

Apollonius Tyanaeus
On imagination and imitation



True Imagination is pregnant with wisdom and genius

Imagination wrought these works [of artists like Phidias or Praxiteles], a wiser and subtler artist by far than imitation; for imitation can only create as its handiwork what it has seen, but imagination equally what it has not seen; for it will conceive of its ideal with reference to the reality, and imitation is often baffled by terror, but imagination by nothing; for it marches undismayed to the goal which it has itself laid down.¹



¹ Philostratus, *Apollonius of Tyana*, Vol. II, Bk. VI, § 19, p. 79; tr. Conybeare. [For further insights on the splendour of true imagination, see *Compassion the Spirit of Truth*, 2nd ed. 2009, Ch. 8 Tips for Pilgrim Souls, § “Validate Imagination by Faith and Will,” pp. 258-72, in our Major Works.

