An upper part of a slightly tapered limestone stele badly weathered, worn, and scratched, found in 1975, 700 meters northeast of the ancient theater at Megalopolis where it had been left by a shepherd. The original provenance is unknown. The stone is unevenly broken below; the top, left, and right sides are preserved; the preserved back is rough-picked. The inscribed face is worn to the extent of being at times almost unreadable. The stone is now cemented into a base which conceals the lower part of the letters in the last line.

H. 0.64, W. 0.545 (top), 0.572 (bottom), Th. 0.14 (top), 0.154 (bottom) L.H. ca. 0.02, Φ 0.024, Ω, Θ, and some Ωs ca. 0.012–0.015. Interlinear space 0.01. Upper margin ca. 0.035.

Megalopolis, Archaeological Museum. Inv. 133.


Photograph: Te Riele 1978, 327 (fair).

c. 200 a.

Στάλα ἰσίου Σαράπιου. Θεός· τύχα ἀγαθά. Ἰερὸν ἁγιὸν ἰσίου Σαράπιος Ἀναυβίος. ¹ Εἰσπορεύεσθαι εἰς τὸ ἱερὸν τὸν βουλόμενον ὡς καθαρίζοντα ἀπὸ μὲν λέξιος ἐναταίναι, ἀπὸ δὲ διϊσφήτεματος ² τεσσαράκοντα

¹ Summary.
² Egyptian cults in Arcadia.
καὶ τέσσαρες ἁμέρας, ἀπὸ δὲ τῶν
φυσικῶν ἐβδομάδαις, ἀπὸ φηνον(?)
ἐπὶ ἁμέρας, ἀπὸ δὲ αἰγέων καὶ
προβατέου τριτάων, ἀπὸ δὲ τῶν
λοιπῶν βρωμάτων ἐκ κεφαλάς
λουσάμενον αὐθημερί, ἀπὸ δὲ
ἀφροδίσιον αὐθημερίας λουσάμενον, ἀπὸ ΠΑΘΙΝής ΙΑΜΕΙΓΑΝ

10 ἑπτὰ ἁμέρας, ἀπὸ αἰγέων καὶ
προβατάτων τριτάων, ἀπὸ δὲ τῶν

16 ΜΩΛΑΝ αὐθημερί λουσάμενον
[-------] εἰσπορεύσαμαι [-------]
[-------] ΕΩΝΠΟ[-------] [-------]
20 [-------] ΣΘΕ[-------]

Restorations. Suppl. Te Riele. | 17 fortasse μηδὲ (vel sim.) εἰσπορεύσαμαι μηδένι[α- - - ] L.

Epigraphical Commentary. I have seen the stone. I have not given an account of each and
every disagreement with the first edition in respect to dotted letters. A small middle
point appears in some of the omicrons. Alpha with a broken crossbar; some serifs.

7 A crack in the stone coincides with the vacant space.
9 The vacant space coincides with a crack. ἐβδομάδαις: ΕΒΔΟΜΑΙΑΝ. The iota
which had been left out was inscribed above the line. The stone is extremely
worn past ΑΠΙΟ. Te Riele prints φηνον(?) The only secure letter seemed to me
to be an omicron, 0.055 to the right of ΑΠΙΟ. The upsilon-like traces visible
in Te Riele’s photograph to the right of this secure omicron may not be an
upsilon, which has a different shape in this inscription. If this is a genuine
upsilon, and it is the last letter of a word, a vacat has to be assumed at the
end of the line. A possible loop appears 0.025 to the right of ΑΠΙΟ preceded by
what could be an upper part of a vertical stroke but the traces are confusing.

15 The lacuna is followed by a vertical stroke which could be a part of a letter. Ε:
the vertical and the outer horizontal strokes seem secure. Te Riele suggests that
a N or an H might be possible. Η: A rather slim N or, less likely, H is perhaps
not entirely impossible.

16 ΜΩΛΑΝ: A dot appears in the middle of the Ο; Α: Α; Ν (so Te Riele): doubtful
traces. Last trace: Υ Te Riele.
17 η: a bottom of a left vertical seems to appear: Μ Te Riele.
19 First trace: Μ Te Riele.

Translation

Stele of Isis and Sarapis. God! Good luck. A sanctuary sacred to
Isis, Sarapis, Anoubis. (3) Whoever wishes to sacrifice shall enter the
sanctuary, being pure: From3 childbirth on the ninth day; from an

3 Or: after.