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A NOTE ON THE SUBSCRIPTION OF THE VISION OF DOROTHEOS

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A Note on the Subscription of the Vision of Dorotheos

Both the editio princeps and the recent re-edition with translation of the newly published poem Vision of Dorotheos record the explicit after line 343 as θοσ, i.e. θ(εός), "Jesus is God". This is unparalleled. Both the plate (Pl. V) in the edition and autopic inspection of the papyrus with a magnifying lens reveal that the seemingly curved-plus-straight element to the left of the vertical hasta of what is read as the iota of θ(εός) is not the same as the other Ы-shaped elements that surround in four lines the words of the subscription τελος η ορα-σεως | δυσροθεου κυιντου ποιητων.[4] The element in question has two parts, made in two strokes, unlike the other Ы-shaped surround elements that are written in one stroke. Clearly the upper part belongs with the vertical hasta, while it is the lower part only that forms part of the surround. This gives a ι, yielding the justifiable reading of ἀπο the common isopsephism ἀπο = 99 = ἁμήν. "Amen. End of the vision of Dorotheos (son) of Quintus, the poet."

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2 A. Hurst et al., Vision de Dorothéos (P. Bodmer 29; Geneva 1984) 76-77, 90.

3 A.H.M. Kessels, P.W. van der Horst, Vig. Chr. 41 (1987) 344-345. Nor was this fact noticed in the exhaustive critique of E. Livrea, Gnomon 58 (1986) esp. 706, 711.

4 The upsilon should really be bracketed, not dotted.