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## [The Sacred Tales - suite]

**Auteur : Foucault, Michel**

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God. No longer was I troubled by loneliness, but I counted it more profitable.

When I was in this state, I had the following dream vision. I dreamed that I had just come to Athens, and that I was living behind the Acropolis in the house of the doctor Theodotus, and that it was the first house on the east side. The back chamber of the Temple of Athena was visible from it, and the house was very much below the Acropolis. A procession in honor of Eros happened to be taking place outside the gates, and Theodotus and certain others who had been assigned thereto, were busy about these things. But I stayed inside at this time. And one of my comrades, Lucius, happened to be present and others who were interested in rhetoric. And Lucius, as he was accustomed, urged me to maintain my studies in rhetoric and to admit young men as students. And a certain slave of his said other complimentary things about me to him, and arranged his praise somehow as follows. "This man," he said, "is Plato and Thucydides, and Plato and so and so." And thus he listed many men, while he always joined someone with Plato, as if I had the powers of all these men. And I looked at the slave and said, "I think it right that you trust Lucius in everything except this." And it seemed to me that Lucius praised the facility of my answer, but that he did not bear happily my retirement. Again when the slave replied and declaimed skillfully to me, I interrupted and jestingly said, "But if you are able to speak thus, I should wonder if you would need me as a teacher."

After this, I dreamed that I went out of the house with some young acquaintance, and noticed and approved the thinness of the air. But when there were many sudden changes, and at the same time the southwind also blew up, and sometimes it was stormy, sometimes very hot, I remarked that the air here is thin, but that at home is more stable.

After this, we went in the direction of the Lyceum, and next there was a certain temple, no less great and fair than the Hecatompædus. And I had to go up some steps to the temple. Men stood round about, it seemed to me, like those holding out olive boughs for sale<sup>85</sup>. Then when I ascended, a small boy offered me three eggs. And I had an uneasy feeling — for I passed by without taking them — that it was

<sup>85</sup> V 61 Keil placed a lacuna after ὀρέγοντες.

necessary to take them for the sake of the token. Therefore having turned around and taken them, I went up. And when I was at the temple, I gave the eggs to one of those in charge of the sacred precinct, who stood by a certain pillar. But he intended, on his part, to add one. When I was at the entrance, I saw that it was a temple of Plato the philosopher, and that a great and fair image of him was erected there, and a statue of someone was erected on his right. A very beautiful woman sat upon the threshold and discoursed about Plato and the statue. Some others also took part in the discussion, and at the same time discoursed as if it were ancient. And I said, "It is not possible to say that it is ancient. For the form of the workmanship shows<sup>86</sup> that it is rather recent, and there was not much regard of Plato in Plato's own life time, but," I said, "his reputation grew later." But when someone said that there ought to be three temples of Plato, "Why not," I said extravagantly, "eighty of Demosthenes, and of Homer at any rate, I think." And still speaking, I said, "But perhaps it is proper to consecrate temples to the Gods, but to honor famous men with the offering of books, since," I said, "our most valuable possessions are what we say, for statues and images are the monuments of bodies, but books of rhetoric."

When I had said and heard these things, I returned. And when I saw my foster brother approaching, I recollected the times in which we were formerly together at Athens. And when I turned toward the Acropolis, so that I might go home, a light darted by from the right and skimmed the edge of my hair in such a way, that I wondered if it had not been set on fire. I was anxious, but I took the sign more as auspicious, for the youth who was with me said that it portended glory for me, especially since it was on the right. It seemed to me that the majority of the buildings had certain ladders attached, and that I had to go up and down these, so that I grew somewhat annoyed at this. Nevertheless somehow I was inside.

And at this time, those who were making the procession in honor of Eros had returned, and the interpreter, having learned of the sign, also said that it was auspicious and that as far as I was concerned the sacrifices had correctly taken place. It seemed to me that there had been a dream before that I had made sacrifices to Zeus and Artemis and some other Gods.

<sup>86</sup> V 62 I accept ἐλέγχει mss.; cf. III 36 (Note 50). Keil emended ἐλέγχεται.

