Second major tyrant after Archias: these are Thebans who are running Sparta's occupation government.

[6] While Theocritus was talking, Leontiadas and his friends emerged. We then went in, and greeted Simmias. He was sitting on his bed. I don't think he had succeeded in his appeal, for he was very sad and thoughtful.

'Heracles!' he cried, as he looked at us all, 'what cruel, savage ways! Old Thales was right. When he came home after a long time abroad, and his friends asked him what was the most extraordinary thing he had found, he replied "A tyrant grown old." Even if one has suffered no personal injustice, disgust for the mere burdensomeness and unpleasantness of living with such people makes one an enemy of unconstitutional and irresponsible power. But maybe God will take care of that. Caphisias,' he went on, 'do you and your family know who this stranger is who is visiting you?'

'I don't know who you mean,' I said.

'Well, according to Leontiadas, a man has been seen at Lysis' tomb, getting up before daybreak, an impressive figure, with a large number of attendants; he seems to have spent the night there in the open, on a makeshift bed; for a bed of *agnus castus**

a shrub with anti-aphrdodisiac propreties

and tamarisk was found, with traces of burnt offerings and libations of milk. In the morning, this man asked the passers-by whether he might find the sons of Polymnis at home.'

'Who could it be?' said I: 'from what you say, he is some exceptional personage, not an ordinary individual'.

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on our return voyage from Egypt, we were met in Caria by a group of Delians, who asked Plato, because he was a mathematician, to explain an odd oracle that the god had given them. The oracle said that Delos and the rest of Greece would have rest from their present troubles "if they doubled the altar at Delos".* They were quite unable to understand the meaning; indeed they made an exhibition of their stupidity by what they did to the altar, for they doubled each of its four sides, unaware that they were thereby creating a solid eight times the size of the original. This was due to their ignorance of the proportionals by which the linear duplication is obtained. They therefore called Plato to their aid. He remembered the Egyptian, and declared that the god was alluding to the Greeks' neglect of education, ridiculing our ignorance and bidding us give priority to the study of geometry. No weak or dull mind, but only one well trained in the use of geometrical diagrams, could comprehend the method of finding two mean proportionals, which is the only way in which a cube can be doubled in volume by means of an equal extension of each dimension. Eudoxus of Cnidus or Helicon

The problem of doubling the square was a celebrated one, requiring an understanding of $\sqrt{2}$ and the discovery of irrational numbers