

by Festus. Dostheus said that he was the prophet foretold by Moses, while Magnus claimed that he was the great power of God Most High. Up till the last moment on that 8th of Sept., in 70 A.D.—that fatal day on which the holy city was destroyed, thousands would not surrender, believing that the Messiah would come with deliverance, and since that time there have been many such pretenders. History is full of them. In 132, A.D. prior to the final dispersion of the Jews, the Doctor Abika gave full place to the brave Barcochebas, the last of the national heroes who claimed to be "the son of a star." Many were the legends which declared his claims as the Messiah. His size and strength were vaunted as more than human. "It was the arm of God and not man," said Hadrian when he saw at last the corpse, encircled by a serpent, "that alone could strike down the giant." At last this great national hero's character was made manifest and he was proven the son of a lie.

Take another instance a little nearer our own time. About 150 years ago Sabatti-Levi set himself up as the Messiah in the Turkish Empire, and for some time was worshiped by the Jews, but his folly, too, was at last disclosed. From the beginning to the present there have been many false Christs, and, seeing the danger of the disciples being led astray by them, the Master uttered the warning note, "See that ye be not troubled