

<sup>13</sup> After some days, Ruler Marcus Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to embrace Festus. <sup>14</sup> While they were staying there many days, Festus presented to the Ruler the things against Paul, saying,

“A man in bondage has been left behind by Felix. <sup>15</sup> When I was in Jerusalem, the leaders of the temple-caretakers and the Judean elders communicated about him, asking me to enact justice against him. <sup>16</sup> To this I answered,

‘It is not the custom of the Romans to give a man over as an act of generosity before that one being worked against has faced those working against him and has received an explanation about being called in.’

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, coming here and doing nothing to put it off, I sat upon the judgment seat the next day and instructed the man to be brought. <sup>18</sup> Those working against him stood before me and brought forward none of the evil things I was supposing. <sup>19</sup> They were having some debates with him about their own timidity before the animating-forces and about some Jesus, who had died, that Paul was affirming to be alive. <sup>20</sup> While I was getting the investigation nowhere, I began asking if Paul would desire to go into Jerusalem to be judged there about these things. <sup>21</sup> But after Paul called upon the decision of the Revered One, I instructed him to be kept till I could send him up to the Emperor.”

<sup>22</sup> Marcus Agrippa said to Festus,

“I desire to listen to the man.”

Festus enlightened,

“You will listen to him on the next day.”

<sup>23</sup> Therefore, on the next day, Marcus Agrippa and Bernice came with much appearance into the listening hall with the thousand-leaders and the excellent men of the city. When Festus instructed it, Paul was brought <sup>24</sup> and Festus enlightened,

“Ruler Marcus Agrippa, and all the men present with us, you see this man about whom the whole multitude of Judeans, in Jerusalem and here, are crying out,

‘It is necessary for him to no longer live!’

<sup>25</sup> But I deemed that he had done nothing worthy of death, but then, after he called upon the Revered One, I judged to send him there. <sup>26</sup> I do not have anything without fail to write to the Lord Emperor about him. Therefore, I brought him before you all and especially before you, Ruler Marcus Agrippa, so, after you judge him, I will have something to write. <sup>27</sup> For it is an absurd decision to me to send someone in bondage without also signaling the reasons against him.”

<sup>26.1</sup> Then Marcus Agrippa said to Paul,

“It is permitted for you to speak about yourself.”

Then Paul, extending his hand, began explaining,

<sup>2</sup> “Ruler Marcus Agrippa, I am privileged to have been guided before you today to explain for myself all the things which I am being called in for by the Judeans, <sup>3</sup> especially since you know all of the customs and debates of the Judeans. Therefore, I am begging you to listen to me with patience.

<sup>4</sup> Being among my nation in Jerusalem from the beginning, all the Judeans have seen my manner of living from my youth. <sup>5</sup> They know me from above and they can testify that I lived as a Pharisee, according to the most accurate manner of that group of our religion. <sup>6</sup> Now I am being judged because I stand upon the hope of the Creator’s commitment to our fathers. <sup>7</sup> For while hoping this commitment will arrive, our twelve tribes are giving allegiance to the Creator during the full extent of night and day. Ruler, I am being called in by the Judeans about this hope. <sup>8</sup> Why is the Creator raising the dead judged to be untrustworthy by you?

<sup>9</sup> I myself once decided it necessary <sup>9</sup> to do many things opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. <sup>10</sup> I did this in Jerusalem, as I myself locked up many of the divine ones under guard, after receiving the authority from the leaders of the temple-caretakers, and even cast a vote to execute them. <sup>11</sup> While punishing them throughout all the synagogues, I began compelling them to slander and, while being even more out of my mind against them, I began hunting them down even in the cities of outsiders.

<sup>12</sup> During these things, I was going into Damascus with the authority and permission of the leaders of the temple-caretakers. <sup>13</sup> Ruler, at midday along the way I saw a light from heaven, brighter

than the sun, shining around me and those going with me. <sup>14</sup> After everyone fell to the earth, I listened to a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect,

‘Saul! Saul! Why are you hunting me down? Kicking against the prods is hard on you!’

<sup>15</sup> I said,

‘Who are you, Lord?’

The Lord said,

‘I am Jesus, the one you are hunting down. <sup>16</sup> Stand up! Stand upon your feet! I have been seen by you for this, to hand-pick you as an attendant that you may be a testimony of the things you saw and the things you will see. <sup>17</sup> I am delivering you from the people and from the nations. I am sending you <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, so they will turn back from darkness to light and from the authority of the Attacker to the Creator. And then they will receive freedom from rebellions and a portion among those who have been made divine by trust in me.’

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, Ruler Marcus Agrippa, I was persuaded by the heavenly vision <sup>20</sup> and I began reporting—first to those in Damascus and then to Jerusalem, the whole land of Judea, and to the nations—so they might transform and turn to the Creator, doing works worthy of transformation.

<sup>21</sup> Apprehending me for this cause while I was in the temple-complex, the Judeans began testing how they could hand me over to death. <sup>22</sup> Therefore, after obtaining relief from the Creator till this day, I stand as a testimony to both least and great, saying nothing beyond the things the prophets and Moses said were about to happen. <sup>23</sup> The suffering Anointed one is the first to be resurrected from among the dead and is the light to be announced to the people and the nations!”

<sup>24</sup> While Paul was explaining these things, Festus enlightened with a great voice,

“You are insane, Paul! These many writings are turning you insane!”

<sup>25</sup> But Paul enlightened,

“I am not insane, mighty Festus! Rather, I am articulating true and serious matters! <sup>26</sup> The Ruler is aware of these things and I am confidently speaking to him. For which of these things are secret to him? I am persuaded that nothing is, for this was not done in a corner. <sup>27</sup> Do you trust the prophets, Ruler Marcus Agrippa? I discern that you do trust them.”

<sup>28</sup> Marcus Agrippa said to Paul,

“With only this little speech, are you trying to persuade me to become the Anointed’s apprentice?”

<sup>29</sup> Paul said,

“With little or with great, I pray to the Creator for not only you, but also all those listening to me today, to become like I am, except for these bonds!”

<sup>30</sup> The Ruler, the Governor, Bernice, and those sitting with them, stood up <sup>31</sup> and, after leaving, began speaking to one another, saying,

“This man is doing nothing worthy of death or bonds.”

<sup>32</sup> Marcus Agrippa said to Festus,

“This man had the power to be released, except that he called upon the Emperor.”