

the revelations in the auguries? the visions of divine beings actually seen? All the world is full of these things. How many cities have been founded at the bidding of an oracle? How many rescued from plague and famine? How many have perished miserably when the oracle's commands were neglected? Princes have flourished or fallen. Childless parents have obtained their wishes. The sick and maimed have recovered health and strength. Blasphemers have gone mad confessing their crimes. Others have killed themselves, or fallen into mortal illness; some have been slain on the spot by an awful sentence out of the shrine.

You tell of the eternal torments which await the wicked. You say no more than the interpreters of the Mysteries. But the penalties which you pronounce against them, the chiefs of the Mysteries pronounce against you. Why should you be more right than they? They and you are equally confident in your message; and they as well as you have their miracles and prophecies. For your message in itself (I do not speak to such of you as are troubled about a bodily resurrection; with them it is vain to reason), to those among you who believe that the soul or intellect is immortal (intellectual spirit, holy or