

# WOMEN'S LITERACY

IN THE

# ANCIENT GRECO-ROMAN WORLD

**BY ISABELLA BRODLO**

A study about women's literacy and agency from around the 4th century BCE to the 6th century CE.

# HISTORY OF WOMEN'S LITERACY



<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/history-magazine/article/revealing-the-hidden-lives-of-ancient-greek-women>

<http://archaeologicalnerdiness.blogspot.com/2017/01/historical-women-merit-ptah.html?sref=pi>

# HISTORY OF WOMEN'S LITERACY



<https://rosaliegilbert.com/education.html>



<https://www.history.com/news/women-education-medieval-nuns-church>

# HISTORY OF WOMEN'S LITERACY

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<https://www.theatlantic.com/sexes/archive/2013/02/a-new-book-that-finally-tells-the-truth-about-the-rise-of-women/273342/>

<https://time.com/5797922/women-higher-education-history/>

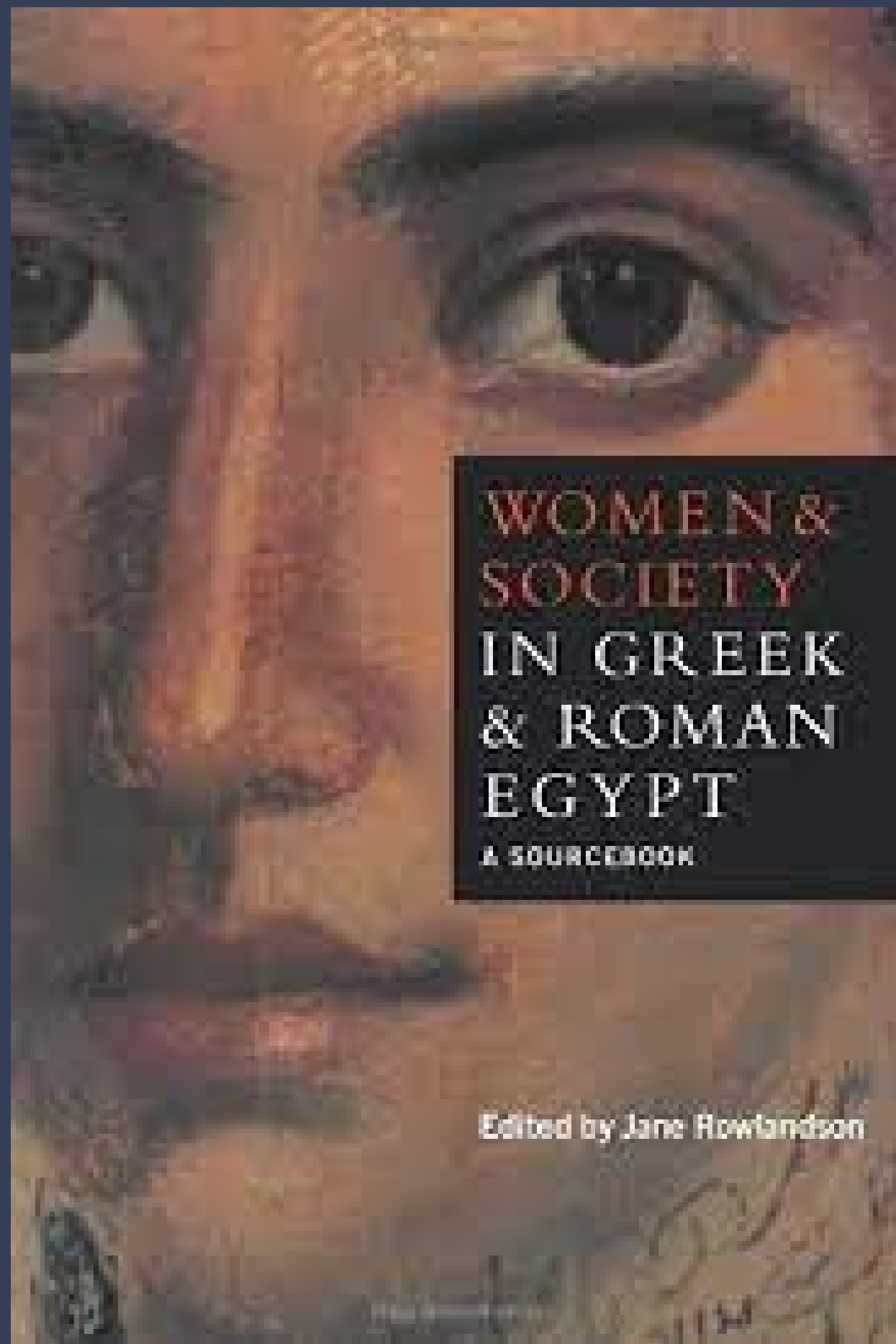


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**WHY DOES IT  
MATTER?**

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**LITERACY**  
**= AGENCY**



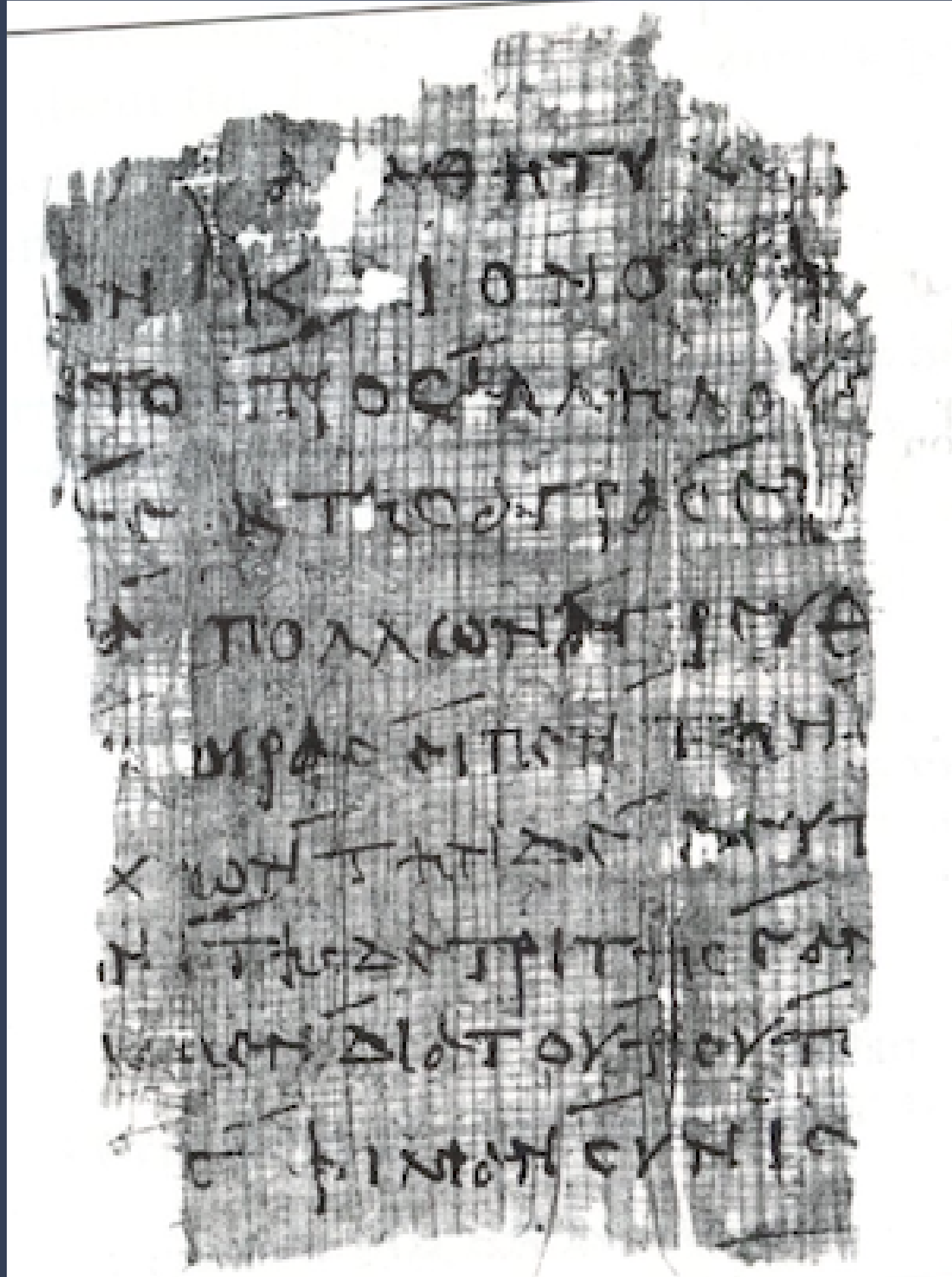
WOMEN &  
SOCIETY  
IN GREEK  
& ROMAN  
EGYPT  
A SOURCEBOOK

Edited by Jane Rowlandson

# WOMEN & SOCIETY IN GREEK & ROMAN EGYPT: A SOURCEBOOK

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# WOMEN & SOCIETY IN GREEK & ROMAN EGYPT: A SOURCEBOOK

## PETITION BY TWO SISTERS TO THE STRATEGOS ABOUT A MISAPPROPRIATED INHERITANCE - KARANIS, C. AD 298

To Aurelius Heron, strategos of the Arsinoite nome, from Aurelia Taësis and Aurelia Kyrillous, both daughters of Kopres from the village of Karanis. Our father, noblest of strategoi, left some movable property when he died. But his brother Chairemon appropriated all that he left, and handed over to us, the women, arable arouras of public land, although we are not able to meet the rents on these arouras. And at that time we approached the headman of the village who was then in office, Serenos alias Harpokras; and he ordered him to hand over to us all the property left by our father. But he (*Chairemon*) takes no thought for us, and therefore we include an inventory of the estate, and beg and beseech your clemency to order him, namely Chairemon, to hand these things over to us so that we may be able to have the benefit of our own property. Farewell. This is the property: 61 full-grown sheep; 40 full-grown goats; 1 grinding-mill; and 3 talents of silver; and 2 artabas of wheat; and two slaves, of which he has sold one, a female.

# WOMEN & SOCIETY IN GREEK & ROMAN EGYPT: A SOURCEBOOK

## 32. Prophetess of Jeme

(End of) *P.Lond.dem.* IV 6.9

Jeme, 175 BC

In Thebes, under the Ptolemies, the main priestess of the temple guaranteed contracts drawn up by temple scribes; the formula quoted here comes from the foot of a Demotic cession (transfer) of tombs between funerary workers. Jeme (Memnoneia in Greek; cf. **6.244**) was the Egyptian name for the area around the temple of Ramses III at Medinet Habu, on the west bank of Thebes. For a wife of the chief priest at Memphis, the 'rival' centre of Egyptian religion, see **39**.

Amenothes son of Totoes has written this; he writes in the name of the agents of the prophetess of Jeme.

# WOMEN & SOCIETY IN GREEK & ROMAN EGYPT: A SOURCEBOOK

## A DIVORCE AGREEMENT - HERMOPOLIS, SIXTH-EIGHT CENTURY AD

I, Dophile, daughter of the late Antone, man of Shmoun,<sup>1</sup> write to my husband [. . .], the son of George of Shmoun, saying: [Since] I was given to him as wife, I did not remain with him and I [decided] to leave him. We agreed with each other and were separated from each other. If you want to take (another) wife, I shall not be able to prosecute you. And if you want to take her as wife, namely Doketsh, I shall not ever be able to prosecute you. If I want to prosecute you myself, I shall pay six solidi without (recourse to) judgement or law. By almighty God and the health of those who [rule] over us, I swear that I shall not ever take action against you.

*(2nd hand)* †I, Dophile, daughter of the [late] Antone man of Shmoun, I agree to this (?) as it is written.†

*(3rd hand?)* †I, Kosma, son of the late [Apa] Kyre man of Shmoun, I am witness.†

*(3rd hand?)* †I, Shenoute, son of the late Johannes man of [Shmoun], I am witness.†

<sup>1</sup> The Coptic name for Hermopolis.

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VOLUME 127

NUMBER 1

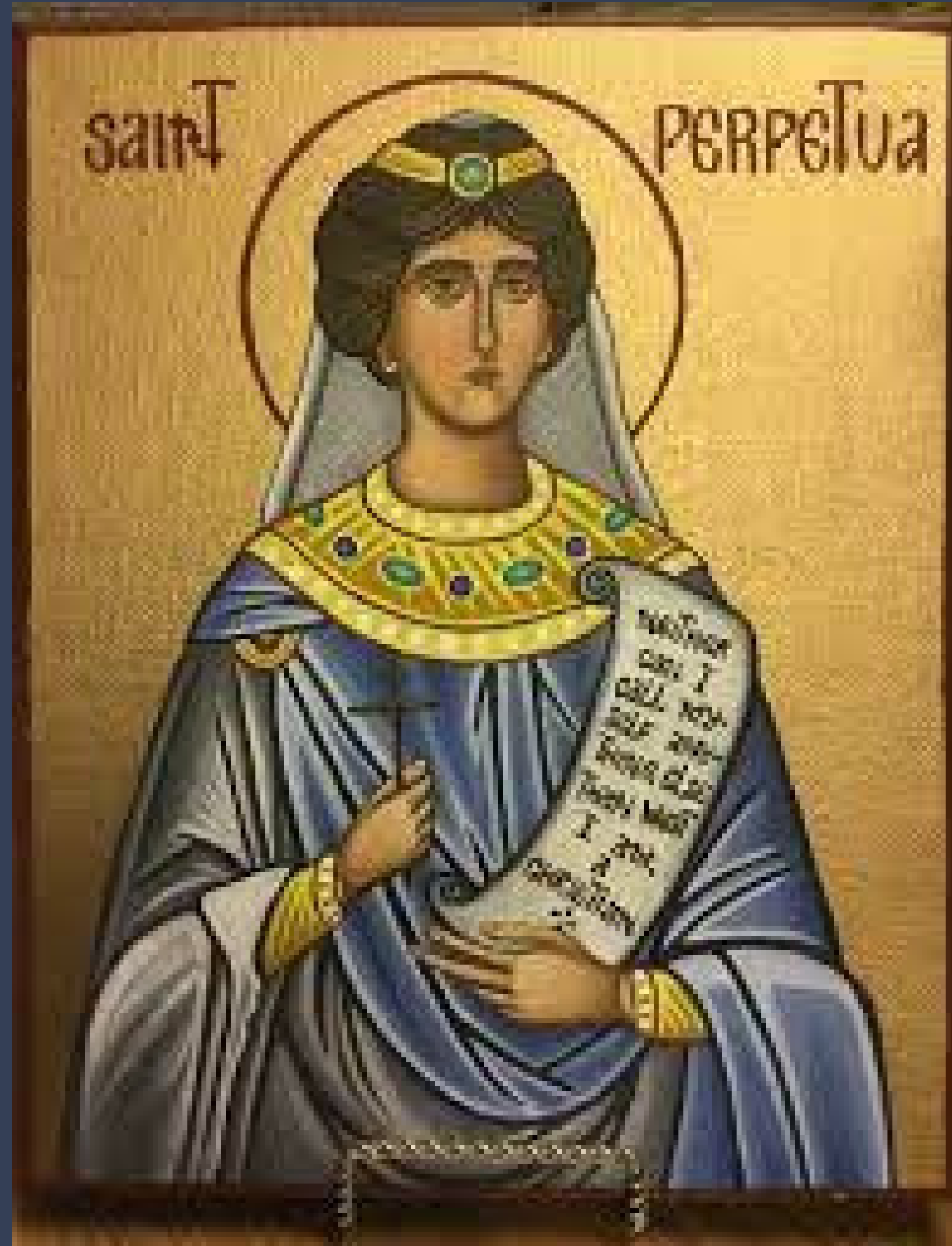
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# THE PASSION OF PERPETUA

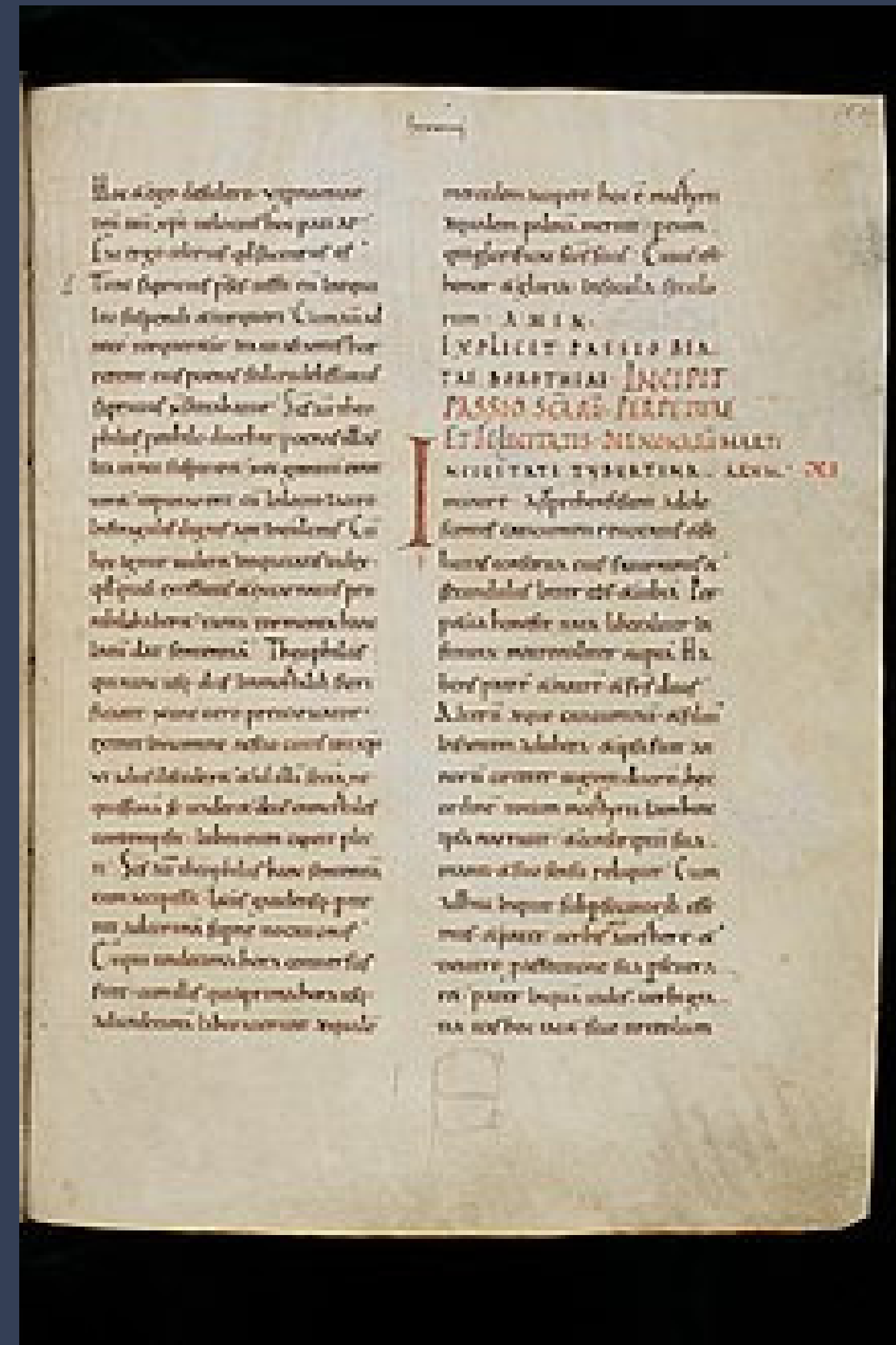
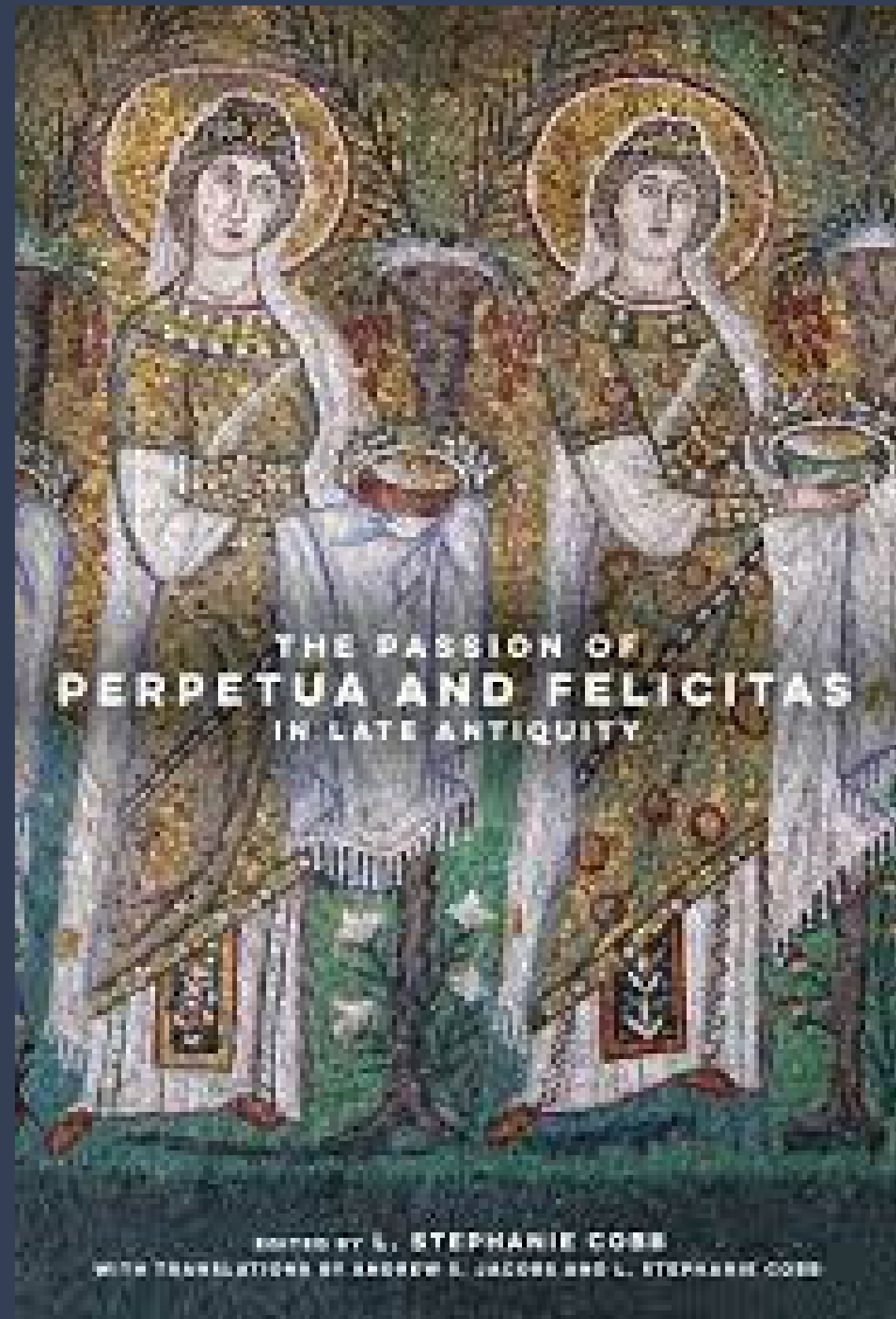
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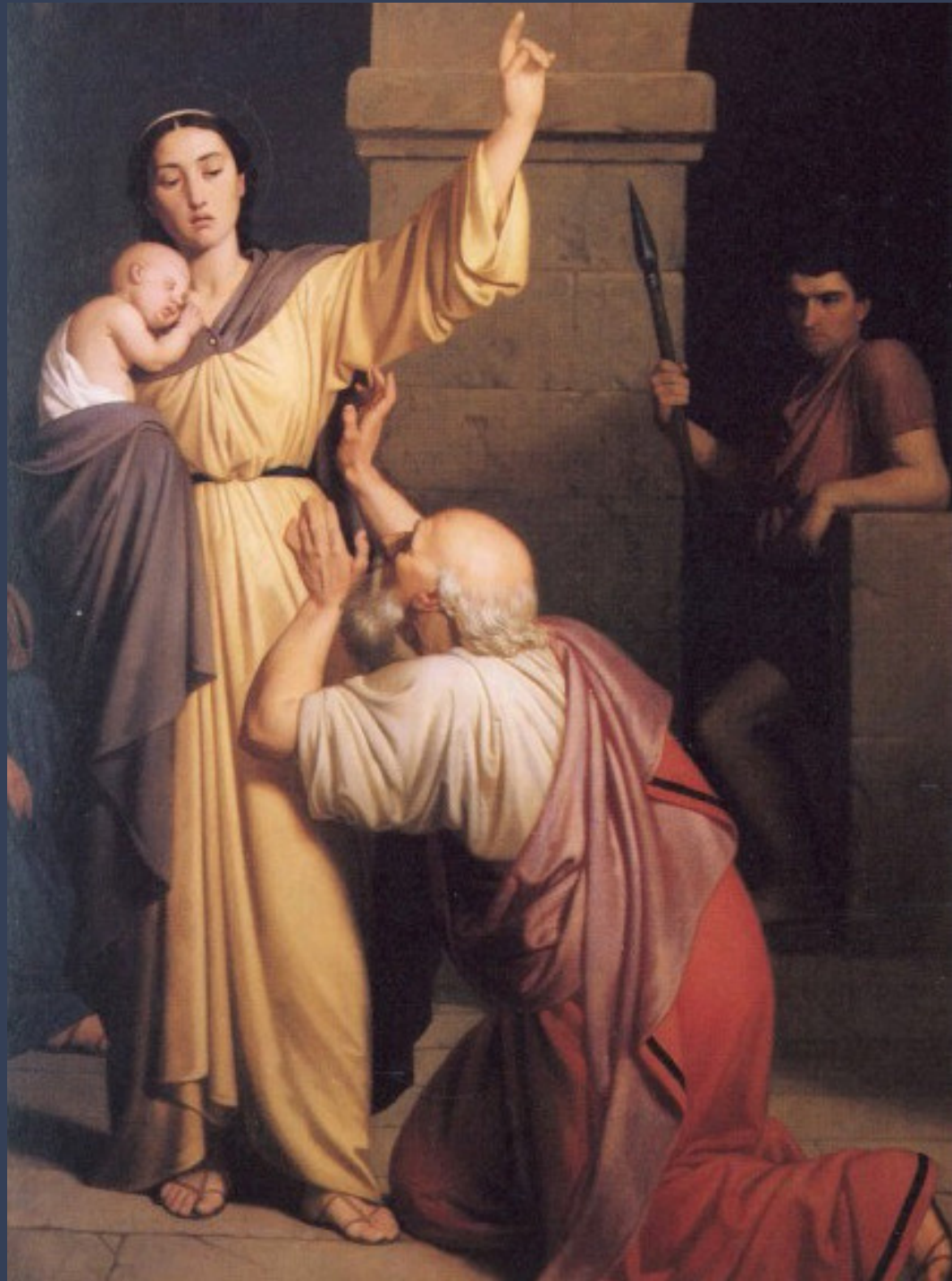


# THE PASSION OF PERPETUA



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<https://www.plough.com/en/topics/faith/witness/perpetua>

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**THANK YOU!**

**BY ISABELLA BRODLO**

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