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A NOTE ON THE SUBSCRIPTION OF THE *VISION OF DOROTHEOS*

aus: Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik 83 (1990) 292

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A Note on the Subscription of the *Vision of Dorotheos*¹

Both the editio princeps² and the recent re-edition with translation³ of the newly published poem *Vision of Dorotheos* record the *explicit* after line 343 as $\overline{\tau\theta}$, i.e. Ἰ(ησοῦς) θ(εός), "Jesus is God". This is unparalleled. Both the plate (Pl. V) in the edition and autoptic 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 Ἰ(ησοῦς) is not the same as the other ζ -shaped elements that surround in four lines the words of the subscription $\tau\epsilon\lambda\omicron\varsigma\ \tau\eta\varsigma\ \omicron\rho\alpha\text{-}\varsigma\epsilon\omega\varsigma\ |\ \lambda\omega\rho\theta\epsilon\omicron\upsilon\ \kappa\upsilon\iota\tau\omicron\upsilon\ \rho\omicron\iota\eta\tau\omicron\upsilon[\gamma]$.⁴ The element in question has two parts, made in two strokes, unlike the other ζ -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 ς , yielding the justifiable reading of $\overline{\tau\theta}$ the common isopsephism $\overline{\tau\theta} = 99 = \acute{\alpha}\mu\eta\nu$. "Amen. End of the vision of Dorotheos (son) of Quintus, the poet."

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¹ I should like to thank the Bodmer Library, Dr. H. Braun, and the Fondation Hardt for making my autoptic study of the Codex of Visions possible; and Dominic Montserrat, Georgina Robinson-Fantoni, and Lucas Siorvanes for their helpful discussion.

² A. Hurst *et al.*, *Vision de Dorotheos* (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.