

ANAPHORA PILATI.

TRANSLATION OF THE SYRIAC.

¹The report of the notification concerning our Lord Jesus the Christ, which was sent by Pilate, governor of Palestine, to Tiberius Cæsar, the Emperor of Rome, in the city of Rome.

For in those days after the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus the Christ by command of Pontius Pilate, to whom was committed the dominion of Palestine and Phenicia, these things took place and happened in Jerusalem. Memoirs of [the things] that were done to our Lord Jesus the Christ by the hands of the Jews, by means of a writing of Pilate himself.¹ ²He sent it to Tiberius Cæsarius to the city of Rome thus :

To the Worshipful, to the Ruler of the universe, Tiberius the victorious Emperor; Pontius Pilate, governor of the region of the East, of the cities of Phenicia. Being in great fear and in much trembling, I make known to thy majesty, O

¹ [*Arabic.*] om. The . . . himself.

² [*Arabic.*] B. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, one God. A. This is the memorial of what was done to our Lord Jesus the Christ by command of Pilate the Pontius, ruler of the Jews, in the eighteenth year of the reign of Tiberius the Cæsar Emperor of Rome, in the nineteenth year from the beginning of the reign of Herod son of Herod king of the Jews, when the twenty-fifth day of Adar had passed ; in the government of Rufus (B. and Rubilinus), and

Emperor, that at that time a short while ago, I make known, that in that city of priests, the most honoured of all cities, Jerusalem, all the people of the Jews delivered to me a certain righteous man who was called Jesus, bringing against him many accusations which were calumnious, but they were
 page 2 not able to convict him of anything, for they only shewed one heresy in truth against him; that Jesus had said to them that the Sabbath is nothing, neither the keeping of it. But he made many cures on this day of the Sabbath, by means of good works; for he opened the eyes of the blind and caused them to see; and the lame to walk, and he raised the dead. And he cured the paralysed, and gave them health, [those] who could not move their bodies, or stretch one of their muscles, and there was nothing at all that could be moved, except only the voice: and to these he gave strength that they should walk and run. And he commanded the sick, and they were healed. And the last thing that was greater than all, which is thought wonderful even for the gods: a dead man who had been four days in Sheol, he commanded by a word only, and he arose, he who was in the village of Bethany, and his body was stinking with foam and all his body was eaten by the earthworm.

in the fourth year of their rule, by command of IUSIUS son of ΚΙΑ-FARIUS, priests of the Jews, and all that happened after the cross and sufferings of the Lord, and the doings of the (B. two) chief priests and others of the Jews. And all that Nicodemus saw he wrote in the Hebrew tongue.

In these days Jesus was crucified by command of Pilate (B. the Pontius), in his dominion over Palestine and the coast, and this is the memorial which was made in Jerusalem by the Jews concerning the Christ, and which was sent up to Tiberius the Cæsar in Rome.

Him he raised, and commanded him to run, there being no appearance of a dead man about him at all, but like a bridegroom who goes out of the bride-chamber, thus he was perfect in all his appearance.

And to other people who were vexed by demons, and were chased from [their] dwelling, and had lived in the deserts and ate their [own] flesh, he caused all these to sit down in their houses like wise [people], and he drove the demons out of them, and drowned them in the sea by means of the swine.

And again the man whose hand was withered, and all his side, he cured by a word alone, and he arose quite whole without hurt.

And again the woman whose blood had run for eighteen years¹, when she touched his garment, was cured.

And also the damsel, the daughter of one of the chiefs of the Jews themselves, he raised from death as from a sleep. And again in the city of Nain, whilst they were going to bury a dead man, the son of a widow, and he saw that her grief was bitter and sore, he called him, and raised him, and made him turn with joy to his buriers.

But those chief priests accused him that he worked on the Sabbath day and cured all afflictions. But I think that this Jesus did also other miracles which were much greater

¹ [*Arabic.*] and her muscles and her joints were loosened by the flow of blood till she did not bear a human form, but resembled the dead who have no voice; and not one of the physicians who were in the towns could cure her, for there was no hope of life left in her; and [as] Jesus [was] passing, she received strength, and in the midst of the crowd laid hold of the hem of his garment, and from that hour she was strengthened and cured and went running to her town, Baniyas, from Capernaum. And that was not near it, a journey of six days.

And also another man born blind from his mother's womb, who had no eyes at all. He spat on the ground, and made clay and anointed the place of his eyes, and created eyes for him with which he might see, and sent him to the water of Siloam to wash.

(The stories of Jairus's daughter and of the widow's son are omitted.)

than these, that would be great and wonderful even from the gods whom we worship.

But this [man] Herod and Archelaus and Philip and Hannan and Caipha, those [men] delivered to me, with the multitude of the Jews. And they¹ raised a great sedition against me ²on account of this [man] in a crowd that I should crucify him². And I strove much to release him, and I could not. And when I saw
 page 3 the tumult that rose against me because of him, I gave sentence against him that he should be crucified, having scourged him beforehand with whips, not having found against this man one reason which condemned him to death among all the accusations that they brought against him. And when this Jesus was crucified on the wood, a great darkness took hold of all created things in the middle of the day; because the sun was darkened³, and the light of the moon appeared like unto blood, ⁴and many people of the Jews were swallowed up by the earth; and there were great thunderings and lightnings; and many graves were opened, and many dead people rose from their graves. And the twelve patriarchs with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, those who had gone out of the world, about two thousand years ago⁴, I saw them with my eyes in the body as they appeared also to all men. And they mourned and wept bitterly because of the great iniquity which took place, and because of the destruction of the Jews, and of their Law, for

¹ [*Arabic.*] The people.

² *om.* on...him.

³ at mid-day, and the stars did not shew their rays, and the moon was uncovered, and her light &c.

⁴ and thus the veil of the temple of the Jews was torn, and with the force of the earthquake the rocks were rent, and in that terror

they could not even repose, on account of the earthquake that there was from six o'clock on Friday until the time that the Sabbath-day dawned. And at the time when the first day of the week dawned, there was a loud voice from Heaven, and a light shone seven times greater than [that of] every day. And at the time of the third hour of the night of the first day of the week there appeared a sun shining with its rays more than every day, and like lightning that flashes suddenly on a winter day, thus were seen men who were great and tall in stature, clothed in garments of glory and of wonder, who were very many and innumerable. And thus their voice went when they cried, as the voice of a great thunder, for they cried thus :
⁵He who was crucified upon the wood of the cross, Jesus the Nazarene, who is God, has come again to life, and has risen from the grave.⁵ ⁶Arise, come, ye who were imprisoned in the lowest depths of Sheol.⁶ Then the earth was cleft from above to the great abyss ; nothing being seen of its foundations, ⁷save only the waters of the abyss, those that are below the earth. And there was seen a crowd of people who had come to life and rose from among the dead. And thus they cried with those who cried from the height of heaven, The Saviour and the

the dead appeared and stood, as even the Jews testify that they saw Abraham and Isaac and Jacob the fathers, and Moses and Job who died, as these say, two thousand and five hundred years ago.

⁵ [*Arabic.*] The God who was crucified is risen ; he went up and gave his commands to Gehenna.

⁶ O ye who were enslaved in the lower parts of the earth.

⁷ and thus appeared the waters of the abyss, with the cry of those who were in Heaven, and the dead who rose and walked were very many ; and he robbed Gehenna of its dead, and appeared to the women and said to them, Say to my disciples, that they go before me into Galilee, for there they shall see me.

Raiser of the dead said to his disciples, Behold he goeth before them into Galilee, there they shall go and see him⁷.
 page 4 And during all that night, the light never ceased to shine. And many of the Jews died and were swallowed up in the midst of the earth¹, ²these who had stood up against Jesus. But I saw also a vision of dead [men], of those who had come to life and had risen, those whom I had never seen [before]. But these Jews, who remained and were concealed, went and saw². I, however, was in great fear and trembling. I wrote the things that I saw which were done. And I sent these things to thy Majesty, O Emperor, having already put in these writings everything that was done by the Jews. And here I have sent it to the Majesty of thy Royalty. ³O Lord, I salute thee.³

PARADOSIS PILATI.

And when these letters were written and sent up to Rome the city of the empire, and Tiberius Cæsar knew them; and they were brought up and read before him; all they who were gathered before him there were seized with a great wonder⁴ about this, because of the great iniquity and wickedness that had been

¹ [*Arabic.*] so that many were not found in the morning of those who did as they did to Jesus. And all the synagogues of the Jews who were in Jerusalem fled, and not one appeared.

² om. these...saw.

³ om. O...thee.

⁴ when they heard that through the sin of Pilate the earthquake and the darkness had come upon the whole world. om. about...Pilate.

PARADOSIS PILATI.

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done by Pilate. Then Tiberius Cæsar was filled with a great anger, and ⁵his rage mounted up against Pilate like smoke from a furnace. And in the rage of his anger⁵ he sent Romans⁶ to bring him from Jerusalem to Rome in great disgrace, like a man who is a malefactor. Then the Romans came down according to the commandment of Cæsar; and they took Pilate and bound him with fetters of iron, and thus they took him up to Rome beside Cæsar. Then the Emperor Tiberius having heard that Pilate had come up to Rome, ⁷commanded that a tribune should be prepared for him, in one of the temples of the heathen gods. When all his own council were assembled with him, and all those who held positions of power, and all the forces of his dominion were gathered, he went up and ⁷sat in the temple on the tribune. Then he commanded that they should make Pilate stand before the judgment-seat. And when Pilate went up and stood before him, Tiberius answered and said to him, What are these things that thou hast done in thy wickedness? Wonderful things like these had been told to thee, and thou hast dared wickedly to crucify that man, and thou hast clothed the whole world with darkness by thine iniquity. Then Pilate answered and said to him, O Emperor, I am blameless in this. They who are guilty of this crime are the multitude⁸ of the Jews. And Cæsarius answered

⁵ *om.* his...anger.

⁶ i.e. Roman soldiers.

⁷ *om.* commanded...and.

⁸ religion.

and said to him, And who are these? Pilate said to him, Herod who is called Archelaus, and Philip, and Hannan, and Caiapha, and all the multitude of the Jews. The Emperor then returned him an answer and said, By what impulse didst thou adhere to them and consent to them and obey their counsel? Pilate answered and said to him, All their nation
 page 5 are seditious and disobedient people, and, my Lord, they do not obey the great authority of thy power. Then Cæsar answered and said to him, And when they had delivered him to thee, it was thy duty to imprison him, and take watch over him, and to send him to me with great circumspection by means of the soldiers of my kingdom, and not be persuaded by the advice of the Jews and crucify him, a man who was righteous, and who had done these good works, when thou hadst confessed and said by means of the certified¹ report ² which was sent by thee to us when he went to be crucified, that² this is the Christ the King of the Jews. And when he said these things, and mentioned the name of the Christ, all the gods that were in that temple fell down and were broken, and thus they were ground [in pieces] like powder³. Then all the crowd who stood there before Cæsar were in great fear and trembling ⁴because of the fall of the gods, and because of the style of the

¹ *Syriac*, certifying.

² [*Arabic*.] that when thou didst wish to crucify him thou didst write on a tablet.

³ [*Arabic*.] *add* in that place where Cæsar sat with all his officers.

⁴ *om.* because...spoken.

PARADOSIS PILATI.

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words that were spoken⁴. Trembling took hold of them. Thus each of them, one by one, went up to his house, wondering in his mind at what had happened.

Now Tiberius Cæsar had commanded that Pilate should be imprisoned and carefully guarded, ⁵when this was known in truth about the Son⁵. ⁶And the next day he had a judgment-seat in the Capitol of the Empire.⁶ And he went up and sat there with all his Senate. And he commanded that Pilate should come before him. And when Pilate came up and stood before the judgment-seat, Cæsar began again to ask Pilate, and thus he spake to him, Tell me truly, O wicked villain, for on account of the iniquity and wickedness which thou hast done, ⁷and hast stretched forth [thy] hand upon the Son,⁷ even now thy wicked and daring works are seen, O villain! Thus it happened to all the gods, and they fell ⁸from their places and were broken and ground like powder, and perished from the earth⁸. Tell me truly, who was that man that was crucified? for lo! his name alone has destroyed all those gods. And Pilate answered and said to him, ⁹His own memorials in truth certify that he is the Son of God.⁹ Even I have been convinced by his works that he is very much

⁵ [*Arabic.*] till he should know the affair of Jesus by examination.

⁶ *om.* And...Empire.

⁷ *om.* and...Son.

⁸ *om.* from...earth.

⁹ The report which I sent to thee about it is true.

greater than those gods whom we worship. And Cæsar answered and said to him, And why therefore didst thou do to him such deeds as thou didst write to me, ¹when thou didst not know that any wicked thing had been done by him against our kingdom¹? And Pilate answered and said to him, On account of the impiety and quarrelsomeness which they raised unjustly against me, they who are Jews, I did this to him.

page 6 Then Tiberius Cæsar was filled with a great anger, ²and his wrath rose like the smoke from a furnace². And he took counsel quickly with all his officers. Then he commanded that an edict should be written against the Jews thus, To Lucianus chief and commander of the district of the East, governor of the whole province, greeting. ³Because a certain unlawful thing was done to-day, in the daring deed that was done by certain inhabitants of Jerusalem and of the towns that are round about it, who are Jews, transgressors of the law, ⁴they who did a wicked and atrocious deed to a certain god who was called the Son, by means of Pilate, by the compulsion that they raised against him, and they assembled and rose in insurrection and in great contention and crucified him⁴, and as if owing to these wicked deeds which they did, all created things nearly perished by the darkness that was over all the earth. ⁵For the earth shook and the graves were opened, and the rocks were rent, and the sun did not appear, and the whole world

¹ [*Arabic.*] when thou wast not ignorant of it, if thou didst not wish evil against my kingdom.

² *om.* and...furnace.

³ *add* I fear.

⁴ that they condemned and crucified a god who was called Jesus.

⁵ *om.* For...destruction.