

So there were these two aspects. On the positive aspect not just towards Christianity but toward his own pagan ideas, he proceeded to hold ceremonies with much dignity and put every effort to make them very attractive; killed dozens and dozens of cows with his own hands to sacrifice them to the gods and carried on the divination and all that so you can see how he saved money by doing away with the luxuries of the imperial court; then spent it on sacrifices and exalting the ancient deities. Then he invited the philosophers to come to the court and let them live in the palace where he could discuss philosophy with them and where they could join with him in advancing paganism. Here was one of his grave disappointments. His pagan philosophers were going around in rags and were presenting their views as if this was the answer to life - got into the palace and had enough to eat; luxurious food and a chance to enjoy themselves - many couldn't resist putting that first. He found that the bulk of them given the opportunity of luxury, gave way to it ~~and became~~ so completely ~~asleep~~ that they weren't interested in discussing philosophy with him. He himself thought that this habit of the court before, all these washings and bathings, perfumings, everything so beautiful - was just Christian weakness and it would take pagan strength to show this wrong. Just bathing enough for hygiene was plenty in Julian's mind. But he found people were ridiculing for his long beard and other mannerisms. The pagan people were making fun and there was not strength of conviction such as he had in the pagan groups. They were shot through with unbelief in the things they were supposed to stand for and most of their people were also grabbing at the chances of luxury. He just couldn't find the type of sincere support for the advancement of paganism that he wanted. So ~~with~~ his positive plans for advancing paganism were very disappointing to him in their results. Now as to the negative side of his advancing of Paganism -