

# DION AND THE SIBYLS

By Miles Gerald Keon

A CLASSIC CHRISTIAN NOVEL.

Augustus, in his later years, showed a decreasing relish for the bloodier sports of the arena; and, in deference to his taste, the next spectacles were, first a mere wrestling match, and then a combat at the cestus, in which the effort was to display skill rather than inflict injury.

This contest was just over, and the sun, as if in wide-flowing garments of red and golden clouds, had sunk level with the broad western opening of the amphitheatre, when the hum of voices was hushed once more, and Claudius was commanded in a whisper to resume his task of rendering the scene upon which the child's bodily eyes were temporarily closed, visible to his mind.

"I cannot with certainty discern," said the slave, "what occurs; there is such a vast heavenly shield of red light hanging opposite to us in the western sky. Against it, approaching at a walking pace toward the gap in the arena, along that avenue of chestnut trees in the country, I see a horseman. All eyes are turned in that direction. It is he; it is Paulus Lepidus Aemilius, returning on the Sejanus steed; the animal is enveloped in sweat, and dust, and foam; and rather stoops the head which looked so fierce two hours ago; the rider has thrown away those torches, and now holds the reins low down on either side, a little in front of the beast's shoulder. His hat is gone, and his brown locks, as you see them against the sun, are so touched with the light that he seems to wear a headgear of golden flames. Hark! again, as before, the people and the army shout to him. He is bowing to them on each side; and now, as he advances, what do I see?"

The slave paused, and the child impatiently cried—

"How can I tell what you see, you dog? You are here for no other purpose than to tell me that."

"He has streaks of blood upon his forehead," resumed Claudius.

"Oh! oh!" cried the other; "the branches of the trees have no doubt struck him. Is he pale? Does he look faint? Is he going to fall off?"

"No," said Claudius; "he has reined in the horse, which stands like a horse of stone in the middle of the arena. Tiberius and Germanicus have both ridden toward him, with their retinues of mounted officers behind them. They have halted some six yards from him. They are speaking to him. As they speak, he bows his head and smiles. A crowd of people on foot have broken into the arena. The grooms have drawn near, at a sign from Tiberius; they are cautiously approaching the Sejanus steed; but this last shows no restiveness. They have slipped the muzzle round his nose, under the reins. The youth dismounts. I do not see him now; he has become mixed with the crowd, I think; yes, it must be so, for I miss him altogether."

Augustus now rose, and his rising was taken by the multitude as a signal that the entertainments of the amphitheatre for that evening had closed.

Half an hour more and the scene was left to its solitude; and where the cries and shouts of that mighty assemblage had mounted to the very heavens, there was no sound left except the humming of the insects and the rustling of the trees.

That night, in the large veranda or bower, which hung its arch of leaves and flowers over the landing of the Lady Aglais's apartments, at the Inn of the Hundredth Milestone, were assembled an exceedingly heterogeneous but mutually attached company, with every member of which the reader has made acquaintance. Paulus's mother, his young sister Agatha, Claudius, (no longer a slave, and now wearing the pileus,) Crispina, with her daughter Benigna, the betrothed of this slave Claudius, Thellus the gladiator, and Dionysius the Athenian, were there, and they all heard Paulus relate a very strange occurrence, with which he made them acquainted in the following terms:

"Mother," said he, "the most extraordinary incident connected with this happy day remains to be told. I am sure that the great and mysterious Being who is expected by Dionysius here soon to descend upon earth, and to whom I offered my life, has protected me this day. He has

surely protected me, and has received with favor my endeavor to rescue from brutal power an oppressed and innocent young couple. The most extraordinary incident connected with my undertaking, I say, is not yet known to you. Last night I could not sleep soundly. At last, long before daybreak, I rose, dressed myself, and, kneeling down, besought that Being who is to appear among us to remember that I was trying to please him by this enterprise, and that I was acting just as Dionysius and I had concluded it would be agreeable to this beneficent being. An inexpressible feeling of calmness and confidence arose in my heart as I rose from my knees. I then took my hat and went out of doors. I first strolled yonder, up and down that laurel walk in the garden, and afterward sauntered into the fields and wandered pretty far, but I observed not whither. Presently I began to feel that inclination to sleep which had deserted me in my bedroom; and, knowing the sun would soon rise, I chose a shady spot under a clump of trees, and lying down, fell fast asleep immediately. I had no dream, but was waked by feeling a hand upon my forehead. Opening my eyes, I beheld a woman, very aged and venerable, but with a most beautiful countenance, despite her years, bending over me. Her countenance was solemn as the stars, and, I know not how, impressed me like the face of the heavens at midnight, when the air is clear and calm. Her hair was not gray, but white—white as milk. She wore a long black mantle, the hood of which, like that of Agath's rictinus, was brought over the head, but not further than the middle of the head, so that I could see, when I rose to my feet, (as I instantly did) that her long flowing white locks were parted evenly and fell below the shoulder on each side. She held in her left hand a long staff, and her right was extended toward me as if bespeaking attention. She said to me in Greek these words: "BY MEANS OF FIRE YOU CAN SUBDUCE THE FEROCIOUS BEAST." She then laid the hand which was stretched forth upon my head for a second, drew the hood further over her head, and departed with swift steps, leaving me to gaze after her in amazement—an amazement which increased when I perceived that her words could be applied to the Sejanus horse. It was those words, mother, and nothing else, which gave me the idea of employing the torches, which my good Thellus here afterward prepared for me out of some gladiatoria, exercise-weapons which he possessed; and I may say for certain that, without the torches; I must have been destroyed by that horrible brute."

"You truly describe this incident as extraordinary, my son," said the Lady Aglais, after a pause.

"Paulus," said Dionysius, "You have seen the Sibyl. You must accompany me in a few days to Cumae, where we will seek an interview with her, upon the subject concerning which all the Sibyls sing and prophesy—the general reparation of this disorder-tortured world."

## CHAPTER IV.

Two days afterward, Dionysius the Athenian called at the inn, and informed Aglais, Paulus, and Agatha that after the banquet in the Mamuran palace at Formiae, that evening, there was to be a great gathering of the witty, the noble, the fashionable, and the wise, and that he was charged to invite Aglais and her two children as friends of his.

Aglais declined the honor for herself and her daughter, but said she wished Paulus to go with Dionysius Paulus, therefore, laid aside the outlandish costume in which he had travelled from Thessaly, and dressed himself with care in the fashion suitable to a young Roman of equestrian rank. Dionysius remained to join the family in their repast, which was virtually what we should in modern times call the early dinner, after which the two friends mounted Dion's chariot, and proceeded toward Formiae at an easy pace, along the smooth pavement of the "queen of roads."

During the drive they had a conversation which was for good reasons, very interesting to Paulus.

(To be continued)

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### Canadian Pacific

Lv.	EAST	Ar.
Imp. Lim.	Selkirk, Rat Portage, Fort William, Port Arthur, Toronto, Detroit, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Montreal, Quebec, New York, Boston, Portland, St. John, Halifax.....daily	Imp. Lim.
6 45	Molson, Buchan, Milner, Lac du Bonnet.....Wed.	21 10
7 00	Selkirk, Molson, Rat Portage and intermediate points.....daily except Sunday	19 30
8 00	Keewatin, Rat Portage, during July and August.....Sat. only.....Mon. only	18 30
13 30	Keewatin, Rat Portage, Fort William, Port Arthur, Toronto, Detroit, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Montreal, Quebec, New York, Boston, Portland, St. John, Halifax, and all points east.....daily	12 00
Tr's Pass.	Portage la Prairie, Gladstone, Neepawa, Minnedosa, Yorkton, and intermediate points.....daily except Sun.	Tr's Pass.
7 45	Morris, Winkler, Morden, Manitou, Pilot Mound, Crystal City, Killarney, Boissevain, Deloraine, and intermediate points.....daily ex Sun	18 40
8 50	Portage la Prairie, MacGregor, Carberry, Brandon, Oak Lake, Virden, Elkhorn, Moosomin, Regina, Moose Jaw, Medicine Hat, Calgary, Banff, Revelstoke, and all points on Pacific Coast; Lethbridge, McLeod, Fernie, and all points in East and West Kootenay.....daily	17 00
Tr's Pass.	Headingly, Carman, Holland, Cypress River, Glenboro, Souris and intermediate points.....daily except Sun.	Tr's Pass.
9 20	Portage la Prairie, Carberry, Brandon, and intermediate points.....daily ex Sun	19 00
9 40	Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Broadview, Regina, Moose Jaw, Medicine Hat, Calgary, Banff, Revelstoke, and all points on Pacific Coast and in East and West Kootenay.....daily	15 20
16 40	Stony Mountain, Stonewall, Balmoral, Teulon.....daily except Sunday	12 20
Imp. Lim.	Middlechurch, Parkdale, Victoria Park, Lower Port Garry, West Selkirk, Clendoye, Netley, and Winnipeg Beach.....Tues., Thurs., Sat.	Imp. Lim.
22 00	Winnipeg Beach.....Mon., Wed., Fri. Winnipeg Beach.....Mon., Wed., Fri. Tues., Thurs., Sat.....	5 55
<b>NORTH</b>		
18 00	Morris, Greta, Grafton, Grand Forks, Crookston, Fargo, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Chicago, and all points south.....daily	10 20
16 15	St. Norbert, Carey, Arnaud, Dominion City, Emerson.....daily except Sunday	9 45
17 15	.....Tues., Thurs., Sat.....	8 45
<b>SOUTH</b>		
14 00	Winnipeg to Fort Frances." St. Anne, Giroux, Warroad, Beaudette, Rainy River, Pinewood, Emo, Fort Frances.....daily except Sun.....	13 40
15 45	.....Tues., Thurs., Sat.....	10 45

### Canadian Northern

Lv.	EAST	Ar.
10 20	"Winnipeg to Fort Frances." St. Anne, Giroux, Warroad, Beaudette, Rainy River, Pinewood, Emo, Fort Frances.....daily except Sun.....	16 25
8 05	"Fort Frances to Port Arthur." Mine Centre, Atkokan, Stanley Jct., Fort William, Port Arthur.....Mon., Wed., Fri. Tues., Thurs., Sat.....	21 05
<b>SOUTH</b>		
17 20	Twin City Express between Winnipeg, Minneapolis and St. Paul, 14hrs. 20min., via Can. Nor. and Great Nor. Rys. Morris, Emerson, St. Vincent, Crookston, Fergus Falls, Sauk Centre, St. Cloud, Elk River, Minneapolis, St. Paul.....daily	10 10
13 45	Minneapolis and St. Paul Express via Can. Nor. and Nor. Pac. Rys. Morris, St. Jean, Lethelier, Emerson, Pembina, Grafton, Grand Forks, Crookston, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, The Superiors.....daily	13 30
<b>WEST</b>		
10 45	Headingly, Eli, Portage la Prairie, Gladstone, Dauphin, and all intermediate points.....Tues., Thurs., Sat.	16 15
10 45	Headingly, Eli, Portage la Prairie, Neepawa, Dauphin, and all intermediate points.....Mon., Wed., Fri.	16 15
10 45	Gilbert Plains, Grand View, Kamsack, and intermediate points.....Tues., Thurs., Sat.	16 15
10 45	Mon., Wed., Fri.....Sifton, Minitonas, Swan River, and all intermediate points.....Wed., Thur., Sat.	16 15
10 45	Mon., Wed., Fri.....Bowman, Birch River, Erwood and intermediate points	16 15
10 45	Mon., Wed., Fri.....Fork River, Winnipegosis	16 15
7 00	Fri., Sat.....Sat., Tues. Oak Bluff, Carman, Leary's and intermediate points.....Mon., Wed. Fri.....	17 50
11 05	St. Norbert, Morris, Roland, Wawanesa, Brandon, Hartney, and intermediate points.....daily except Sun.....	18 30