And whilst Mygdonia was meditating these things, Judas came and entered in behind her. And she was afraid, and fell down from terror; and he stood over her, and said to her: “Be not afraid, Mygdonia; Jesus the Messiah will not forsake you, and your Lord will not forsake you, to whom you have committed your soul; the Gracious will not forsake you, whose mercy is great; the Benign will not forsake you for his kindness’ sake; the Good will not forsake you for his goodness’ sake; the Great will not forsake you for his greatness’ sake. Rise from the ground, above which you once were (raised). Look upon the light of your Lord, for he will not let those that love him walk in darkness. Behold the Companion of his servants, to whom he is a light in darkness. Behold the Help of his servants to whom he is a helper in afflictions”. And Mygdonia arose and was looking at him and saying to him: “Whither were you going, my Lord? And who let you out of prison to see the sun?” Judas says to her: “Our Lord Jesus the Messiah is stronger than all powers and kings and rulers; he opened the doors and lulled the keepers to sleep”.


Mygdonia says to him: “Give me the sign of Jesus the Messiah, and let me receive his gift from your hands, before you depart from the world”. And she took him, and went and entered into her house, and
awakened her nurse and says to her: “My mother and nurse Narkia, all your deeds of help to me, and your kindesses from my childhood until now, you have done to me in vain, and my fleeting favour I bestow to you for them; but do me this favour which (lasts) for ever, and you shall be rewarded by him who gives everything to his, and fortune cannot deprive them (thereof)”. Narkia says to her: “What do you want, my daughter Mygdonia? And what comfort can you have? For all the former humours, (which) you promised to do to me, the strange man does not let you (do), and you have made me a reproach in this country. Now, I pray, what do you want to do anew to me?” She says to her: “Be with me a sharer in the everlasting life, and let me receive from you the perfect education. Fetch secretly for me a loaf of bread, and bring out for me a mingled draught of wine, and have pity on me a freeborn woman”. Narkia says to her: “I will fetch you bread in plenty and many flagons of wine, and I will do your pleasure (for you)”. Mygdonia says to her nurse Narkia: “Many flagons are of no use to me, but a mingled draught in a cup, and one whole loaf, and a little oil, even if (it be) in a lamp, bring to me”.

Commentary. Narkia, ἅμια and Greek: μακχία. strange. See ch. 4. perfect education, εὐπλήκτης ἔτηλα. She apparently asks for a christian education in contrast to what she received from her during her childhood. Greek reads: τροφήν, which refers to oil, bread and wine. mingled draught of wine. See also ch. 158. For water mingled with wine see Justin, apol. I 65; Irenaeus, adv. haer. V 2 3; Clemens of Alex., paed. II 20 1, and Test. Domini nostri II X, ed. Rahmani 131–132. and have pity on me, a freeborn woman, Χάρις ἱππος and Greek: τῆς ἔλευθερίας μου φειδομένη. It seems that Narkia is supposed to prepare the means by which Mygdonia is going to become free. Baptism making free, see ch. 121: “... and heal her with this freedom” (in Greek), cf. Ephrem, hymni in festum epiphaniae IV 7, ed. Lamy I 45–46: Servus enim qui omnis libertatis largitorem in aquis induit, in terra quidem servus remanet ad in coelo liber sit, quia ipsa libertate cooperitur, and Exc. e Theodoto 78. 2, ed. Sagnard 202: ἔστιν δὲ οὐ τὸ λουτρὸν μόνον τὸ ἔλευθερον ἄλλα καὶ ἡ γνώσις. See also Rom. 6, 1–23 and Theol. Wörterbuch z. N.T. II 492–500, s.v. ἐλεύθερος (Schlier).