



EGERIA

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d. 400?

Pilgrim

- ✦ Name, identity and era unknown
- ✦ Once assumed to be Spanish abbess
- ✦ Now thought to be upper-bourgeois laywoman, possibly French (compares Euphrates to Rhône)
- ✦ Pilgrimage lasted more than three years (381-4?)
- ✦ Visits holy sites from Sinai to Constantinople
- ✦ Describes Holy Week services in Jerusalem
- ✦ Manuscript discovered in 1884

Now as soon as the first cock has crowed, the bishop arrives and enters the cave at the Anastasis; all the doors are opened and the whole multitude enters the Anastasis, where countless lights are already burning. . . After these three psalms and three prayers are ended, lo! censers are brought into the cave of the Anastasis so that the whole basilica of the Anastasis is filled with odours. And then the bishop, standing within the rails, takes the book of the Gospel, and proceeding to the door, himself reads the [narrative of the] Resurrection of the Lord. And when the reading is begun, there is so great a moaning and groaning among all, with so many tears, that the hardest of heart might be moved to tears for that the Lord had borne such things for us.

Egeria's Pilgrimage, XXIV 9-10