chamber at ten o'clock."* When I had said and heard these things, I woke up, so that I considered whether it was a dream or a waking state. I summoned the most important of my friends and told them the command. And then the notice was posted, and the hour according to the dream drew near, and we were present immediately thereafter. Nevertheless despite my sudden entrance and the fact that many people were taken unawares, the Council was so packed, that it was impossible to see anything except men's heads, and there was not even room to insert a hand between the people. And the shouting and good will, moreover, if it is fitting to tell the truth, the frenzy was so great from all sides that no one was seen to sit either during the introduction or when I arose to contend, but they stood from the first word, felt the emotions of anguish, joy, and fear,

assented to what was said, cried out things which were never heard before, and every man counted it his gain, if he should bestow some very great compliment on me. When we left the Council Chamber and were engaged in bathing, then someone reported to me that that fellow three days before also had put up a public notice for this day, and had collected at the Odeon seventeen people in all. And moreover from that day he began to exercise moderation. More I shall not say, nor would I have mentioned these things, if I had not wished to show how clearly my dream came to pass and that the God also had a care for these things. And at the same time, it was consistent with the original tale of how he raised me up and set me in Smyrna.

167 A.D. Not much later, he brought me to Ephesus, by predicting crowns, as if for an athlete, and by preparing me so that I awoke shouting, "Ephesus." However, it is not seemly for me to tell the things which were done there, but there are many who will recount them to those who desire to know.

But as much of my rhetorical career as pertains to the God, it is necessary to try to say and to omit nothing, as far as I can. For it is strange that both I and another would recount whatever cure he gave to my body even at home, but to pass by in silence those things which at the same time raised up my body, strengthened my soul, and increased the glory of my rhetorical career. I have fairly persuaded myself and many men that no human accomplishments ever puffed me up, and that I was not elated when I worsted either few or many, and that I do not believe that I should be proud over such things any more than I should be ashamed of my pride.

January But the continual activity of the God is marvellous, as for example the matter of that great rhetorical display, which took place later in Smyrna. For he commanded me to go to the Council Chamber, but to go when I had eaten. And I did this. There was a certain "custodian" of the Council Chamber, a man most remarkably obtuse<sup>80</sup>. When this man saw my people approaching, he requested that they grant to him first, in his customary way, to lecture to his students, and caused a delay

<sup>80</sup> V 38 I emend *κατάδερμα* for *κατὰ δέρμα* mss.; cf. the form *καταδερματοῦν*; and cf. Note 40 to Chapter V.

