

ee, therefore, of the believers joining together, rushed upon the
 r as he was offering sacrifice and called upon him to desist from
 niverse. Being asked who they were, they boldly confessed they
 nistians. On this, Firmilianus, in a rage and without inflicting
 s, condemned them to capital punishment. Of these, one named
 us was a presbyter, another named Zebina was a native of
 opolis, the third was named Germanus. They were executed on
 eenth of the month Dius, on the ides of November.

the same day, Ennathas, a woman of Scythopolis, ennobled also
 rigin's headband, was added as an associate to them. She had not,
 done what the former had but was dragged by force and brought
 the judge. After being scourged, she endured dreadful abuses
 ere heaped upon her by Maxys, the tribune of the neighboring
 and that without authority from a higher power. He was a man
 s by no means as good as his name,⁷ a bloodthirsty character,
 gely harsh and inflexible and in his whole manner so fierce and
 at he was in bad repute with all who knew him. This man, then,
 tripped the blessed virgin of all her clothes so as to leave her body
 only from her loins to her feet, but the rest bare, led her about the
 y of Caesarea, considering it a great feat that he caused her to be
 out the markets and beaten with thongs of hide. After all these
 which she bore with the greatest firmness, she exhibited the
 erful alacrity before the tribunal of the judge himself when she
 e condemned to the flames.

e aiming his cruelty and madness against the worshippers of the
 e, he also went beyond all the dictates of nature, not even ashamed
 ne lifeless bodies of these holy men a burial. He ordered the dead
 be carefully watched night and day as they lay exposed in the
 the food of beasts. There was no small number of men present
 ys to attend to this savage and barbarous decree, and some were
 put from their posts of observation as if it were something
 f their zeal to see that the dead bodies should not be stolen. But
 sts, dogs, and carnivorous birds of prey scattered the human
 e and there in all directions, and the whole city around was
 th the entrails and bones of men. Nothing ever appeared more
 or horrific, even to those who before had been most hostile to us.
 not indeed so much lament the calamity of those against whom

these things were done, as the nuisance against themselves and the abuse
 heaped upon our common nature.

At the very gates of the city, there was an exhibition presented dread-
 ful beyond all description and tragic recital, human flesh devoured not in
 one place only but scattered over every place, for it was said that limbs,
 masses of flesh, and parts of entrails were to be seen even within the gates.
 These things continued to occur for many days when a strange event took
 place. The air happened to be clear and bright, and the aspect of the whole
 heavens was most serene. Then suddenly, from the greater part of the
 columns that supported the public porticos, issued drops like tears, and
 the market places and streets, though there was no moisture from the air,
 were sprinkled with water, and became wet. It was immediately spread
 abroad among all that in an unaccountable manner the earth wept, not
 being able to endure the extreme impiety of these deeds. To address a
 reproof to men of a relentless and callous nature, the very stones and
 senseless matter bewailed these facts. I well know that this account may,
 perhaps, appear an idle tale and fable to posterity, but it was not so to
 those who had its truth confirmed by their presence at the time.⁸

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Petrus Ascetes, Asclepius the Marcionite, and others

ON THE FOURTEENTH of the following month Apellaeus, i.e., the nine-
 teenth of the calends of January, there were some from Egypt seized by
 the spies appointed to observe those going out at the gates. They had been
 sent for the purpose of ministering to the necessities of the confessors in
 Cilicia. These experienced the same lot with those they came to serve and
 were thus mutilated in their eyes and feet.

Three of them, however, exhibited a wonderful fortitude at Ascalon,
 where they were imprisoned, and bore away different prizes of martyr-
 dom. One of them, named Ares, was committed to the flames; the others,
 Promus and Elias, were beheaded. But on the eleventh of the month
 Audynaenus, i.e., on the third of the ides of January, in the same city of
 Caesarea, Petrus Ascetes,⁹ also called Apselamus, from the village of Anea
 on the borders of Eleutheropolis, like the purest gold, with a noble reso-
 lution, gave proof of his faith in the Christ of God. Disregarding both the

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