and made of gold threads. And with such honor, she sent him off under the protection of her soldiers.

247 And when the king had gone the indicated number of days, he reached those wonderful caves where Candaules had told him the gods congregate. He entered with a few soldiers, and he saw a starlit haze. And the roof-tops were shining as if lit by stars. The external forms of the gods were physically manifest and a crowd was serving in silence. At first he was frightened and surprised. But he stayed to see what would happen, for he saw some reclining figures, whose eyes were shining like beams of light. And there was one who said: "Glad greetings, Alexander. Do you know who I am?" He said, "No, my lord." The other said: "I am Sesonchousis, the world-conquering king who has joined the ranks of the gods. But I was not so fortunate as you, for you will have an immortal name even after death." And I asked, "How is that, my lord?" He replied: "For although I conquered the whole world and subjugated so many peoples, nobody knows my name. But you shall have great renown for building in Egypt the city of Sk'andaria, which is dear to the gods, and also Souttloys, Ialan, Draul, Loudal. Now enter within and you shall see the creator and overseer of the entire universe."[1]

248 The king went within and saw a fire-bright haze and, seated on a throne, the god whom he had once seen being worshiped by men in Rokotide, that is, the lord Sarapis. He said: "How is this, O Lord, divine offspring of untainted nature? I saw you near the land of the Libyans seated on a throne, and now I see you here once again." And Sesonchousis, who was standing close to him, said to Alexander: "He is seen everywhere, though he is fixed in one spot; just as the sky is seen everywhere though it is set fast at a certain height in the firmament."

249 And Alexander said, "Lord, God, how many years shall I live?" And Sesonchousis said: "It is well for mortal man not to know when he is to die. For in waiting for that one day, he is dead from the day he has found out. While to be