

Bishop Ignatius (3:d of Antioch) writing to his teacher Apostle John.

His friend Ignatius to John the holy Elder.

If you will let me go, I desire to go up to Jerusalem, and see the faithful saints who are there, especially Mary the mother, whom they report to be an object of admiration and of affection to all.

For who would not rejoice to behold and to address her who bore the true God from her own womb, provided he is a friend of our faith and religion?

And in like manner [I desire to see] the venerable James, who is surnamed Just, whom they relate to be very like Christ Jesus in appearance, in life, and in method of conduct, as if he were a twin-brother of the same womb.

They say that, if I see him, I see also Jesus Himself, as to all the features and aspect of His body.

Moreover, [I desire to see] the other saints, both male and female.
Alas! Why do I delay? Why am I kept back?

Kind teacher, bid me hasten, and fare thou well {=a perfect health}.
Amen.