Acts of John, According to Prochorus

An Apocryphal Account of His Journeys, Miracles and Death

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Translated by Margarita Grillis with kind permission from
The Convent of the Annunciation of Mary and
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Edited by Dr James Corr.
“Let the darkness go to the darkness; but you, children of light, go to the light and darkness will not touch you, for the truth of Christ is within you!”
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Images.
In 1995 Christians around the world celebrated the 1900 years since the writing of the Book of Revelation. That year on the island of Patmos, the island where John wrote the Book of Revelation, the sisters of the Convent of the Annunciation of Mary decided to take part in the celebrations by transcribing into modern Greek a pseudepigraphal text that spoke of John. It is this text that has been translated here into modern English.

Sister Anthusi transcribed the paper manuscript no 940 from the 17th century that was kept in the library of the Monastery of St John the Theologian of Patmos; a book that had been unpublished until that point. It is the most historically recent copy of the apocryphal text commonly referred to as The Acts of St John by Prochorus. The oldest was probably written in the fifth century (Junod and Kaestli, Acta Johannis 2:748-49). The original text is attributed to Prochorus, self proclaimed disciple of St John and one of the first seven deacons named in Acts 6:5. According to Eastern Synaxarium he later became bishop of Nicomedia and may have been a relative of the first Christian martyr Stephen.

Manuscript no 940 was to a large extent a copy of the codex no 188 of the 14th century that was written on parchment and found in the same library. Some differences are noted though between the two. The 14th century manuscript is titled Acts of the holy apostle and evangelist John the Theologian, written by his disciple Prochorus whereas the later one has the title The travels of the holy Apostle and Evangelist beloved John the Theologian; written by the holy Prochorus one of the seven deacons. The beginning of both the manuscripts and their endings differ. Often the transcriber of no 940 changes phrases and uses ancient Greek, simplified though and in a vernacular style. It is very likely that the scribe had also another manuscript from which he was copying the text from. In both no 940 and 188 the lower case is used. The scribe, who is named at the end of the manuscript, the monk Dionysus of the island of Kos, writes clearly and without erasures. Often the words are not separated and punctuation is deficient.

From manuscript no 940 pages 11-12 were missing so the text for these was taken from no 188. Gaps from pages 166, 189, 193 and some repetitions near the end of the manuscript were completed and corrected based on codex
no 188 and also Corpus Christianorum, series Apocryphorum, 1.

Although printing was becoming more accessible in the 17th century many monks, as Dionysus, did continue to copy manuscripts by hand.

The English translation has kept to the original simple and minimal style of the original text, which describes the dramatic and miraculous events taking place during John’s journey from Asia Minor to Patmos, his return to Ephesus and his death.

- **Pseudepigrapha** from the Greek “falsely attributed”
- **Apocrypha** from the Greek “hidden things”
The divinely inspired and ‘apocryphal’ ecclesiastical texts according to the Greek Orthodox Church; by Archimandrite Fr Seraphim, brother of St John the Theologian Monastery of Patmos.

From the end of the first century A.D. when the need became clear for the collection of sacred scriptures into one body of work, so as to facilitate a clear path for the understanding of the true life ‘in Christ’, the Church also expressed the need for the separation between existing documents.

This need originally came from a historical necessity of the Church to defend itself against heretics (Gnostics) who acted arbitrarily and posed a danger to the dogmatic integrity of the newly formed Christian faith. So the canon of Holy Scripture was compiled and from the 4th century it is connected with catechism, the formation of dogma and the readings of faith used in worship.

The arbitrary circulation of pseudepigrapha, or the attribution of the name of an Apostle as the author of a text, was aimed at playing a pivotal role in the formation of Christian teaching and dogma. The Church therefore clarified which books were considered ‘infallible’ and which pseudepigrapha. They were named pseudepigrapha and not ‘apocrypha’ as that was a term used mainly by those circulating them, who wanted to create an atmosphere of mystery and thus tempt the reader in order to proselytize.

So ‘infallible’ books are those deriving from omniscient God or are written under His supervision, as He is the only infallible being. In other words they are written through divine afflatus and through His revelation and inspiration. But who can verify that a text is divinely inspired? The Church. It can guarantee the authenticity of the divinely inspired books of the Holy Scripture and voices this through the decisions (canon) of the ecumenical councils.

The ‘Journeys of the Saint, Apostle, and Evangelist, beloved John the Theologian; according to the narration of St Prochorus, one of the seven deacons’ belong to the category of books that, while excluded from the canon of Holy Scripture since the Church decided it is a pseudepigrapha text, does not belong to the group of heretic writings aiming to proselytize. It is certainly a valuable source of information; information which in essence was accepted by the Church as it was included in worship, through the relevant liturgical texts and Orthodox iconography. Even if the material is not corroborated by historical science it is nevertheless used –and confined to-informational
purposes, having no effect on the Church's dogmatic truth.
After the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to the heavens, all the Apostles gathered in Gethsemane and the Apostle Peter spoke to them.

"You are aware my brothers that our Lord and teacher has instructed us to go forward into the world to preach and baptise in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,” Peter continued, “As we have all been bestowed with his grace there is nothing left but to execute His instruction. So go, my dear brothers, with the grace of God and let us give ourselves to the fruition of His bid: ‘Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves, be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.’ And we know that when the snake is in danger of being killed it surrenders its body but hides its head. So we too, my beloved, let us accept death but not reject Christ. As do the doves with their great innocence; although they are deprived of their offspring, their lord (their mate) they do not reject. And we know what was foretold to us by our Teacher and Lord: ‘If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you.’ Lots of grief awaits us, but also lots of blessings are assured for those who show patience for his Holy name.”

After Peter spoke, James said, “It is good that you are taking care of these things father, because the circumstances require it. And you all know what was told to me by my Lord and Teacher.”

To that Peter replied, “We know James, that to you fell the lot of staying here and you cannot leave this city.”

After that they drew lots for the rest of the Lord’s disciples, and the lot of Asia fell to John who groaned deeply over it. Three times he sighed and shed tears. He fell, face down, to the floor and asked for forgiveness from the other Apostles for his moaning.

And Peter held him from his arm, lifted him and asked, “We all have you as our father and your patience keeps us grounded in our faith. Why did you react like this and alarm us all?”
Then John, breathing heavily and shedding sorrowful tears, said, “At this moment father I have sinned. That is why I will go through great jeopardy at sea, because I groaned about getting the lot of Asia and I did not remember His words: ‘Even the hairs on your head have all been counted for.’ So pray for me, my dear brothers that God forgives me for my behaviour.”

Then they all rose, and looking towards the east, asked James, the Lord’s brother, to lead the prayer. After their prayer he kissed each Apostle separately in order of their rank. After they all received their blessing, they left in peace to the land to which they drew the lot. To each Apostle a deacon was assigned, one of the seventy. To me, Prochorus, fell the lot of following John.

And after we left Jerusalem, we went down towards Ioppi, where we stayed for three days in the house of Tabitha. There came a ship from Egypt, loaded with clothing, which it unloaded in Ioppi. This ship was scheduled to sail west. We got on board and sat in the hold.

Then John started to cry and said, “My child Prochorus, lots of grief and danger awaits me in the sea and my soul will be punished; whether I will live or die has not been revealed to me by God. But if you survive the sea, go forward to Asia and wait for me in Ephesus. Stay there for three months. If in those three months I also arrive we will continue our deaconship together. If I do not show up though in three months, go back to Jerusalem, to James, the Lord’s brother, and do as he assigns to you.”
Chapter 2: The Shipwreck.

And as John was telling me this (the time was about ten in the morning), suddenly a great storm broke and the ship was in danger of shattering. We were in jeopardy from ten o’clock until midnight. Suddenly the waves grew bigger, foaming terribly and as they crashed on the boat, it shattered. Then each and every one of us sailed off with whichever object we happened to be holding onto. God, who watches all as a shepherd leading his sheep, guided us, as if in the rush of a fierce river’s current.

At about the sixth hour of the day (around noon) we were thrown out with our objects in five locations of the city of Seleucia, which is near Antioquia. All and all we were forty two souls. When we got on land, we lay on the ground; as we could not even talk to each other out of hunger, exhaustion and fear. And we stayed there on shore from the sixth hour to the ninth (from noon to three in the afternoon). When we recovered we walked into Seleucia. There, as we were shipwrecked, we asked for bread and we ate.

After our recuperation, all those who were shipwrecked started to turn against me; lead by evil thoughts, they would say: “That man who was with you was a sorcerer, he put a spell on us to steal the ship’s money. Now he has taken it and left and we don’t know what has happened to him. You, who are a sorcerer as he is, should give him up or else we will not let you leave this city, you are punishable by death. Who is that villain? See! Everyone who was on that boat is now here. Where is he?”

With everything they were saying they turned all the towns’ people against me, convincing them with their words. After they arrested me they put me in prison.

The following day they took me to a public place, to the town’s elders, and they asked me in harsh tones: “Where are you from? What is your religion? What is your work and your name? Tell us before you are horribly tortured.”

And I, in my defence, said to them, “My homeland is Judea and I am a Christian; my name is Prochorus and I was shipwrecked just like my accusers.”

Then the ruler of the town said: “Then how is it you were all accounted for apart from your companion? Your accusers say you are both sorcerers who put a spell on the boat. No one recognized you when you were found with the
sailors and in the meantime your companion, with your consent, took the boat’s money. You are either villains or guilty of the death of innocents. Divine Judgement decided that you were to be saved from the shipwreck so as to be sentenced to death in this town. Inform us in every detail as to your companion’s whereabouts.”

With tears, wailing and filled with sorrow I told them: “I am a Christian, the disciple of the Apostles’ of Christ. The Lord Himself gave instructions to His twelve Apostles to go forward to all the countries in the world, to teach and baptise those who believe in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. After His Ascension to the Heavens, the Apostles gathered in a quiet place and drew a lot as to where each would go. My teacher got the lot for Asia and was displeased about it. It was revealed to him that he had sinned and that is why he would be chastised in the sea. When we later boarded the boat he told me with honesty what was to take place and where I would end up and he said, ‘Wait for me for a certain number of days, and if I arrive in the specified time we can complete the instruction given to us by our Teacher. If though I do not return as I have said, go back to our homeland.’ So neither my teacher nor I are sorcerers, but we are Christians.”

After hearing me speak, a scribe, named Seleucios, who had come down from Antioquia on public business, gave permission to the ruler of the town to let me go.

After I was let go, I left that place and after forty days reached a field that was called Mareotis in Asia. This place was by the sea and as there was an inn near the shore I rested there. Because of all my worry and grief I fell asleep straight away. After I got enough rest, I opened my eyes and saw a large wave coming from the sea making a loud sound and it washed John ashore. I immediately got up to help, feeling great compassion as I myself had been through such grief, and I had not even recognised that it was John. As soon as I got close I put out my hand to grab him and lift him. But he got up before me and we hugged and cried thanking God for the charity he shows to all.

When we recovered we started to tell each other what had happened to us in the previous days. And he told me that for forty days and forty nights he was in the sea drifting with the force of the waves. I also told him what God did for me and what words and sorrows were brought on to me by those who had been saved with me.
Chapter 3: Adventures in Ephesus.

After we woke we came to a place called Mareoti and asked for bread and water. Once we had eaten and drunk we took the road to Ephesus.

As we entered the city we stood at its entrance, at a place named after Artemis, and there was the bath owned by Dioskourides, the leading citizen of the city. Then John counselled me with these words: “My child Prochorus, no one in this city should find out who we are and for what reason we are here, until God has revealed His will to us.”

As he was telling me this a strongly built woman appeared, to whom the custodianship of the bath had been entrusted. She was barren and looked like a mule in her physical build, and having faith in her strength, she would physically abuse the servants that worked for her in the bath. And no one (of those paid by her) would neglect their work for fear of her. She would actually recount how in the time of war she would go and throw stones (at the enemy) and she would never miss. She seemed in her body to be self restrained but rather she would act indecently. She painted her eyes, and to those of intellect it would seem that one of her eyes was decent (she would look onto some with a cheerful face) and the other was lewd. Her name was Romana.

So it was her who came out of the bath’s building and saw us sitting, and noticing our poor garments thought to herself: “These people are foreigners with nothing to eat. I could use them in the bath. They won’t ask for large pay and they won’t neglect their work because they will be afraid of me.”

After thinking that, she asked John, “Where are you from, man?”
And he replied, “From a foreign land.”
Then she said, “Which one?” And John replied, “Judea.”
“What is your religion?”
And he said, “Hebrew in origin, Christian by the grace (of God), shipwrecked by misfortune.”

And then she suggested: “Would you like to stay in the furnace of the bath? I will provide the food due to you and what is needed for the necessities of the body.”

He said to her, “Yes, I accept that.”
Then she turned to me and asked, “Where are you from?”
And John answered that I was his brother.
And Romana said, “I could use you too, to work as a pourer.”

She led us into the bath and appointed John to light and burn the furnace and to me (Prochorus) she appointed the job of pouring water over the bathers. Daily she would give us three litres of bread and one hundred and forty silver coins for the rest of our needs.

On the fourth day of our entering (the bath), John was clumsy and having made a mistake in his work, stood by the furnace. When Romana entered and saw him standing there, she grabbed him and shook him violently, she beat him hard while he was on the ground and swore at him: “You useless, exiled runaway, if you can’t be of any use why did you accept my work? I will make your cunningness disappear. You came to work for Romana who is known even in Rome. You are my slave, you pleb, and you cannot escape this place! Even if you escape I will look for you and kill you. When you eat and drink you rejoice and at work you groan. Change your opinion, you low class, because now you serve Romana.”

After she left she went to her house. In the meantime, I had heard what she told John and how badly she had hurt him, though we had not been working for her long, and although I said nothing to him, my thoughts brought me much sadness and trepidation.

However with the insight given to him by the Holy Spirit John understood my thoughts and said: “My child Prochorus, you know that it was due to my doubts that we were shipwrecked; not only us, but others that were not responsible for my sentence. And I lived for forty days and nights at sea, until God’s will was that I came to shore. And you are now fretting over the temptation caused by this little woman and her bitter threats? Go do the work that she has assigned to you and execute it with great vigilance. Because our Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator of all, was slapped, spat on, scourged and crucified by His creations and so became an example to us to fervently confront our trials, as He said: ‘In your patience possess ye your souls.’”

And after he told me this, I went to do the work assigned to me by Romana.

The following day, Romana came to John and began by saying: “If you need anything else tell me and I will give it to you, just pay attention to your work.”

And John replied, “We have everything we need and I pay attention to the work.”

And she said, “Then why does everyone accuse you of being useless at
He replied: “I have only recently started and that is why I make mistakes. But with time I can assure you I will be a skilled worker, since all crafts are challenging to beginners.” After he told her this she left and went home.

But the devil, who from the beginning has hated all things good, appeared in the form of Romana and stood in front of John and said, “I will punish you again, because you have destroyed my work. I cannot stand it. Fire the furnace well so I can put you in there! But I cannot stand to look at you anymore so leave and take your partner in fraud with you. Go back to the country you were thrown out from for your ill deeds.”

The demon then grabbed a burning rod from the furnace and threatened John: “I will kill you, pleb, leave this place, I do not want you serving me! Go before you find an ill fate.”

And John, who through the grace of the Holy Spirit, realised this was a demon standing by the bath, invoked the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and drove him off.

The following day Romana came and said to John: “They are once again saying that you are not paying attention to your work, but you are doing this in bad will, so that I can kick you out. Except you can no longer leave me, because if you decide to go I will not leave one body part of yours unharmed.”

John did not respond and Romana took his patience, his mildness and calmness for him being simple and illiterate. She would taunt him and threaten him: “Aren’t you my slave, you ill-mannered person? Tell me, answer me.”

And John would say: “We are your slaves. I who light the fire and Prochorus who pours water over the bathers.”

This evil Romana had a friend who was a lawyer and she lied to him: “Two slaves left to me by my parents escaped many years ago and their contracts of purchase were lost. But now they have returned to my home and have admitted to being my slaves. Can I make new purchase contracts?”

And her lawyer said: “If they admit to being your ancestral slaves, you can make new contracts of their purchase in front of three reliable witnesses.”

And John, who understood her plans, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, told me: “My child Prochorus, learn that this woman is demanding a written confession from us that we are her slaves. She mentioned her plan to a lawyer and assigned him the case. She is looking for witnesses, so that we confess in front of them that we are her slaves. Do not be sad but rather rejoice as Jesus very soon will show everyone, but mainly this ill-mannered woman, who we
are."

And as John was telling me this, Romana came in, grabbed John by the arm, and started to beat him: “You evil slave, you runaway, when your master entered why did you not greet her and bow in front of her? Do you think you are free? You are Romana’s slave.” She hit him again, to scare him, and said: “Aren’t you my slave, runaway?”

John replied, “I once before mentioned that we were your slaves, I who light the furnace and Prochorus who pours water over the bathers.”

“Whose slaves are you, you low class?”

Then he asked her, “What do you want us to say?”

And she turned to him, “That you are my slaves.”

John reassured her by saying, “And in writing and orally we declare to being your slaves.”

And she said, “I want you to admit to it in writing, in front of three witnesses.”

“Do not delay; carry out what you have said today.”

And so she took us across to the temple of Artemis and in front of three witnesses made the contracts of purchase and then brought us back to work.
Chapter 4: The resurrection of Dioskourides’ son.

In that bath, when they were building it, a diabolical act took place. The devil came up with a plan of what people needed to do so that a bath would have good acoustics and would be pleasing to those who went to it. When a bath was built and they laid the foundations it was the custom to throw a young teenage boy or girl into its opening and to surround them with stones. The same killing took place in this bath and a demon remained constantly at the bath ever since. Three times a year, this demon would drown a young man or woman that would come to the bath.

Dioskourides, the owner of the bath, had noted which days the demon would perform his actions. And on those days he did not allow his very handsome son of about eighteen to go to the bath; he would bathe on other days alone, afraid also of the envy of others.

One day, after we had been working there for three months, we noticed Dioskourides’ son going into the bath alone. I followed him in with my pouring vessel and his servants came in with him. Suddenly the unholy demon dashed across and drowned the youth. Immediately the servants ran out crying and mourning and announced the event to Romana. The minute she heard the news she threw off her head veil and, pulling at her hair, started to sob, bitterly beating her chest she cried: “Woe is me, what will I say in my defence to my lord Dioskourides? But the moment he hears of this he will die, because my lord, Domnus, was his only child. Oh great Artemis of the Ephesians help us! Show your strength through this dead youth! We citizens of Ephesus know that all is ruled by you and that great miracles occur in your name, resurrect your servant Domnus and present him to his father alive!” As Romana was saying this she tore at her hands and pulled out her hair. She howled and paced around from the third hour to the ninth (from nine in the morning to three in the afternoon). A big crowd gathered and others mourned for the young man and others wondered over Romana’s anguish.

In the meantime John came near me from where he had been working and asked: “Why is the woman in mourning?” I didn’t have time to answer him though since Romana saw us talking and she rushed over, taking hold of John and telling him: “Sorcerer, your magic is exposed. From the day you came here our goddess (Artemis) has abandoned us. You either resurrect my lord’s son or
I will tear your soul from your body.” John then asked her: “What has caused you this grief, tell me.”

She then furiously slapped John, telling him: “You conniving slave, everyone in Ephesus has been informed of this event and you come here laughing and joyously saying you do not know of the evil that has happened to me? Do you not know that my lord Dioskourides’ son died in the bath?”

When John heard this he cheerfully walked away and jumped into the bath. After praying, he cast off the impure spirit from the young man and returned the his soul into his body. Taking him by the hand he led him out and said to Romana: “Take your master’s son.”

When Romana saw this she lost her senses and was overtaken by fear and terror. She could no longer even remember the death of Domnus as she was so surprised by the miracle. Her heart froze like a stone and she stood there as if dead. When she recovered two hours later she could not look at John’s face from the great shame she felt. Wanting to die she thought: “How will I face this man who I disrespected in such a way and slandered of as a slave, who although innocent, I hit so many times! Where can I hide, that the earth opens up and swallows me? What should I do? Death, please come and release me from this disgrace.”

When John saw that this woman’s face had changed and he realised she was ready to fall to the ground, he lifted her and held her, and after sealing her three times he calmed her down. She fell to his feet and, weeping sorrowfully, she said to him: “Please tell me who you are, because you are either a god or the son of a god.”

John replied: “I am neither God nor the son of God. But I am John, the disciple of the Son of the living God, whose chest I touched and heard divine mysteries. If you believe in Him, be His servant, as I am His servant.”

Shamefully, and filled with terror, she said to John: “Forgive me for what I, the wretch, did to you.”

And John said: “If you believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, all of your sins will be forgiven.”

And she replied: “Man of God, I believe in everything that I hear from your mouth.”

In the meantime as soon as Dioskourides heard of his son’s death he too died. Then one of his servants rushed to his son Domnus, who was with John, and in tears announced his father’s death. Domnus immediately ran to his father’s home and, seeing him dead, returned with great sorrow to John.
Falling at his feet he pleaded with him: “Man of God, as you brought me back from the dead to the living, give me back my father who died because of me. For I would rather have remained dead, than see my father dead.”

John then took Domnus’ hand and lifting him said: “Do not be sad, my child, because your father’s death will bring him and you life.”

Then Domnus led John to his father’s house, and Romana and a crowd followed behind them. After praying, John held Dioskourides’ right hand and said: “In the name of Jesus Christ, the son of God, rise up.” And at that same moment he was resurrected. Everyone who witnessed this marvelled in surprise. Others said that John was a god and others that he was a sorcerer.

When Dioskourides recovered he said to John: “Man of God, is it you who gave back life to my son?”

And he replied: “Jesus Christ, the Son of God, of whom I preach, it was Him who gave both of you life; if you believe in Him you will be graced to enjoy everlasting life.”

Dioskourides fell to John’s feet and said: “I, my son, and all of my belongings are at your disposal.” He showed him his belongings, saying: “Take all of these things and make us also the servants of your God.”

John replied: “Neither I nor my God have any need of these things, as we also gave everything up and followed Him.”

Dioskourides then said to him: “Where did you follow Him?”

Then John began to say: “Dioskourides, listen to the divine teaching of Christ, the unfathomable to the human mind: the all merciful and benevolent God, seeing that the human race was overtaken by a terrible false belief and the worship of idols and sunk into the depths of the worst ignorance, felt compassion for His creation and sent His Son to the world through His incarnation by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. The Son brought to complete fruition the divine plan of His incarnation, teaching people to move away from their false belief, that demons drove them to, and healing every physical and mental ailment that existed in humans. But the rulers of Hebrews condemned Him to death by crucifixion, for that is how it was meant to be. So, as a human, His body suffered for our salvation (from the Devil’s dominance). And after He conquered Hades, and set free the souls that had been kept there for centuries, on the third day He rose again as was right to His divine nature, which was interwoven with His human nature. After He appeared to the twelve of us and ate and drank with us, He gave us instruction to go forth into the world and teach and baptise those who believe in the name of the Father and
the Son and the Holy Spirit. So whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, while whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

When John finished what he had to say, Dioskourides spoke: “Man of God, baptise us in the name of your God!”

John said: “Give an order that everyone who is in your house leave.”

And after everyone went out, Romana appeared holding the papers of purchase, the contracts, and on her knees cried to John: “Accept these and tear them up, these manuscripts of my sins and grant me the seal of Christ.”

And John took the papers and tore them. At that time he baptised Dioskourides, his son Domnus and Romana. And after Dioskourides’ request we both went to the bath where we had worked. Then John entered the place where the unholy spirit was, that which had drowned people, and cast it away. Dioskourides then took us back to his home. He presented us with a meal and after we thanked God we remained at his house.
Chapter 5: The destruction of the statue of Artemis.

One day, the Ephesians were celebrating the goddess Artemis and all the citizens where dressed in their white celebratory clothing. John, purposefully dressed in the tunic he had worn for his work in the furnace, which was dark from smoke, and went up to a high spot and stood near the statue of Artemis. When the Ephesians saw him they got angry and started to throw rocks at him, but God’s grace veiled him and no one could harm him; on the contrary, the rocks thrown at John would hit the statue, so that, from the amount thrown, the statue was smashed.

John then spoke to the people in a raised voice: “Ephesian men, why do you insist in the false belief created by demons and why have you renounced the Creator of all, our Lord and God, who created us and honoured us with a logical soul? Why have you succumbed to the whims of demons who rejoice over your detriment? Regain your senses from this intellectual intoxication. Throw away the darkness brought from ignorance. Stay away from your vain superstitions and from the false belief of your ancestors. Consciously receive knowledge of the true God, from whom you will receive absolution of your sins and eternal life. So that you are convinced that you do not benefit from what you revere as gods, see now, how your goddess Artemis has been crashed by the rocks you throw against me. Either assist her in regaining her previous form or pray that she will act against me and punish me, so that I too can see her strength and believe in her.”

Filled with indignation over his words, they started once again to throw rocks at him, but not one hit him.

From their frustration and anger, that divine grace was protecting him, they started to tear at their own tunics. John seeing them maddened, through demonic influence, and hurting themselves, said to them: “Men of Ephesus, calm down. What you are doing is irrational; it is as if you have no mind and reason. These are the works of the unholy demons that cause you to act this way. Turn your attention to yourselves and you will see the strength of my God.”

But they thought his talk was idle, so John turned his gaze towards the east, raised his arms to the sky and with a deep sigh said: “Lord Jesus Christ, with your compassion and wise teachings assure these people that You are God
and apart from You there is no other.” At that moment a great earthquake took place and about two hundred people from the crowd fell dead.

The rest, the minute they recovered from their shock, cast themselves face down to the ground begging John for mercy. Shaken from terror they pleaded with him: “Man of God, we beg of you to bring back to life the men who died, so that we can believe in the God you preach of.”

And John raised his glance to the sky and with tears and sighs silently implored the eternal God: “Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, who came to earth (in Your human form) for the salvation of all mankind and who forgave the sins of those who believed in You, forgive those who have been killed! Bring them back to life with Your almighty hand and open their hearts, so that they are enlightened, so that they consciously know You. Give me, Your servant, courage so that I can boldly proclaim Your teaching!”

After these words were spoken by John, there was a great earthquake once again and those who had died immediately rose again and they cast themselves to John’s feet, pleading with him to grace them so that they could find salvation through God. Then after teaching and preaching to them on the teaching of God, John baptised them all.

Afterwards Dioskourides took us to his house where he prepared us a banquet and we all rejoiced in the salvation of our brothers.
Chapter 6: The Devil's new scheme.

While we were out again preaching we came across a place called Polis Tehi (Translator’s note “City’s luck”). There was a man there who was paralysed and had been ill like this for twelve years. When he saw John he cried out to him: “Have mercy on me disciple of God!”

John went closer to him and said: “In the name of Jesus Christ rise up free from your sickness!” He immediately got up, thanking and praising God.

John was performing many miracles and the reputation of his miracles preceded him everywhere he went, as a result the demon residing at the temple of Artemis realised that because of John the temple would fall to ruin. So it took the form of a sergeant holding false documents and sat at a place crying.

When two sergeants passed by they felt sorry for their colleague and asked why he was crying but the demon wouldn’t reply. They pleaded with him for the reason, promising to intervene and help him in his misfortune. Then, crying and lamenting, he said to them: “I have a great sorrow and I, the wretched, can’t live any longer. So if you can help I will let you in on my situation, otherwise why should I tell you my secret?” So they said: “Tell us and you will see that we can help.”

The demon then replied: “Swear in the name of the great goddess Artemis that you shall fight till death for your friend and then I will tell you, only show compassion to both a friend and foreigner. You will receive your reward and you will be saving my life.” He even showed them a pouch of gold coins promising it as their reward.

After they swore that with all the power they had that they would take care of him and would not walk away from this as if it were their own case, the demon tearfully told them: “I, the wretched, am from Caesarea in Palestine, assistant to the governor in the rank of proconsul. Two men, formally known as sorcerers, named John and Prochorus were sent to jail by me, and when questioned they stated they had committed many evil deeds. When the governor saw the magnitude of their evil doing he sent them back to jail so as to be presented to a second enquiry. After I collected them and as I was taking them back to prison with some cunning magic they managed to escape from my hands. As soon as the governor got news of it, he kindly said to me: “Go, man, and track them down, because otherwise you will die a bad death. And if you
find them come back with them in custody; if you don’t find them don’t even show yourself here because I know what the sovereign’s fury is like.” So I took this money and left, abandoning my home and my wife and children. See, this is their deposition and their conviction.” And he showed them the false documents. “I have been informed,” he said, “that they are in this town and that is why I am here. But please show mercy and help a stranger.”

And the sergeants said to him: “Do not worry, friend, for these men are here.”

So the demon said to them: “I am afraid that through sorcery they will get away again. So, my friends take the little money that I have and do this; isolate them in a house without anyone knowing it and there kill them.”

And they said to him: “It would be more in your interest if we arrested them and give them up alive because if they are dead how will you return to your town?”

Then the demon said: “Kill them my friends and I will not care if I do not see my homeland.” Then they agreed to do this and take from him the make-believe money.

John, inspired by the Holy Spirit, understood all this and told me: “My child Prochorus, I want you to know and to prepare your soul for temptation, because much distress and grief is being created against us by the demon that resides at the altar of Artemis. He has stirred against us two sergeants and Jesus has revealed to me all that the demon has told them.”

And so it was that, at a moment when we weren’t with Dioskourides, the two sergeants came and arrested us. John then said to them, “What is the reason for our arrest?”

And they replied, “Magic scheming.”
And John asked, “Who charges us of this?”
“You will be taken to jail and there you’ll see your prosecutor.”
John answered, “You can’t use force against us unless you first present our prosecutors.”

They hit John and then dragging us brought us, not to prison, but to a private home to kill us according to the demon’s plan.

When Romana found all this out, she ran and told Dioskourides. He immediately arrived to the place we were nearing. Straight away he let us free and reminded them with harsh and derisive words, “It is not allocated to you to imprison people without a trial and without a prosecutor and indeed having done so not in an open place but a hidden house, so that you can plan something
evil for them. These men live in my home. If someone has anything against them, they can come pick them up from there and then try them according to the law.”

The sergeants then went to the place where the demon had been sitting with the form of a sergeant, but they didn’t find him. They started to become very anxious saying that if the prosecutor wasn’t found they would be considered by Dioskourides as slanderers and believed that they were in danger as he was a very strict and doctrinaire man. So they waited for a long time and finally the demon arrived with the same appearance as before. They reported their actions to him and that the wanted men were in Dioskourides’ home. If you come with us, Dioskourides said, they will arrest them.

The hateful demon followed them, holding the documents of their conviction. In the meantime lots of people gathered and the demon started telling everyone what he had also said to the sergeants, who were left waiting for him.

Full of anger the people rushed to Dioskourides’ home and with improper cries tried to break through the gates, yelling: “Either give those sorcerers to us or we’ll burn you and your house. As you are the ruler of this city you shouldn’t be helping criminals.”

When John saw the rebellion of the crowd he said to Dioskourides: “Brother, we do not demand money or even our life, because we were taught to bear the cross every day and follow Christ.”

Dioskourides then said: “Let my house be burned and let me and my son go up in flames, so long as we enjoy Christ’s salvation.”

But John told him: “Nor you, your house or anything belonging to you will be lost. Surrender us to these people.”

But Dioskourides didn’t want to, so John said: “Most of these people will benefit from having been brought together, so take us out there. You, however, should stay quietly in your home and you shall see God’s glory.”
Chapter 7: The destruction of the Temple of Artemis.

So Dioskourides brought us down from his house and surrendered us to them. Held down and dragged by them we passed by the temple of Artemis.

John asked: “Who is this great temple in honour of?” And they said it was the temple of Artemis. John then asked if we could stop there for a moment. And raising his arms towards heaven, he pleaded with unspoken cries, begging with fervent pleas that the temple fall to ruin but for no one to be harmed. And immediately John’s entreaty was granted. As soon as the biggest part of the temple was in ruins John commanded the demon which was residing in the temple: “I am talking to you, the unclean spirit that remains in the temple of Artemis.” And the demon replied: “What is going on?”

“Confess, tell me how long you have been living here for and if it was you who roused these sergeants and the people.” And the demon cried these words: “This is where I have lived for two hundred and forty nine years and it was I who roused all these people against you.”

Then John said: “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth never again to inhabit this land.” And the demon instantly was cast out of the city.

As soon as the people heard and saw all this, they were gripped by awe and ecstasy and most of them in that moment believed in Christ. But those who did not believe arrested us and took us to the proconsul. They had as a collaborator a Hebrew man named Mareona, who fought for us to be killed, assuring the dignitaries that we were sorcerers and that a sergeant from Caesarea had even brought with him the convicting rulings for our (so called) magic.

So after we were thrown into jail the ruler of the city ordered that the prosecutor be found. For three days they searched the whole city with a herald to find the fake sergeant, but he was nowhere to be found. Then the ruler said: “I will not send foreigners to jail or punish them if there is no prosecutor to accuse them.” So he sent a guard to us to let us go.

The destruction of the temple of Artemis troubled everyone and the miracles and inexplicable events that were taking place because of John made a large number of people turn to the faith of Christ and show disdain to the worship of idols.
However all this was reported to Domitian, the emperor of Rome, through
a statement made by some inhabitants of Ephesus. They informed him that most
of the inhabitants were breaking the laws of the emperor and following some
magical art of the so called Christians. And that in contempt of the worship of
the great gods they tore down their most important temples. When the emperor
was notified he sent ten officers, with military assistance, and the order to
exile us to the island of Patmos. He also ordered that they enquire with great
diligence the concerns of the city’s temples and its ancient rulings and to report
to him the findings of their enquiry.
Chapter 8: On the road to exile.

Then, through a vision, the Lord made known to John that he must endure much trial and be exiled to an island where he was much needed. A few days later an imperial order came and we were arrested by the delegated officers. They acted very cruelly towards John; they tied him up with chains and guarded him telling him he was a great deceiver who performed magic. However after beating and threatening me, they left me unchained. When we boarded the boat everyone took their place and we were ordered to sit among them.

Every day we were given six ounces of bread, a container of vinegar and a cup of water, from all of which John would take only a little and give the rest to me.

But the king’s soldiers, for reasons of their own, did not want to sail directly to Patmos and so at every port they moored they would stay for a long time.

The following day, the boat’s crew sat to have a rich meal while we were sailing. They started to play games and noisily holler and heckle. Suddenly a young soldier who was going towards the bow of the boat to relieve himself fell into the sea. His father was on board and the moment he saw the boy fall he tried to throw himself into the sea, but the others blocked his way and stopped him. Great sorrow and anguish fell upon everyone over the youth.

They then came to John, where he was sitting in chains, and said to him: “Man, we are all sad over the evil that has come upon us, how is it that you alone are cheerful?”

And John replied to them: “What is it you want me to do?” They said to him: “If you have any power, help us.”

John asked the highest in rank: “Which god to you worship?”
“Apollo, Zeus and Hercules.”
He said to the second ranking: “Which god to you believe in?”
“Asclepius, Hermes and Hera.”
One after the other they confessed to their false belief.

Then the Lord’s Apostle said to them: “All these gods of yours, do they not have the power to bring the boy back alive and relieve you of your sorrow?” They replied: “It is because we are not faithful to our obligations
towards them that they are punishing us.”

John felt mercy for them over the youth’s death and over them being deceived and said: “My child Prochorus, rise and give me your hand.”

I gave my hand to John and he stood at the edge of the boat, he pounded the chains and sighing and crying he said: “God of all eternity, creator of the world to whose name all of nature’s creations obey, the only Almighty one and King of all, Jesus Christ. You who fulfilled the divine plan with Your incarnation, You who deigned to walk on sea as on land without your feet getting wet. You who promised us we could ask of you with all our heart and receive in abundance. You Lord, who I John, am now begging, listen to me, because who could resist Your power?”

While the Apostle was still praying a large sound was heard and there was such a roar in the sea that for a while we were all in danger. Then a great wave rose on the right side of the boat and washed the young man alive at John’s feet. Then, in front of such a sight everyone cast themselves down venerating him and confessed, “Your God is true! He is the God of the sky and the earth and the sea!” They immediately unchained him and from that moment on we were free.

We set sail and reached a city which was called “Katoikion” and moored there. Everyone went on shore and only we stayed on board with our guards. When the sun was setting they all came back on board and the sailors decided we should go out to open sea.

After we left the port we sailed off.

During the fifth hour of the night a big storm rose from the sea so that our boat was at risk. And because everyone was sure of our death the officers addressed John: “Man of God, through your prayer and with a strange miracle you brought the young boy back alive, from the depths of the sea. Now pray again to your God so that the sea is calmed and we do not drown.”

Then John said to them: “Sit quietly each and every one of you at your positions.” But the storm got worse and so John stood up and prayed. The wind at once calmed down and the storm stopped.

When we docked at Myrona one of the officers got very ill, with an illness known as dysentery, and he was in danger of dying. We stayed there for seven days but on the eighth day the officers started to bicker among themselves. Some would say, “We should not delay any further as we are neglecting to execute the royal order;” but others bringing opposing arguments would say it was not right to leave a sick comrade or to bring him on board in
the state he was in.

Then John said to me: “Get up, my child and tell the patient that John, the Apostle of Christ, is calling for him to return here healthy.”

So I went and told him what John had asked me to say. He rose immediately, followed me and came to John without feeling ill any more. Then John told him: “Talk with your companions and tell them we should leave.” And he, who for seven days had been fasting and in danger, joyfully persuaded his companions that we should set sail.

When everyone witnessed the miracle that took place they fell to the Apostles feet and told him: “Here, the whole of earth is yours, go where you wish! We have understood that you are a servant to the true God.”

But John told them: “Do not do this, my children, but take me where you were ordered to take me, so that you fulfil the instruction of the sovereign who sent you.”

John then catechised them and on that day everyone, without exception, was baptised. Then we set sail and we reached the island of Patmos.

There we were handed over by order of the emperor to the town’s authorities. The soldiers were all willing to stay with us but John said to them: “My children take care not to lose the grace that you have been honoured to receive, for then in no land will harm find you”.

After they remained for ten days rejoicing and being taught by John, he prayed for them and blessing everyone he let them go in peace, surrendering them to the protection of God, in whom they believed, because to Him be the glory forever and ever, amen.
Chapter 9: I was on the island that is called Patmos.

There lived a man in the town of Flora who was called Myron and his wife was Foni (t/n Voice). They had three sons who were orators and the man was wealthy with several servants. The oldest of the sons though had a demon in him, the spirit of a python. Myron as soon as he saw us took us to his home. When the son, who had the python spirit, found out that we were there, he took off to another place so that the spirit wouldn’t be removed by John.

When Myron heard of this, he said to his wife: “If these men were good this wouldn’t have happened to us the minute they stepped into our home. But as some have been saying they must be sorcerers, who having put a spell on our house drove our son away.”

And she replied: “If that is so then why don’t you make them leave just in case they do the same to our other children?”

And Myron said: “I will not make them leave now that they have done the evil deed, I will make them sorry of it so that they are forced to bring back our son alive and then I will bitterly punish them.”

Myron was the father-in-law of Patmos’ governor.

John through the grace of the Holy Spirit was informed of what Myron had said to his wife and thus said to me: “My child Prochorus, know that Myron is thinking badly about us; he is plotting against us. Let us suffer the temptations gladly! This way our reward will be raised and Christ’s light will shine on them.”

As we were saying these things amongst ourselves Myron received a letter sent from his first son that said the following: “To my lord and father Myron, Apollonides the orator writes: John, the sorcerer, who you received in your home, was overtaken by an evil craving, the wretched, to take your son away from you, such was the payment for the wonderful hospitality you offered him. The spirit he sent on me much disturbed me and run me out of town. When I met his holiness Kynops and mentioned my misfortune to him he told me that the only way I would become master of my home or inherit my parents and the only way I will know the love of my brothers would be if I surrendered John, the exile, the teacher of Christians and sorcerer, as food to the wild animals. So hurry father, and have him killed if you care and love your child! Be well!”

The moment he received the letter he put us under arrest. He then went to
the governor and presented him the letter. The governor after reading it, was very troubled over us, due also to the fact that Kynops’ name was used as a guarantor. Everyone on Patmos held him to be a god because of all his magic trickery. The governor believed all the allegations and ordered that we were to be thrown to the wild beasts.

So he sent delegates who came and picked us up from Myron’s house and locked us up in prison. Three days later we were taken to court and John was subjected to questioning by him. “Our majesty the Emperor, although you were guilty of conviction acted humanely towards you and sent you to be exiled so that you would be reformed and your ill manners corrected. But now you have moved to greater evil, as everyone can see that you would plot against your own benefactors. Which art did you use to drive my relative’s son away? Confess before you are tortured, and tell us also what your religion is.”

Then John answered: “I am from Jerusalem, the servant of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was crucified for man’s sins and was resurrected on the third day. He sent me to preach everywhere of His glory and the light of knowledge of Him.”

Then the governor said to him: “It was for this boastfulness of yours that you were exiled and you still insist in your delusion? Stop, you cursed man, with this annoying preaching! Learn to honour the immortal gods and do not make a man divine, a man who died for the trouble he caused! So enough with the talking and bring us my relative Apollonides.”

And John replied: “To stop preaching would be impossible; for it is from this that my hope depends on. I know nothing about the orator Apollonides. But if you wish I can send my disciple to go fetch him and he can tell us if he had something against us.”

The governor then gave him the permission. He ordered that John go back to prison with instructions for him be chained. And John said to the governor: “Give me first permission to write a letter to Apollonides and then they can chain me.” The governor thinking John wanted with this letter the break the spell he had cast in him gave him permission.

So he wrote the following: “I John, the Apostle of Christ am directing this to the python, the demon who lives inside the orator Apollonides. I order you in the name of Jesus Christ, to come out of this creation of God’s and to never again enter him or any other human! Stay out of this island forever!”

After I (Prochorus) took the letter, I went to where Apollonides was. The distance was six miles. I searched for him and found him. As I went close to
him immediately the unclean spirit came out of him.

Then Apollonides said: “Why did you go to the trouble of coming here, disciple of the virtuous teacher?”

I said to him: “I came to find you, wise man, to bring you back healthy to your parents.” And when the demon came out of Apollonides his soul was peaceful and he was happy. He gave an order that a pack animal be prepared for me and a horse for himself.

When we arrived and entered the town he asked me where the teacher was. And I told him, “He was chained and locked up because you had gone missing.” Once he heard this he ran with me and reached the prison. When the prison guard saw him he bowed with respect and opened the door to the jail. When he entered and saw John in chains on the ground, he fell to the floor and venerated him.

Then he got up and freed him of the chains, telling the guard: “Say that I freed this man.”

He then took us to his home. Gathered there where Apollonides’ parents and brothers who were very sad for him. When they saw him though filled with joy they got up and started kissing him with tears in their eyes. Then his father asked him: “Why did you leave and give us such sorrow?”

He told them everything and in which way the demon of the python entered him and how when John entered their home the demon made him leave by telling him: “He is a sorcerer and he seeks to kill you” and (the son continued) the demon wouldn’t let him return home. “But as soon as I saw John’s disciple,” he said, “I was free of the demon and the evil thoughts and my soul was free and relieved, because I saw the devious demon coming out of my mouth in the same way it entered.”

John then said to him: “Do you want to see, my child, the power of the One who was crucified? With His power we not only cast off demons when they are in front of us but we can also do it through letters.” And after he took the letter, the one he had written against the demon, he showed it to Apollonides. He, after reading it, kept it.

Then, with his father and brothers we all went to the governor. When the governor heard all that had happened he attached himself to John.

For as long as we stayed in Myron’s home John preached to those who lived there and they asked to be baptised. And after teaching them enough about how to show respect towards God, he baptised them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and in Christ the hearts of everyone in the
The governor’s wife was Myron’s daughter. Seeing her parents and brothers believing in Christ she wanted to follow them and told her husband: “My father’s family believe in the One who was Crucified who John preaches about! Let us believe also so that our family can join my father’s in glory.”

And Laurentios said: “As long as I am holding the position of governor I cannot do it.”

She said to him: “But it is now that you are in power that you can help protect the faithful.”

And her husband replied to her: “Wife, know that many disregard the religion of Christians. People will be torn and divided and they will come together and set us on fire or denounce us to Caesar. Let me remain as I am, pretending to be an idol worshiper and in secrecy become the friend of those faithful to Christ and protect them. You then take our son and go to your father’s house and after your catechism in the Christian faith get baptised along with your child. But take care, wife, that you do not disregard any of John’s teachings but also do not tell me any of the mysterious teachings! Just take care of yourself!”

Chryssipe listened to her husband’s advice then took her son and went to her father’s house. As soon as she entered she respectfully greeted John, then her parents and brothers. And John asked her: “What is the reason that has brought you here my child?”

She replied, “I believe that God has shown you the reason I am here. But I will also let you know that out of zeal for God I have come to be baptised by you and so that my home can be honoured along with my father’s.”

Then the Apostle gave her his blessing: “May Jesus Christ adorn with virtues your heart, your husband’s, your child’s and your entire home for this decision you have made.”

And she fell to his feet and filled with respect said to him: “Please kind teacher grant me through my faith in Christ the seal of the Holy Spirit so that I can be included along with my father’s family.”

And John said: “My child let this be done with your husband’s approval.”

Chryssipe then recounted everything her husband had told her and when John heard that it was with the encouragement of the governor that his wife sought to be baptised he was very happy.

After he catechised her and gave her the advice to live according to Christ’s instructions, he baptised her and her son. Then Myron offered money
to his daughter saying: “My child, here take as much money as you want and my table is always at your disposal. Do not leave from this house though in case by returning to the governor you end up disrespecting Christ’s commands.”

She agreed by saying: “Keep the money. My son and I will return to our house only to pick up everything we might need and will return and live with you from now on.”

When the Apostle heard this he told Myron: “I do not agree with your words or your daughter’s. Because Christ did not send me to part wives from husbands or husbands from wives, and in the case of your daughter who believed in Christ with the knowing consent of her husband. Let her go to her home in peace. For I believe through the grace of Christ who sent me (into the world) that her husband also will soon become a Christian. As for the money that you mentioned, lend it to Christ, for it is written (in the Holy Scriptures) that “he who gives to the poor lends the lord.” To our brothers who come asking for help because they are deprived, to them give whatever they need. For our Lord said: “As you have done to the least of these you have done unto me”. And He said: “Be merciful so that you may receive mercy, give and you shall be given.”

After John said this he sent Cryssipe and her son to their home.

The following day Myron brought John many golden coins and said: “Take these teacher and share them among the poor.” And John said to him: “I accept your good intentions for I see that they are in accordance to God’s will. But I leave you with what is yours so that you can share it among those deprived with your own hands.”

Myron then helped all the poor. God made his possessions in his home bountiful, which through the grace of the Lord was like a fountain that constantly flows. Everyone in Myron’s house was happy to be helping those in need in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom belong glory and might, from eternity and forever more, amen.
Chapter 10: Basil and his wife.

There was another man in this town who was wealthy and whose name was Basil. His wife’s name was Haris (t/n Grace) and she was infertile. Basil went to Rhodon, Myron’s nephew who was a noble and a man of state, but a gentile, and said to him: “What is happening in your relative’s Myron’s house? Why has he secluded himself with his family and a stranger and doesn’t keep company with us anymore? Tell me.”

And Rhodon told Basil: “I do not know what he teaches. But many have come to admire this man and say he is never wrong in what he speaks.”

Then Basil said: “He could wish that my wife bears a child!”

Rhodon replied to him and said: “They say he can even do that.”

As soon as Basil heard all this he sent a message to Myron that he wanted to meet with John. John upon hearing this gladly agreed to meet with him.

Basil, as he entered, respectfully greeted him. And John said: “May Jesus Christ grant you all that you wish! Blessed is the man who does not tempt God in his heart! But God cannot be tempted Basil, and to the Israelites (then) who tempted Him, He gave his blessing; one time when he pierced a rock and bountiful water sprung for the unbelievers, another when he sent bread from heaven so that without labour the ungrateful would eat.

And you Basil, do not tempt God so that you do not go through the trials of evil. Believe in Him and He shall fulfil all your requests.”

Basil, seeing how everything that was in his heart was revealed to him (by John) was quite shaken and said: “I believed and I believe. Please teacher, ask of your God that my wife has a child.” Then John said to him: “If you believe you will see God’s might.”

And after being catechised for a long time he left Myron’s house and when he got home he told his wife everything.

The following day he arrived at Myron’s home with his wife and they both greeted John respectfully. The Apostle then said to Basil’s wife: “Always be filled with joy, Grace! May the grace of God light up your heart and give you a virtuous fruit from your womb.”

After he taught them much, the grace of the Holy Spirit enveloped them and they asked him to baptise them. After they were baptised they requested he bless their home. And indeed John went and prayed and blessed them and their
home and then returned to Myron’s house. Basil’s wife conceived a baby in her womb and with the grace of Christ gave birth to a son and named him John. And Basil offered many golden coins to John so that he could give them among the poor. But John said to him: “Go, my child, and share your money with your own hands and you will have a treasure in heaven.”

Two years passed, which brought the end of Laurentios’ commission as governor, the husband of Chryssipe who was the daughter of Myron. He then went to Myron’s house, his father-in-law, greeted John and said to him: “Teacher, the concerns of day to day life have kept me from your blessing. But I plea your holy soul, that with the light of your God that my conscience is cleared from all the sins I have committed.” Then the Apostle catechised him, baptised him and sent him home in the peace of Christ the Lord, to whom belong the glory and might for ever more!
Chapter 11: The miracles continue.

There was in the town of Flora a man whose name was Chrysos and his wife was Selini. They had an only son who suffered from an unclean spirit. Chrysos was the governor of the city. When he was informed that John performed great miracles he took his son to Myron’s house. John, the moment he saw him, said to him: “Chrysos, your sins keep you and your son tied up. Hate the bribery that you use and do not act in a hostile manner towards your soul, so that you may find God’s mercy. For what reason have you come to us?”

And Chrysos said: “Lord, accept all the material wealth that I have in my house and drive away the evil spirit from my son, so that he does not die an awful death.”

John replied: “We do not have any need of your material goods, but we care about you and your son.”

Then Chrysos said: “Lord, what must I do so that my son is cleansed?”

“Believe in the One who was crucified and you will see His strength.”

And Chrysos replied: “I believe, Lord! Only let my son be cured.” Then John held the child’s right arm and after he sealed it (with the sign of the cross) three times, he prayed and immediately drove the evil spirit out of him.

Chrysos witnessing the miracle, astounded, fell at John’s feet in respect saying: “Truly father, God is within you.” The following day he brought his wife, his son and quite a lot of money to John and said: “Sir, take this and give us Christ’s seal.”

John then said: “Christ’s seal cannot be acquired with money, but with true faith. Share this money among those who have a real need and you will receive Christ’s grace for free!” After he catechised them, he baptised them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and then sent them in peace to their home.

We stayed for quite some time in Myron’s house without leaving, all the believers coming to the house to be catechised and baptised. Three years had passed that John stayed with Myron in his house and many became believers and were baptised.

Then John took me (Prochorus) and we went out to a public place, where the temple of Apollo stood. Large crowds gathered there, others who believed
in John’s words and others who were non believers. Then the priests from the temple of Apollo started to talk to those gathered. They said: “Men, why do you come to this fraud, who is exiled here because of his sorcery? Why are you letting yourselves be misguided by this despicable man, an exile, who in here insults the immortal gods?”

When John heard them he said: “May your house be desolate!” And at that same moment the temple tumbled down but no one was hurt.

The priests got hold of John and after beating him and hurting him, brought him to the town’s ruler and told him that John, the exile, through sorcery destroyed the temple of the great Apollo. When the ruler heard all this he was much disturbed and saddened and ordered that we be locked up in confinement and handcuffed.

As soon as Myron learned of what happened he went to Akyla, the ruler, with his son Apollonides. When they met, Apollonides told him: “The compassion you have shown us cannot be measured, but may you make it even greater by responding to our plea. So, your Excellency, here I plea for John, the foreigner, that you free him and give him over to us. And if anyone has something to say against him, we will bring him in front of you.”

The ruler then said: “I have heard from many that he is a sorcerer. If he through witchcraft escapes, what will you do then?”

Myron replied: “May our life be at your disposal instead of John’s and my entire house with my belongings.”

Then the ruler gave his permission, out of respect for them, for they were considered honourable by all citizens. After Myron and his son came to the prison and set us free from our chains they led us out and brought us to their house.

And Myron told John: “Remain in your servant’s house and do not go out as there are devious and violent people in this city and you are in danger of being killed.”

And John said: “Myron, my brother, Christ did not send me into the world to remain quiet in the house but he sent me to go among these violent and devious people by telling me ‘I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves.’ And again, ‘That we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of heaven.’ So I am ready, in the name of Christ to be humiliated, to bear my cross, to be afflicted and endure, to be persecuted and to give thanks, and if it is asked to give my life for Christ.”

The following day John took me to a place called Tehi (t/n Luck). There
lay a paralysed man on the ground, who upon seeing us pass called over to John: “Teacher of Christians, do not overlook your servant. I am also a foreigner as you are. Do not contemn me; I have bread and a bit of butter. Condescend to have a meal with me.” And the Apostle took pity on him and said to him: “Today I will dine with you and we will rejoice.”

As we went a bit farther along, we met a peasant widow, who was crying and asked us, “Where is the temple of Apollo?”

John spoke to her: “What do you need the temple for?”

The woman said: “I have an only son who has been taken hold of by an evil spirit and the spirit has been torturing him for the last thirty-three days. So now I have come, having begged god for him, but I do not know where the temple is, as I have never been to this city before.”

Then John said: “Go to your home, for with the power of the name of Christ your son has been freed of the evil spirit.” The woman, thinking John was a priest of Apollo’s temple, believed in what he said and when she reached her house found her son safe and healthy.

After John had spoken to many about the kingdom of God, we returned once more to where the paralysed foreigner lay. The Apostle said to him: “Yes, we have come to dine with you, but who will serve us?”

The paralysed man said: “Lord, I have put you to trouble now having to serve me your servant.”

And John said to him: “In the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, stand and minister to our needs!” Then taking hold of his hand, he lifted him and he served us with pleasure and joyfully glorifying God.

When we got up from the table we thanked the Lord and returned to Myron’s house. We found Rodon there, his nephew, who pleaded with John to baptise him. So after he catechised him he baptised him in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The following day the foreigner, who had been paralysed, respectfully greeted John and then asked him: “As you raised my body, beyond all hope, from an incurable disease, so please raise my soul with the seal of your God.”

Everyone was surprised to see him healthy, so he explained to them how he had been cured. John after catechising him baptised him and gave him the advice to diligently fulfil all of the Lord’s commandments so that he does not fall again to that ill state.

One day we came across a place that was on the waterfront and was called Proklos. There were tanneries there and a tanner who was Hebrew,
named Karos.

He started a conversation with John over the explanation of the Mosaic Law. Christ’s disciple explained to him the spiritual meaning of the Mosaic Law but Karos disagreed, disputing everything John was saying. The Apostle calmly persisted refuting Karos’ teaching of the Holy Scriptures, juxtaposing all that the prophets had prophesised on the Son of God, His incarnation, the Cross and His Resurrection.

Karos responded by using foul language and John then said: “Be quiet, shut your mouth!”

He instantly became deaf and mute. Everyone who witnessed this marvelled at how with one word John managed to silence Karos and they believed in the Lord. Then John said to them: “Men why are you in awe of him, who by his own deeds condemned himself? For those who will not be convinced with words will be judged by arms.”

Areotis, the philosopher, was standing there and he said to John: “Teacher, honey does not go with with a bitter taste nor milk with spite.” The philosopher gestured to Karos to drop to John’s feet and said: “Father, the one you have tied, and it was proper you should have, set him free and he will be indebted to you in his gratitude.”

And John felt pity for Karos and said: “In the name of Jesus Christ your mouth was shut and in His name let your lips part!” And with that one word from John, Karos spoke again.

Everyone marvelled and believed and were baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We then went to Rodon’s house and stayed there. The following day Karos came searching for us and when he found us fell at John’s feet and said: “Teacher, we know from the Scriptures that our ancestors saddened God, and having no regard for life itself, meaning Christ, offered to idol worshippers the boast of the hope that is only found in Christ; and I having sinned towards God and you His representative, beg of you to forgive me and make me worthy of receiving the seal of Christ!”

And after catechising him, John baptised him in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Chapter 12: The encounter with Kynops the sorcerer.

On the island of Patmos there was a sorcerer whose name was Kynops. He lived in an isolated place which had been the habitat of unclean spirits for many years.

All the island’s inhabitants took him for a god because of all the extraordinary things he did with the help of the demons that lived within him. The priests from the temple of Apollo, seeing John teaching freely and fearlessly and that the ruler had not punished him for destroying their temple, went to Kynops and said to him: “We know well that for years you have been helping this island, your holiness Kynops, so we ask for your help now in this difficult situation created by John, the foreigner and exile to this island. For it is with sorcery that he has tied up the leading citizens making them his subjects and without fearing anything he has created many aberrations in our city and has destroyed the temple of the pure Apollo. We reported this to the town’s ruler and he ordered that John be imprisoned, but when Myron and his son Apollonides showed up they freed him. And no one mentions you anymore because the people have been fooled by him and have followed him.”

After Kynops heard what Apollo’s priests had to say, he said to them: “You know well that I have never left my land, how now do you ask me to do so?”

And they said to him: “We plead with your holiness! Help us and come to the city!”

And Kynops replied: “I will not contradict myself and go into town for a pretentious man of naught, however tomorrow I will send a shrewd delegate of mine to the house he stays in. I will have his soul taken and will deliver it to eternal damnation!”

When the priests heard this they fell to their knees and venerated him. Then went on their way again.

The following day Kynops called onto one of his most cunning demons and told him: “Get ready quickly and go to Myron’s house. Once there blind both eyes of the exiled John and take his soul and bring it to me so that I may judge it as I wish.”

The demon went to Myron’s house. John was sitting at a quiet retreat and the demon went and stood at that place. The Apostle, with the help of the Holy
Spirit, recognized the demon and said: “I order you in the name of our Lord
Jesus Christ not to leave before you reveal the reason for coming here.”

When John said this the demon was fixed to that spot. Then he said to
him: “Tell me, unclean spirit, why have you come into this house?”

And the demon replied “Apollo’s priests came to Kynops and spoke
badly of you, they begged him to come to the city and bring about your death.
But he said: ‘I have many years in this land and I will not change my tactics for
a pretentious, man of naught. But you go on your way and I will send tomorrow
a cunning messenger who will deliver his soul to me and I will bring it to its
condemnation.’

John said to the demon: “Have you ever been sent by him and after
receiving a man’s soul have you brought it back to him?”

And he replied, “I have indeed been sent by him to kill a man but never
have I been able to deliver him a soul.”

John asked again: “Why do you submit to him?”

And the demon then replied, “Satan’s whole strength resides in him. He
has come to agreements with all our rulers and we with him. So Kynops obeys
us and we in turn obey him.”

And John said: “Cunning spirit, listen to me. You are ordered by John, the
Apostle of the Son of God, never to come out and encroach on a human. You
are never to return to that land (of Kynops), but you are to depart from this
island.” And immediately the malevolent spirit fled from the island.

Seeing how the demon was late to return Kynops sent another demon with
the same order. When the unclean spirit came he stood in front of John, and
John asked him, “For what reason are you here?”

And the demon replied: “Kynops sent one of the rulers of the demons to
kill you, he didn’t return so he called me and said: ‘Go and kill John.’ That is
why I am here.”

And John said to him, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to depart
from this island!” And immediately he left.

So when Kynops saw that the second demon did not return he summoned
two ruling demons and ordered them: “Go to John but do not both go in to his
house, one should stay outside to hear what is being said and what is taking
place.”

When the ruling demons arrived at Myron’s house one went in and
approached John the other stood outside as per Kynops’ request.

John realised what was happening and said to the one approaching him:
“Why are you here, unclean spirit, in the house of Christians?”

And the demon said to John: “Kynops sent two of our rulers to kill you but neither of them returned. He called on me and another and told us: ‘Go to John and one of you go in, the other stand outside and hear what they say and do.’”

And John said to the spirit: “In the name of Jesus Christ do not return to Kynops but depart from this island.” And immediately he left.

When the demon standing outside heard of the bitter exile his companion received he went and reported it all to Kynops.

Even though Kynops had not intended on sending another demon to John, angered he gathered the crowds of demons and said to them: “Our comrades have been exiled by John! We in turn will all suffer because of him. A great strife awaits us. So come, let us all go into the city! You will remain in a secret place to serve me; I will enter the city and prepare for him a terrible death.”

So Kynops gathered the crowds of demons and entered into the town, leaving them on the outskirts to wait for him. He brought only three with him into town so they could act as his messengers.

The whole town gathered to show their respect, as he had never been there before, and he answered any question that was asked of him.

John then told me: “My child, Prochorus, be brave now and be cautious as Kynops is trying to cause us great sorrow.”

All the brothers who had believed (in Christ) gathered then in Myron’s house. We stayed there for ten days being taught by John and not going out. All the brothers asked of John that we do not leave the house, in case our lives would be endangered, because of the turmoil that was taking place in town.

And John advised us all by saying: “Be patient my brothers and you shall see the glory of God! As the whole town has gathered now to admire what Kynops is saying so they shall gather and will be surprised to see him annihilated.”
Chapter 13: The Annihilation of Kynops.

Then he addressed me: “My child Prochorus, rise and let us go to town.” And we reached a place called Votrys. Many people gathered there and listened to John teaching.

As soon as Kynops heard that John was teaching the people there he arrived. And when he saw that everyone was being convinced by John’s words he got very angry and addressing the people said: “Men, blind and deluded, listen to me! If John is righteous, and what he says is righteous, let him do what I will tell him to do and then I will believe in what he says.”

Then Kynops took hold of a young man and asked him: “Is your father alive or dead?”

And he replied: “My father was a sailor. His ship went down at sea and he drowned.”

Then Kynops said to John: “Here, prove the truth of what you say! Bring back the boy’s father from the sea and present him alive to his child and to all of us.”

And John replied to him: “I was not sent by Christ to resurrect the dead, but to teach those who have been deceived.”

Then Kynops said to the gathered crowds: “If you believe, you who live in Flora, that John is a fraud and that he is deceiving you with fraudulent magic, then keep him here till I bring up the boy’s father and present him to you.”

And they took hold of John. Then we all gathered closer to Kynops at the shore of the beach, Kynops extended his arms and clapped his hands loudly. Suddenly there was such a loud crashing sound that we all were scared and then he vanished from sight.

Then everyone was shouting and saying: “You are great Kynops, and there is no one like you!” Then Kynops rose from the sea and with him was a demon representing the form of the boy’s father. When they saw this everyone was amazed.

Kynops then asked the child, is this your father?”

And the boy said: “Yes lord” and all cast themselves to the ground and venerated Kynops. The crowd turned on John to kill him. Kynops did not allow them to, he said: “You will see greater things than this and then he will
Then Kynops called on another man and said to him: “Do you have a son?”
And he replied: “Yes, lord, I had a son. Another man was envious of him and murdered him!”
Then Kynops told him: “Your son will be resurrected!” And with a loud voice he called upon the murderer and the murdered youth. At once two demons appeared before him in the form of the two men and everyone was in awe with what they saw.
Kynops then asked the man: “Is this the murderer and is this your murdered son?”
And the man responded: “Yes, lord, truly it is them!”
And Kynops turned to John: “What is it that you admire John?”
And John replied: “I do not admire your signs.”
Kynops then said: “If you are not in admiration of these, then greater will you see and then you will be in awe. Because if I do not triumph over you with my miracles, then I will not let you die.”
John said to him: “Your miracles will be annihilated with you and will soon disappear.”
As soon as the mob heard this of John, they told him: “Why do you blaspheme, you exile, the blessed Kynops?”
Immediately, like a pack of wild beasts, they rushed towards John, threw him on the ground and beat him savagely. Others fell on him and with their teeth devoured his flesh and he fell down as dead.
Then Kynops, thinking he was dead, said to the crowd: “Leave him unburied so as to be eaten by the sky’s birds and we will see whether Christ will resurrect him!”
And along with Kynops, they all departed from there rejoicing and cheering, sure that John was dead!
At midnight, whilst it was very quiet at that place, I approached him and he said: “My child, Prochorus!”
And I, with tears, asked him: “What is it my lord?”
Then he said to me: “Quickly go to Myron’s house, as that is where our brothers are gathered and announce to them that John is alive, nothing bad has happened to him and then swiftly return here.”
Indeed, when I arrived I found them all lamenting John as dead and when I entered the house they were surprised as they thought I had also died with
John. And then I told them: “Do not be upset brothers, but rejoice in our Lord, for our teacher is alive and he sent me to you!”

As soon as they heard that John lived, they did not need to hear anything else from me, but immediately we departed together and came to the place where John had fallen to the ground. And there, he was standing and praying and after the prayer we attentively listened to the “Amen.”

He then kissed us all one by one and as we all cried of inexpressible joy and praised God he said to them, “Be cautious, brothers, that none of you are fooled by Kynop’s signs, as all his actions derive from deception. So be patient, and remain in Myron’s house and you will see the grace of God.” So when he advised them and comforted them he sent them off in peace.

The following day some came to see us in the place called Lithou Voli (t/n Stone’s Throw). Immediately they reported it to Kynops. When Kynops heard this, he invited the demon with which he performed the necromancies and told him: “Prepare yourself, because John lives and is at the place called Lithou Voli.”

So Kynops received the demon and came towards John and said to him: “Because I wanted to cause you more shame than punishment I have let you live so far. Come though, to the beach and you will see my power and be ashamed!” And after saying this he turned to the people: “Hold on to him until I show powers greater than before and then I shall punish him.”

After arriving at the beach, where Kynops had first performed his trickery, we found a crowd of men and women who were burning incense and praying. When they saw John they cast themselves down and venerated him. The three demons, who were thought to be the resurrected dead men, were also there.

While John was held by the mob, Kynops ordered: “Do not set him free or allow him to go until I return in glory.” And he clapped his hands loudly and dived into the sea and vanished.

The people then cried: “Great are you Kynops and there is no one else like you!”

Then John extended his arms and formed the shape of the cross and ordered the demons that stood there in human form, who supposedly were resurrected, not to depart from there, and he prayed by saying: “God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who with the power of His cross, which your servant Moses formed, forced Amalek to flee, submerge now this deceiver Kynops to the bottom of the sea so that he never sees the sun again and is not included in
among the living.”

When the Apostle prayed this, immediately a large noise was caused in the sea and such a sudden whirlwind in the water, at the spot that Kynops dove that it was impossible for him to immerse from the sea.

So John said to the demons who seemed to be the resurrected dead: “I order you in the name of the Crucified Jesus Christ to leave this island immediately!”

And when they heard these words, that same minute, the spirits vanished from the peoples’ eyes.

When the onlookers saw that through John’s word they vanished, they felt bitterness towards him, especially the man who thought the unclean demon was his son. And they said to John: “Sorcerer, bring my son back!”

And another said: “You exile, deceiver, give me back my father!”

Then all together they said: “If you were a pure person, you would gather all those who have been lost. But because you are cunning, you drove away even those that our benefactor Kynops had resurrected! Present us with our kin or else we will kill you!”

But some of them said: “Let us not kill him, till the great Kynops comes back to us!”

They stayed at the beach for three days and three nights with their wives and children as per Kynops’ instructions. And they cried loudly: “Kynops, your holiness, help us!”

That place was very hot and because they were unfed and exhausted from the heat and the shouting most of them passed out and collapsed. Three children even died.

John then seeing them lost, felt sorry for the obsession of their hearts, sighed, cried and prayed saying: “Creator of all breath and life giver, Jesus Christ, for whom these things I suffer, pour the spirit of Your truth in to the hearts of these people so that no one is lost!”

Then he advised them by saying, “Men, my brothers, listen to me! You have 4 days today of not eating, waiting for him who has been annihilated. I plead with you that you each go to your home and get some food.” After saying that he went close to the three children who had died and prayed saying: “Our Lord Jesus Christ, You who in the ultimate day with the terrible trumpet will resurrect those who have been dead for centuries, give as a gift to Your servant the life of the three children, so that Your most Holy name will be glorified with the salvation of these people!”
As soon as the Apostle ended his prayer all those dead were raised. So when the crowd saw with admiration the miracle that had occurred they came to their senses and all together cast themselves to John’s feet saying: “Indeed we have been greatly deceived! You are the teacher of truth!”

As John saw that they were exhausted from hunger, he said to them: “Go in peace to your homes, to gather your strength. I will head towards the house of Myron, God’s servant, and tomorrow I will meet with you.” He then blessed them and let them go.

We went to Myron’s house and as soon as we entered, there was great rejoicing. Then after John comforted all the brothers with spiritual words, we were set a table and we dined and whole heartedly thanked the Lord.

The following day nearly the whole town gathered in front of Myron’s house and they all cried out: “Myron, you are worthy of many praises! Bring out the teacher for us, so that we may benefit from him!”

And as Myron contemplated on whether they asked this with bad intent so that when John would go outside they would kill him, the Apostle said to him, “Why is your heart distressed? I believe these people have no bad intention.” And he went outside.

As soon as the people saw him they started crying: “You are the benefactor of our souls. You are the one who lights us with the immortal Light!”

Then John replied: “I am a mortal human, your peer, but Jesus Christ, the Son of God is the true benefactor and enlightener of souls especially of those who believe in Him! He felt pity for the race of men who were deep in the depths of ignorance of God and were overtaken by the cunning deceit of demons. With joy, deriving of His purity, he became flesh (incarnated) by the Holy Virgin and became man unchanged in His Holiness. And He suffered willingly death by Crucifixion so that He may abolish death. And after freeing the souls that were in Hades He resurrected on the third day and us, His disciples, He sent forth in the world so as to preach His Kingdom. He also gave us power over the flagitious demons and the power to perform signs and miracles and cures of different ailments through the grace of the Holy Spirit, the things you saw and heard of taking place. So that the gentiles, hearing of Christ through the testimony of His disciples would return to the faith of the true God and Creator of all. And so you, my children, do not close the ears of your heart, but having removed yourselves from the state of deceit, come close to the light of the truth.”
John with his teaching called them to the faith and many of them believed and were baptised in the house of Myron.
Chapter 14: The cure of the leper woman.

At that time there lived a Hebrew in the city called Filon. He was a lawyer and as such he knew Moses’ law well and was a prudent man, but he had a wife who was a leper.

When he saw John in the market he started talking to him about the books of Moses. John answered his questions and explained the more perplexing passages with the help of the Holy Spirit. Filon though would object obstinately interpreting the Scripture to the letter.

Two days passed and they parted without coming to an agreement. The following day they met in a public place and they discussed for a long time. When John saw how hardhearted Filon was and how insistent, he said to him: “Filon, Filon, the understanding of the Holy Scripture does not need many words but obedience and a clear heart.”

A man lived in that place who was tortured by a high temperature; as John was to pass from there they had placed him on the ground so that he would heal him. The moment John was to part with Filon a youth who was standing by the ill man, cried loudly: “Teacher of the Christians, please! Cast your eyes here and have mercy on him who lies ill!”

And John came close to the ill man and said: “In the name of Jesus Christ raise yourself and go to your house!” And immediately the ill man rose and venerated John and went to his house giving glory to God.

As soon as Filon saw what John did, he run, held his hand and said to him: “Teacher, what is love?”

And John replied, “Lawyer, love is God and whoever has love has God!” Filon said to him: “Then show God’s love and come to my house to eat with us and may God be with you!”

Then straight away John followed him. As we entered Filon’s house his wife was immediately cured of leprosy. Seeing this, the headstrong and insolent Filon instantly became compliant and peace loving and casting himself to John’s feet said to him: “Teacher, in the name of your God, of whom you preach, do not be angry with me with what I have said against your divinely inspired teaching! But give me and your servant, my wife, the seal of Christ (baptism).”

So he catechised him and baptised him and his whole family and we
stayed in his house for a few days.

When we departed from there we came to a place near the sea, where many had gathered and John preached to them. The priests from the temple of Apollo also came and he preached to them also. They were in fact the same ones that had appeared to Kynops and had spoken to him against John.

One of them challenging John said to him: “Teacher I have a child who is lame in both legs. Cure him and I will believe in the One who was crucified!”

But John said to him: “If you believe in Christ your son will be healed!”

And he replied: “Cure him and then I will believe.”

John reprimanded him: “Do not try and tempt God, it is impossible for Him to fall into temptation, and do not blaspheme with your faithlessness. For in the name of Jesus Christ you too may become lame in both your legs!” And instantly the joints of both his legs paralysed. And he fell down immobile. Then John turned to another of the priests and said: “Go and show his son to my disciple!”

So I went with the priest and I said to the child: “The Apostle said to go to him quickly in the name of the One who was crucified.”

Then immediately the boy got up and followed me and when he reached John he cast himself down and venerated him. As soon as the child’s father so that his son was healed, he cried in a loud voice: “Have mercy on me, disciple of the merciful God.”

So as John had mercy on him, and sealed him three times with the sign of the cross, he at once got up. Then everyone was in awe of the grandeur of God and many started to believe. So then he was baptised, the former priest of Apollo, his son and his whole family.
Chapter 15: The dropsical man believes.

Another day we went to the arcade which was called Domestia. There, a few people gathered and John preached to them. A man happened to be there who had dropsy and had had this illness six years; he suffered so much that he couldn’t even speak. Signalling he asked for paper and ink and wrote two sentences to John with the following words: “I, who am miserable, implore you, the Apostle and disciple of Christ to have mercy on me and rid me of my illness!”

John took the paper and after reading the man’s request felt sorry for him and replied to him in writing. (t/n although ‘paper’ would not have been the writing material of the time the word has been kept as it was used by the Greek translator)

“To you, the man who has dropsy, I, John the disciple of Christ, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit give the order that you be set free of your illness!”

The moment the dropsical man took the letter and read it he immediately stood and felt like he had never had this illness. When the people witnessed this miracle they cried out loud: “Great is the God of John that gives grand and awesome signs!” Many were then baptised. So did the dropsical man, who came and cast himself at John’s feet and asked also to be baptised. It was so that on that same day he preached to him and baptised him.

It came to pass that those days the wife of the ruler who was pregnant, was suffering with complications and for three days she was in danger of dying. So the ruler sent a messenger to John telling him: “Man of God, come quickly to help us!”

Indeed John went and the moment he came close to the ruler’s house, immediately his wife gave birth. And John said to the ruler: “For what reason did you call us here?”

And the ruler replied, “So that our housed would be blessed by you.”

And John said to him: “If you believe in Christ, salvation will come to your house.”

And the ruler responded: “And I believed, and I believe in Christ who sent you here so that all people are saved!”

And after he taught and preached to him he baptised him in the name of the
Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And although his wife requested to be baptised John said to her: “You cannot be baptised yet, but when forty days have been completed.”

The ruler then offered John money and said: “Father, take this from your child and bless my house!”

And the Apostle replied: “It is not possible to bless your house with money, but go yourself and share it with the poor and in this way your house will be blessed.”

So we stayed there three days. Then we all left and went to Myron’s house where many had gathered and John taught to them all day. Then he ordained presbyters and after he performed the divine liturgy he imparted the Divine Mysteries.

The following day he blessed them and left the city after delivering them to the Lord’s care, to whom the glory of the ages belongs. Amen.
Chapter 16: Sacrifice to the Wolf.

When we entered the city Myrinusa, it was the first of the month Low (August) and we came to a place called Piastirio. There we met the dignitaries of that city and a boy who was chained, lying on the ground. John asked someone for what reason the boy was tied.

And he replied: “Every first of the month a youth is offered as a sacrifice to our benefactor the Wolf.”

Then John asked: “I wish to learn who this Wolf is”.

And he replied: “On the tenth hour of this day the priests come, take the youth that is to be sacrificed and everyone follows. So if you wish to follow, you will see the Wolf and the sacrifice that will take place.”

Then John said to him: “I see you are a prudent man, adorned with every virtue. If it is then allowed, for me a foreigner who wishes to see the Wolf to see him, then show him to me and for this favour of yours I will grant you a great gift.”

So he agreed and we went to this place. There, while we spoke, the demon appeared who was called the Wolf. He rose from the river, decorated ostentatiously with colourful attire. Then John said to him: “To you I speak, evil spirit, hear me!”

The spirit immediately stood and John asked him: “How many years do you have in this land?”

And the demon replied, “One hundred and sixty.”

And John told him: “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God the living, depart from this island and go reside in deserted and uninhabited places!”

And immediately the evil spirit vanished from in front of us. When that man saw the miracle that John had performed, he cast himself to his feet saying: “Please, tell me who you are, you who gives orders to gods and they obey.”

And he replied: “I am John, the Apostle of Jesus Christ the Son of God. He, who you call Wolf, is an evil spirit and from him the souls of people are lost. This is why Christ sent me into the world, so that I can banish the demons and lead the people to the path of truth.”

When the man heard these things, he said: “Man of God, please make me
also a servant of Christ!”

While John was still supporting the brother who had just been baptised with spiritual sayings, the shameful priests arrived with the chained youth so as to sacrifice him to the demon. In the past the demon would appear to them in an ecstatic state and terror and fear would take hold of them. Then they would sacrifice the youth. When they then came to that place, after preparing the boy, they took the swords in their hands and waited for the demon’s orders.

Then John courageously went towards them and said to them: “Men, you who have been fooled by the deceit of demons, the one you thought of as a god the demon Wolf, I banished from this island, calling on the name of my God. Why then are you foolishly waiting for this unlawful sacrifice? Set the youth free and I will explain to you about the demon who till now deceived you and destroyed you!”

When the priests heard this, they were stunned. No one in that place had even dared speak to the man next to him out of the fear the demon inspired. Then John spoke to them again: “Listen to me, men, set this youth free. Let go of such insanity that satisfies the demons, offering them a human sacrifice! Stop butchering humans who are created in God’s image, to satisfy the pernicious and wicked destroyers of human life. The one called Wolf was thrown by me to the outer darkness, by order of my God!”

After this shocking occurrence the priests went speechless. John went directly and set the boy free of his chains and told him: “Go to your parents in the city!” (As it was not allowed for any of the relatives to follow during the sacrifice to the Wolf). And again John went close to them and took the knives from the hands of the priests. Everyone who watched was speechless with what had happened. But no one dared say a harsh word against John as they were taken aback and ecstatic by the disappearance of their god.

So they all returned to the city and John stopped at a place called Mikri Stoa (t/n Little Arcade). There a great many people surrounded him. Then John started to teach and preach the joyful message of salvation through Christ. Many who heard his teachings believed, giving glory to God, for the salvation of the boy and the banishment of the demon.

The priests though for this reason were very bitter and hostile towards John. One of them had a son called Monas. While he had been bathing in a bath he was drowned by an evil spirit. As soon as his father, the priest, heard of this he ran to the baths and found his son’s body. Then running to John, he said: “Teacher of the Christians, here, the time has come for me to believe in the
God you preach off! My son was drowned by an evil spirit in the baths and I know that if it is your wish you can present him to me alive!”

And John said to him: “Do you believe I can do this?”

And he replied, “Yes, lord!”

Then immediately he grabbed John by the hand, brought him to the baths and they carried the dead boy to John’s feet. The father with bitter tears in his eyes pleaded with John, saying: “In the name of your God, of whom you preach, have mercy on me and resurrect my son!”

And John prayed and after holding his hand, he lifted him saying: “In the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, rise up!”

And immediately he rose. Then John said to him: “What happened to you and how?”

And the youth replied: “Lord, as I was bathing in the bath a man walked in from the entrance, as dark as a man from Ethiopia, and he drowned me.”

John instantly realised that that is where the demon had gone, the one he had banished from the baths of Dioskourides in Ephesus.

So John went into the baths and said: “I give permission, to you wicked demon, to tell me how long you have resided here.”

And the demon cried out: “Six years I have lived here, it is I who previously lived in Dioskourides’ baths in Ephesus and I drowned his son and was then thrown out from there by you. But you, lord, I beg of you not to send me away from this place!”

And John said to the cunning spirit: “In the name of Jesus Christ, the One who was crucified, I order you to leave this island and to never reside among humans again but live in wild, uninhabited lands!”

And immediately the demon left, obeying the word of John. As soon as the priest saw all that John did, he fell to his feet and said: “Lord, here, I, my son and my whole family are at your disposal and whatever you tell us we will obey and do.”

John then replied: “I have understood that it was for the benefit of your souls that God organised your son’s misfortune. With that incident as the cause you were led to the awareness of the truth, whereas before you held a hard position towards the word of piety. However now believe in the One who was crucified and you and your family will be saved.”

So he said: “I believe, disciple of the true God!” He then invited us to his house and asked John to be baptised. After he catechised them, he baptised them in name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And we
stayed there for seven days feeling happy and exulted for all the miracles that God performed through John.
Chapter 17: The healing of the widow’s son.

We left there and came to a place that was called Flogio. Almost the whole city gathered to hear John. And there, a widower, a woman, pressed people aside and after coming close to us cast herself to John’s feet and begged him saying: “I beseech you, in the name of the God you teach and preach of, have mercy on me!”

And he said to her: “What is it you want me to do for you?”

Then the woman replied: “My husband, who died, left me with a three year old child whom I raised with great trouble and toil to become a whole man, but the evil spirit hit him on the face. Since then I have spent all of my fortune giving donations to temples and sanctuaries dedicated to so called gods and to malevolent people, but in no way did I benefit of it. I plead with you, Apostle of the great God, have mercy on me the wretched and cure my son!”

And John told her: “Go and bring him to me and I will cure him!”

The woman believed and left weeping. As soon as she got close she told him: “Let us go to John, the Apostle of Christ, so he can cast the evil spirit from you.”

And only with those words, the demon left him, before they even arrived to where John was. Then the mother took her cured child and brought him to John, and they both fell to his feet. When the people saw this they marvelled and gave glory to God, who through his Apostle could do these impossible acts. And so, many believed in John’s preaching, moved by the miracles, and in good time where baptised. Holding the young man by the hand John went with the mother to their house and after catechizing them, he baptised them and everyone who lived in that house. We stayed there nearly three days.

On the fourth day as we were going out towards the market, many gathered and listened to his teaching. When John found out that on that day they were holding a celebration for the god Dionysus with the participation of the people, he went near the temple and asked the people to sit. He then taught and preached to them on returning to the true God, about repentance and faith to our Lord Jesus Christ. And at the same time he added this: “As you have been created in His image and you have been honoured with the teaching of the Word of God, you must not with such a destructive way degrade yourselves with your unbecoming behaviour and twist the requirements of the human
nature, so that you live a life that is more unclean than that of the animals that do not have logic.”

As John was teaching them the priests from the temple of Dionysus, who had been disturbed by all this, appeared and said to him: “Leave this place and do not interfere with the celebration and ceremony of the god Dionysus.”

However John did not back down, but with greater courage taught the people, trying to remove them from this satanic practice. For in the temple they would conduct an indecent and hideous ritual. According to their custom after the offered many sacrifices, men and women gathered, without the children, and after eating and drinking tainted food and drinks they would shut the temple’s doors and would come together, like fornicating horses, and with the filth of prodigality and gluttony were spiritually destroyed.

Seeing though these reprehensible priests that John continued his teachings to the people, twelve of them went close to the crowds and with flattery and begging brought most of them on their side. The rest they dispersed from the place. They then captured John and after beating him badly, tied him up, dragged him away and abandoned him half dead.

They returned to the temple then so as to conduct their celebration with their abominable acts. But as they entered the temple alone, as was the custom that they first would taste from the stained and unholy sacrificial victims and then perform their demonic rituals, John, from the ground where he had fallen, prayed saying: “God, the Father of our Hope, Jesus Christ, who at the time of the brave Samson destroyed the large temples of the other tribes, now is also pleased that the temple of debauchery is destroyed!”

And while John was still praying the temple collapsed to its foundation, and the only ones who were buried and killed were the twelve priests.
In this city lived a man with the name Noetianus with his wife who was called Forá. They had two children the eldest of which was called Rox and the youngest Polykarpus. Noetianus had experience in the art of magic and owned many books compiled by demons. The moment he saw the temple of Dionysus fallen through John’s prayer and the priests murdered, he was very much saddened. In fact he was taken over by a demonic anger against John, because all the people ran and untied John and falling to his feet begged him not to be angry with them. So Noetianus said to John: “We all love you and have faith in what you tell us and we will not accuse you of the destruction of the temple which you caused. We do though request of you to resurrect the twelve priests that were buried under the ground in the temple, so that we will be convinced that you preach to us a living God!”

And John said to him: “If they were worthy to be resurrected then they would not have been the twelve killed!”

Then Noetianus said: “As I am interested in your reputation I will tell you this. Either resurrect those who were murdered and I will then believe in the One who was crucified or keep in mind that when I resurrect them you will suffer the ultimate punishment as the destructor of the greatest temple!”

Then John said to him: “Do not delude yourself Noetianus by relying on sorcery and false hopes!”

John then continued his teaching to the people while Noetianus left very distressed. Then as he wondered around the ruined temple he managed, by evoking the demons, to present in front of him twelve demons that had the form of the twelve priests, and he told them: “Come with me, so that we can prepare John’s death!”

But they said: “We cannot go near him, but we will stand here and you go gather the people, who by seeing us will believe in us. Then, when they return, they will stone John.”

John though, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, realised their plans and said to me: “My child Prochorus, when Noetianus comes here, you go from another street to the back of the temple, there you will find those in the form of the priests standing there, and you tell them: ‘The Apostle of Christ, John, orders you to vanish from this island and go away to lands with no water!’”
While John was still speaking Noetianus came, crying out loud: “Brothers, until when will you listen to the twisted words of this fraud? Here, as I promised I have resurrected the priests, the ones he said were not worth living, and I will also raise the temple if you kill him. Come then, on your own, without this fraudster and you will see the resurrected priests!”

When the crowds heard of the resurrection of the priests they followed Noetianus without taking any interest in John. In fact, on the way they were being instructed by Noetianus on how to kill John. So when they arrived at the place where they thought they would find the supposed priests and saw no one, they were surprised, because with the instructions of the Apostle I had made them vanish. And Noetianus without knowing what to do occupied himself in vain with constant invocations to the demons.

Those who were there though having waited many hours futilely, started talking harshly against Noetianus, saying to him: “Being a fraudster you deceived us and turned us away from the true teaching. Now how will we face returning to him? After such great teaching we abandoned him and were persuaded by you the fraud!”

Some of them even asked to murder Noetianus saying: “As with his trickery he wanted to harm our teacher so shall we do to him!”

Others though would stand in their way, saying: “No one do anything thoughtless without the Apostle’s counsel.”

So they came to John and said to him: “Teacher, we implore your kindness, show forbearance to your children, we who foolishly abandoned the source of your sweetness and followed bile and bitterness. So here is the one who deceived us, who was the reason for all of this, and who prepared your own death! We have him here. What shall we do with him? He is guilty of death!”

But John said to them: “Let the darkness go to the darkness; but you, children of light, go to the light and darkness will not touch you, for the truth of Christ is within you!”

And he did not let them kill Noetianus. Most of them asked to receive the baptism of Christ but John let them go, so as to return to their home, as the day was coming to an end and it was already the evening.

The following day nearly everyone gathered near John and asked of him to be baptised. John agreed, he catechised them and after leading them to the river baptised them. The newly baptised were two hundred and twenty people. Noetianus though did not give up his malevolent plans, but tried with
many ways to tamper their eagerness. However John was informed of his plans through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and prayed: “Lord Jesus Christ, You who during the time of the prophet Elisha punished with blindness those who went against him, punish Noetianus with injury to his body’s eyes, so that he may raise to You his soul’s eyes.”

Instantly Noetianus was blinded. Assisted, he came to John and pleaded with him to have mercy on him, so that he be worthy to believe in Christ. And John held Noetianus by the hand and without resentfulness said to him: “I thank my God for filling you with His goodness and that He did not allow for the Devil to win you over.”

And after a long catechism, he baptised him and immediately he regained his sight. Then he cast himself to John’s feet and pleaded with him to go to his house as there were many idols there.

As soon as John entered the house at once all the idols fell and were destroyed. When Noetianus saw this incident he believed even more in Christ. His wife also and his two sons believed and were baptised. We stayed with them for ten days rejoicing in the Grace of the Lord. Then after giving them his blessing he left them in the Lord’s protection.

After that we left the city and went to Karos. This city was a commercial port, three miles away from Myrinusa. There we were welcomed by the wise Jew who was called Faustos, who believed and was baptised with his whole family. There we stayed a long time.
Chapter 19: Meeting the prudent Sossipatros.

When the sovereign of the island of Patmos was replaced, a proconsul (commander) was appointed of the Cycladic islands, another with the name Makrinos, an idolater and a hard man, merciless towards Christians. He took residence in the city of Flora (capital of Patmos), but visited all the other paces of the island as well.

So he also came to Karos as it was a large commercial port. There lived a wealthy woman, who was called Prokliane and she had a beautiful son around the age of twenty four. In body and mind this good young man was similar to the beauty and noble spirit of the just and wise Joseph. Well, Prokliane, the mother of Sossipatros, motivated by a demon, was possessed by an impure desire to come into an abominable relationship with her son and was burning with this demonic temptation.

So one day she said to him impudently: “My child Sossipatros, we have money and a lot of material possessions. Let us eat and be merry. But listen to me and do not go near a foreign woman. You see, I am not an old woman, but young and beautiful. So I will be for you your woman and you will be my man. And you shouldn’t allow a foreign man to come into the house and I in turn will keep away any women from you.”

She was indeed beautiful and she was swayed by the devastating temptation to destroy her son.

So one day when John was teaching in a public place and some who listened to him had objections, Sossipatros came and stood near John. He turned to him, looked at him with kindness and said to him: “My child Sossipatros!”

He was perplexed and asked, “Where do you know me from teacher?”
And John said to him: “I have something to tell you.”
“Say it father!”

Then John said: “There was a woman in a city with a beautiful son. The name of the woman was Deceit and the name of the son was Just. And a terrible enemy put it into Deceit’s mind to deceive Just. But although Deceit was deceived, Just was not. After harassing Just for a very long time and having achieved nothing, Deceit had him sentenced to death, after slandering him to a relation of hers who was a judge, saying that he had deceived her. And
the judge thoughtlessly gave the order that Just be punished. But Divine Justice cleaned the unclean and darkened even more the dark. So, Sossipatros who is it right to praise, the mother or the son?”

And Sossipatros, as dry land receiving rain, accepted John’s words about himself and his mother and said: “It is honourable and right that the son be praised and the mother be removed!”

And John said: “Go in peace and pay attention to your mother as your mother and not as Deceit and divine justice will protect you.”

Then Sossipatros fell to John’s feet and begged him to come dine at his house.

We did in fact follow him, and when we entered his house as soon as Prokliane saw John she got very angry and gave her son a nod, saying to him privately: “Did I not tell you not to allow another man in our house and I will keep away from you every woman? Then why did you bring these charlatans here?”

And her son told her: “Do not have such ideas about them mother regarding the reason they have come to our house. We will offer them dinner and after they have eaten they will go on their way again.”

“They will eat nothing, but with great contempt I will throw them out of our house, because I am afraid they will twist your thought and you will hate your mother and then I will die a bitter death because of you!”

Sossipatros though asked her to show us hospitality and said to her: “Mother, there is no man on earth who could make me hate my mother. Let us take care of these people and I will obey you on whatever you wish.”

Then Prokliane accepted Sossipatros’ suggestion so that he would then satisfy her abominable and immoral desire.

So Sossipatros prepared the dinner table for us. He alone took care of us and eat with us. Prokliane just sat close, so as to listen in case John said anything to advise Sossipatros.

After dinner, John said: “Come my child Sossipatros to see us out.”

But as we were walking out Prokliane followed us so that she could bring Sossipatros quickly back in. And when we arrived at the outside door Sossipatros wanted to come out with John so as to hear a beneficial word from him. But the moment we were to exit Prokliane grabbed a hold of Sossipatros and said to him: “Come inside my child. I will not let you leave the house!”

And he said: “Allow me mother to see the men a little farther down the road and I will be right back to you!”
But she, having in her the diabolic seed of destruction and the deadly poison of her (abominable) desire said to him: “Do not go out, but come back and fulfil my wish!” Sossipatros was agonising over this a lot, as he knew the demonic intention of Prokliane since she had harassed him on numerous occasions. And he said to her: “Mother, do not act impolitely, but go into the house and I will quickly return!”

But because she was persistent, Sossipatros pulled her violently and freed himself of her arms knowing she wanted to taint him.

So he followed us and attended John’s teaching. He stayed with us for three days, as he did not want to return home, afraid of his mother’s destructive temptation. On the fourth day Prokliane, having been eaten up by her desire and unable to neither endure the demonic energy nor be mollified, went out in search of Sossipatros. Sossipatros was with us in a public place, where John was teaching and there came Prokliane to find him. After searching she saw him with us, but as there were people around she left again. As she was leaving Sossipatros unintentionally bumped into her. Then she went close to him and grabbed him firmly from his clothing. And he said to her: “Let me go mother, and whatever your heart desires I will do it for you.”

But she did not want to let him go and the youth struggled to get free of her. So after they argued a lot Prokliane realised that her son was not going to follow her and would not abide by her abominable desire. Prokliane then lost her mind and started bemoaning violently. At that moment, by chance the proconsul appeared. As soon as he came close, Prokliane cried out loud: “Proconsul, help me!”

Then Prokliane threw off her head cover and started pulling at her hair and crying bitterly said to the proconsul: “Please, in the name of the power vested in your rank! This is my son that my husband left me when he was four years old and with a thousand pains and efforts I raised him and brought him up to this age of twenty four. And today is the tenth day that he has come and harassed me persistently to sleep with me!”

When the proconsul heard this he became very angry, believing the harridan and not giving the pure boy the time to defend himself, he immediately ordered that the skins of snakes and poisonous beasts, shields, vipers and horned animals be brought so as to envelop Sossipatros with the skins and the beasts. While these were being prepared John was informed of it and he ran to the proconsul and cried out loud, “Proconsul, your ruling is unfair for this wise and innocent child!”
As soon as Prokliane saw John she started yelling and crying saying: “Please proconsul! This is the man who twisted my son and led him to this abominable desire. When he came to my house to dine, he distressed my son, because he suggested to him this hideous and immoral perversion!”

And the proconsul convinced by her words did not pay attention to John’s plea, as all the bystanders assured him that Prokliane had always lived a virtuous life.

That is why the proconsul ordered that John also be arrested and guarded and for them to bring wet skins and deadly beasts, so as to kill him in the same way as Sossipatros.

When John saw that the proconsul’s order was being executed and everything had been prepared for their death, he sighed unperturbed and mentally prayed to God. As soon as the proconsul laid out his hand on John so as to ask him questions, his hand went dead. The same happened to Prokliane’s hand, which she had put out falsely accusing him, it went dead and she became petrified. And all the bystanders fell as if dead. Only John and Sossipatros stood, near the skins and the poisonous beasts, and God shook the place.

Then the proconsul cried out loud to John: “Man of God, pray so that my hand is restored and that the whole land falls back into place, so that I may believe in the God you preach of.”

And John raised his eyes towards Heaven and sighing exclaimed: “Son and Word of God the Father, You who have sent Your mighty hand so as to make sane the insane and the sinners, send the multitude of your infinite mercies and restore everything to its former place! Because You, Jesus Christ, you are the King of the ages and you are superior over every authority and human power!”

At the same time the earth stopped moving. The proconsul and Prokliane bent their hands and all those who had fallen to the ground arose safe and without harm. Then the proconsul seeing this, said to John: “Apostle of Christ, come to my house so that we may dine together!”

He took us and Sossipatros and we went to his house. After eating, we stayed there that night, as John did not stop teaching the Proconsul on the Word of life (Christ). The following day he came to John to be baptised along with his wife and child. And after he catechised them, he baptised them in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The following day we left with great honour and glory from the
proconsul’s house and John told Sossipatros: “Go now to your mother’s house!”

But he did not want to and said to John: “I will follow you wherever you go father, and I will not go to my house or see my wretched mother. I will abandon everything and will delight in listening to the words of Christ coming from your holy mouth!”

And the Apostle said to him: “My child, forget now the evil words you heard from your mother, because she has abandoned whatever the demon submitted her to, and now she is taking care of the salvation of her soul. You will not hear a bad word come from her mouth, nor will you see demonic plans. She has whole heartedly repented and is far from impure words and works and plans, which she had done to destroy you!”

He then took Sossipatros from the hand and we went up to his house. There we found Prokliane on the ground lamenting earnestly for all the evil she had committed. As soon as she heard that John had come to her house she got up and ran to greet him and casting herself to his feet, weeping, cried out to him: “I have sinned towards God and you, man of God, and toward my son and am not worthy of living. Only I beg of you, have mercy on me, I am utterly desperate. Because how will I dare raise my face, which is filled with every shameless act and look at you and my child that I- the wretched-tried to destroy body and soul?”

And while saying this, her tears wet the Apostle’s feet. And although he gave out his hand to help her get up, she would not take it, but continued to cry bitterly and with woeful cries confessed the deception that had happened to her and the diabolical treachery against her son, so that we also felt sorry for her great wailing. We wept with her and Sossipatros cried heavily. Then the Apostle said: “Rise my child Prokliane, because you have found complete forgiveness from the Lord of your wrongdoings, thanks to the redemption that is granted through the faith in Christ!”

Then she stood up but did not dare to look at him. And John started teaching giving meaning to the scriptures. After he catechised her, he baptised her and her son and all those who were in her house.

After a few days Prokliane took a lot of money and placed it at the Apostle’s feet saying to him, “Lord, take this and give it among those who have need of it.”

Then John told her: “My child, do you have more money in your house?”
“Yes, lord, I have a lot more!”
And the Apostle said: “This, since you have dedicated it to God place it in a separate place in your house and with your own hands distribute it among those who need it and you will have a treasure in heaven!”

And so, according to John’s instruction, every day she stood outside (her house) so as to help the passers-by who were in need. We stayed in Prokliane’s house for a long time and we saw many pure fruits of her repentance. Because through much fasting and praying she humbled herself, asking for God’s mercy for her previous ignorance and asking Him, till the end of her life, to live with the faith of Christ an immaculate life, sinless and with holiness, so as to enjoy the everlasting salvation with her son Sossipatros. A great medicine then my beloved, for mankind, repentance which is a gift of God!
Chapter 20: In the beginning was the Word. The Apocalypse.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching of John nearly all the inhabitants of the island of Patmos progressed (spiritually) and were baptised. In fact after Domitian a new emperor emerged (Nerva) who did not hinder the Christian teaching. So, this emperor sent a document to John that mentioned the termination of his exile. And John having seen that all the citizens of Patmos had believed in Christ wanted to return to Ephesus.

When all the brothers though found out they begged him not to leave but to remain on Patmos until his death. Nevertheless, John advised them by telling them, “My children why are you acting this way and crying? Christ, in whom you have believed, has appeared to me and instructed me to return to Ephesus.”

The brothers, seeing that they could not convince him with their words, weeping, told him: “Write down and give us in writing all the signs you saw from the Son of God and the words you heard from Him!”

Then John felt compassion for them and said to them: “Go, my children, to your homes and if the Lord permits I will grant you this request also.”

Then John took me and we went out of the city at a distance of a mile at a quiet place that was called Katastasis or Katapausis (t/n State or Cessation). There nearby was a small mountain. We climbed the mountain and stayed there for three days, during which John fasted, prayed and requested from God to give the brothers His evangelic messages filled with His love. On the third day John spoke to me and said: “My child Prochorus, go down to the city, take ink and paper and bring it here…”

So I went into the city and got ink and paper and came back to John, whom I found standing and praying. And he said to me: “Take the paper and ink and stay on my right side.”

I did what he told me and suddenly a huge lightning struck and a thunder so great that the mountain shook and I fell face down on the ground… “My child Prochorus, whatever you hear from my mouth, write on paper!”

John opened his mouth and as he stood, with his eyes towards Heaven, he said: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God…”

Then again after a few days John saw our Lord Jesus Christ in a vision telling him: “Go up to the mountain and I will reveal to you mysteries great and
horrid, that will happen in the future…”

I sat by his feet and suddenly there was thunder and from my fear I fell as if dead. Then John took me by the hand, lifted me and said to me: “What you hear from my mouth write precisely.” And he opened his mouth and told me: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants’ things which must shortly come to pass.”

And he continued talking and I wrote.
Chapter 21: Our return to Ephesus.

John motivated by a vision wanted to return to Ephesus. In Miletus there lived devout men, Damonicus and his relative Aristodemus and another who was very wealthy, Kleovius with his wife Markella. They pleaded with John that he stay with them so that they could rest spiritually along with him. And under duress we stayed there in Miletus for a day. In the depths of dawn we departed from Miletus and after having walked four miles a voice was heard from the sky, which we all heard, saying: “John, in Ephesus you will glorify your Lord, as He will be glorified by your brothers who are with you and all those who believe in your preaching.”

And John rejoiced as he thought about what he would encounter in Ephesus and said: “Lord, behold, I walk in Your will. Let it be as You will!”

And as we got closer to the city the general of the Ephesians, Lykomedes, a man who enjoyed material affluence, met us and falling to John’s feet pleaded with him saying: “John is your name. God has sent you, so that you could do good to my wife, who has become paralysed seven days now and lies uncured. Have mercy on us and cure her, so giving glory to your God. Let go of your fear of any wrong doing by me against you. Do not hold on to those fears inside you. Because I, having felt sorrow for my servant Cleopatra, had a vision; someone said to me: ‘I have sent a man from Miletus with the name of John, so that he would raise her and deliver her to you safe.’ Do not delay so, servant of God, whose face was shown to me! Hurry so that we may go to the woman who barely still breaths.”

John immediately went with the brothers and Lykomedes to his house. Lykomedes crying and bemoaning was beating his chest. And John said to him: “Cease saying unbecoming words! You must not show faithlessness to Him who appeared to you, because you will continue to enjoy your wife. So stand with us, since we have come for her! Pray to God, whom you saw reveal Himself to you in dreams! So what happened Lykomedes? Wake up and open your soul. Dispel of too much sleep! Plead the Lord for your wife and he will recover her!”

The man then fell down dead.

John weeping said: “What new betrayal is this vision! What new temptation has been created against me? A new ploy of the one who contrived
this against me! The voice from the sky, which was heard on the road, had this planned for me? The man is fallen down, and I, I know this well, will not be able to leave his house alive; Lord, what is Your pure intention? Please, do not allow him to feel joy, he who rejoices in others misery. But Your holy name and Your mercy come quick! Recover these two bodies that have been caused by treachery against me!”

And while John was crying this out in prayer, the citizens of Ephesus ran to Lykomedes’ house having been told that he was dead. And when John saw the crowds he said to the Lord: “Now is the time to feel relief by talking to You, Christ, with courage. Now is the time for you to help us who are in tribulation! Healer, who freely heals, make it so our arrival here is not ridiculed. Jesus, help so that so many people will return to You, the Lord of all! See the grief, see those who lie dead! You can draw up, from those who have gathered here, holy vessels who will minister Your gift with awe! You said, Christ, ‘ask and you shall receive.’ So we ask of You Lord not gold, nor silver, no cattle, no land, nothing perishable of this earth, but to return the two souls, who will believe in Your way, Your truth, Your freedom, Your most beautiful promise! Because when the people have had the experience of Your strength, with the resurrection of the dead, some of them will be saved! So You offer the hope in You”

So I went close to Cleopatra and I said to her: “In the name of Jesus Christ rise!” Then after he went close to her John touched her face and said to her, “Cleopatra, He who inspires respectful fear in every ruler, in all creation, in every power, in the abyss, in all the darkness, in the unsmiling death, in the heights of the skies and in the powers of Hades and the resurrected dead and in the blind who have seen the light and in all the power of the ruler of this World and in the proud rulers and in the faithful who will be resurrected in the future, He tells you to rise. Do not give pretext to the many who wish to remain unfaithful and do not give grief to the souls that hope to be saved!”

Then Cleopatra cried out loudly: “I am rising, Lord save your servant.”

After her resurrection the city of the Ephesians was in great turmoil for seven days over this impossible sight.

Cleopatra asked after her husband Lykomedes. And John replied to her: “Cleopatra, have unwavering and steady faith within your soul and you will at once have your husband Lynomedes by your side. If of course you do not get upset by the fact, but have faith in my God, who will grant him to you alive. So come with me to the other bedroom and you will see him dead, but with the
power of God resurrect!"

So when Cleopatra came with John to her dorm and saw Lykomedes dead from the sorrow of her loss, she went mute and grinded her teeth; biting her tongue, she shut her eyes, wept and turned her gaze to the Apostle. And John felt compassion for her, when he saw she did not get angry or mad, filled with mercy and humility he said, “Lord Jesus Christ, you see the need, you see Cleopatra suffering silently, because she contains in her the unbearable grief. I know well that she will die next from her sorrow over Lykomedes’ death.”

And she calmly said to John: “That is what I am thinking of, Lord, and nothing else!”

And the Apostle went to the bed where Lykomedes was lying and taking Cleopatra from the hand said: “Cleopatra, for the people who have gathered and your relatives who have come, say with a great cry to your husband ‘Rise and give glory to the name of God, for the dead He grants to the dead.’”

And she went close. And after speaking with her husband, as John had instructed her, she immediately raised him. Then Lykomedes fell to the ground and kissed John’s feet again and again. But he lifted him up and said to him, “Do not kiss my feet, man, but God’s, through the power of whom you have both been raised!”

Then Lykomedes said to John: “I plead with you and I adjure you in the name of God, through the power of whom you raised us, stay with us and with your people.” Cleopatra said the same grasping on to his feet.

And John said: “Tomorrow I will be with you.”

And they again begged him: “If you do not stay with us, we do not have hope in your God. Our resurrection was in vain!”

Then Kleovius along with Aristodemus and Damonicus ached in their soul and told John: “Let us stay with them, so that they are not tempted in their faith to the Lord!”

And he stayed there with the brothers.
And on the following Sunday, when all the brothers had gathered, he began to say: “Brothers, co-inheritors and co-participants in the kingdom of the Lord, you know how many miracles God has offered you through me, how many supernatural incidents, how many incredible things He accomplished, how many cures, gifts, knowledge, glory, signs of His trueness! How many endowments, how many teachings, how many interpersonal relationships, everything you saw in front of you offered to you by Him, without seeing with these eyes of flesh and without hearing with these ears of flesh!

“Lean on Him, having His memory always in your every action and knowing well the miracle of the plan of salvation that was accomplished by God for the people and for what reason it was carried out by Christ Himself! He the Lord, pleads (His Father) through my intermediacy on your behalf my brothers. For He wants you to live without sorrow, without anyone insulting you or impinging against you. For He knew of insult, which came from you (humans), He also knew opprobrium, He knows of malevolent plans; He knows how to punish, when we go against His holy instructions! So your God will not feel sorrow, the merciful, the ruthless, the holy, the just, the taintless, the pure, the gentle, the unique, the unalterable, the truthful, the God who is higher and more superior to any name that can be said or thought of! Jesus Christ will rejoice, if you live well, if you communicate amongst each other, if you are temperate, if with pleasure you partake in His passion. He will rejoice when you live with prudence and you multiply your love for Him!

“All this I tell you brothers, because I am in a hurry to complete my work, which through the help of the Lord, is at its end. What else could I have to say to you? Keep hold of what God has entrusted you with. Keep the agreement which like an engagement the pure God has made with you! Live in His presence! If you do not sin anymore, then what you have done in ignorance He forgives. However, if having known Him and having experienced His mercy, you still return to your old sins they will be recorded against you and you will not find mercy from Him.”

When he finished his speech he then started praying: “Jesus, You who have weaved this wreath with your action and have matched the many flowers to Your unwilting flower, You who sowed this teaching in their souls, the only
one who takes care of your servants, the doctor who heals freely, the only benefactor without arrogance, the only merciful and charitable, the only Saviour and just, the one who always is and who is within all, the ever present and all complete, Christ, Son of God, Lord, with your donations and with your mercifulness cover all those who have hope in You! You, who know in detail the plans of our adversary the devil, help Your servants with Your providence!”

And after he asked for bread and thanked God, he gave a blessing with these words: “How shall we call on You? With what praise? With what offering? How can we thank You, as we perform the holy Eucharist? But to You, only with the name Jesus we give you glory, with the name Your Father revealed! We give glory to Your entry into the world, we give glory to Your Resurrection, we give glory to the path of salvation you have paved for us, we give glory to the seed You sowed, the grace of the Holy Spirit in the words of Your teaching, the eternal faith, the pearl, the treasure, the plough, the net, the grandeur, the wreath! We give glory to the Son of man, who was born for our sake, He who introduced us to the truth, rest, knowledge (of God), the strength, the instruction, the courage to call on You, the hope, the love, the freedom, the refuge.

“For You are, Lord, the root of immortality and the source of incorruptibility and the centre of eternal goods! It is You Lord who has eternal existence, You who all this (divine incarnation, death) You accepted for our sake with the purpose that we, calling on You, give glory to Your splendour, which of course we in the present life can not face but only the pure of heart can face! Turn Your glance to those who have truly believed, bless this bread and with its communion us. For Yours is the glory and the power, with the Father and the holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.”

And after he broke the bread, he gave to us all, wishing for every brother that he be worthy of the happiness of the Lord and the holy Eucharist. And after he too took communion saying: “And I have a share,” he then said, “Peace unto you all my beloved!”
After this he told Vero: “Take with you two men with baskets and hoes and follow me!”

And Vero without delay executed what was instructed by God’s servant. And the blessed John walked out to the front of the house and instructed everyone to move away from him.

When he then reached the cemetery, he told the people he had with him: “My brothers and children, dig here!”

And as they were digging he stood by them saying: “Dig deeper!”

And as they were digging he encouraged all those who had come with him, building on their faith and giving them all a blessing. When the youths completed the digging, he took off the garments he wore and placed them as a mattress at the bottom of the area that had been dug out, remaining only with the ciliated mantle.

Then after raising his arms to the sky, he started praying and saying this: “God, who chose us to be sent to the gentiles, who sent us to the world, You who manifested Yourself in the past with the Law and Your prophets, You who made known to us Your purity within all creations and even within the animals did You declare Yourself; You who man’s soul which was desolate (from the presence of God) and made wild from his passions you made calm, You who appeared to her who was dead in Hades. He who became law in the soul that was immersed into lawlessness. He who appeared to her, who was enslaved by Satan and conquered her adversary when she came to You. You who gave Your hand and lifted her from the kingdom of Hades, who did not allow her to live of the flesh, who showed her her enemy, who clearly revealed to her the knowledge of Yourself.

“God, Lord Jesus, heavenly Father and God of the heavens, law of the ethereal, guard of the earthly, fear of the infernal, accept also John’s soul, which perhaps You have already made worthy of You. You, who have guarded me until this moment pure of any sinful act and have saved me from the vain and the ephemeral and have led me to eternal life; You who kept me away from sordid desires of the flesh, who stood in the way of my being inflicted by the hidden illness of the flesh and the soul; You who banished away from me the one who revolts inside me, who kept immaculate my desire for You, who
guarded whole my virginity, who confirmed my pure opinion of You, who gives to everyone their appropriate wage, who put into my soul the certainty, that nothing is more precious than You, Lord Jesus Christ, now Your plan, that you entrusted me with, for the salvation of mankind I have executed! So make me worthy to rest by granting me Your kingdom, which is indescribable and inexpressible salvation, and as I come to You, let the fire subside, let the darkness be conquered, let the worm weaken, let the demons lose their strength, let the rulers of this world be crushed, the opposing forces be shamed, the devil be scared, let his power be destroyed, his mania be exterminated, his strength vanish and all of him be exiled from earth! And let me, Lord, walk Your straight path without pride and let me enjoy what you promised those who lived a pure life and loved only You.”

And after he sealed himself with the sign of the Cross, he stood, and said: “Lord Jesus Christ be with me!”

After he had strewn his garments, he kissed us and lay in the dugout grave. We brought a sheet and spread it over him and then we returned to the city.

The following day we went back, but we did not find his body as it was translated with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and the strength now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

*The End and Glory be to God*
*By hand of Dionysus, bedraggled,*
*From the island of Kos*
Images from St. John The Theologian Monastery, Patmos. 18th-19th century.

John with Prochorus. Romana repents after resurrection of Domnus in Ephesus.
On way to Patmos, man falls overboard and John’s prayers save him.
Priests from the temple of Apollo ask the help of Kynops on Patmos.
Burial and translation of St John The Theologian in Ephesus.