

THE SHEPHERD AND THE ICHTHUS EPITAPH OF ABERKIOS

MY name is Aberkios. I am a disciple of the chaste Shepherd who feedeth his flocks on the mountains and plains and hath great eyes that look on all things. He instructed me in the sure Word of Life . . . And faith everywhere was my guide and everywhere gave me for food the Ichthus, the fish mighty and pure out of the spring. The unsullied virgin took the Ichthus and gave it to eat to her friends for ever. She had the choicest wine and ministered it, mixed with water, together with the bread. I, Aberkios, being myself present, dictated these things at the age of seventy-two years. Let him who understandeth all this and thinketh in like manner pray for Aberkios.

—Epitaph of Aberkios, ‘The Shepherd and the Ichthus,’ text 13 in *Love of Christ*, ed. Lev Gillet (London: A. R. Mowbray, 1961), 13–14.

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