

A voice explains to Timarchus that the...

Moon belongs to the *daimones* of the Earth. She barely escapes Styx, and is caught once in every 177 secondary measures.* And when Styx comes near, the souls howl in terror. Many of them slip, and Hades catches them. But the Moon rescues others as they swim up from below. These are they for whom the end of Becoming has come. The foul and unpurified, however, she will not receive. She flashes and roars at them most horribly, and will not let them near her. They lament their fate and are borne away down there once again, to another birth, as you can see." "All I can see", said Timarchus, "is a lot of stars dancing around the chasm, some diving in, others darting up again from below." "Those are the *daimones*," said the voice, "though you do not recognize them. This is how it is. Every soul has some part in Intellect. There is no soul without Reason or Intellect, though the part of the soul that combines with the flesh and its passions is changed by pleasure and pain into an irrational thing. This combining, however, is not always of the same kind. Some souls sink entirely into the body, the confusion extends throughout their whole being, and they are at the mercy of emotions throughout their existence. Others merge in the body to

177 days =
six months,
the period
between
lunar eclipses

some extent, but leave their purest element outside, and this is not dragged down with the rest, but floats on the surface as it were, attached to the head of the sinking man and keeping his soul upright, raising up as much of it as is obedient to its pull and is not under the domination of the passions. The part submerged in the body is what is called 'soul'; the part that survives destruction is called 'intellect' by most people, who believe it to be inside themselves, just as they believe reflections to be inside mirrors. Those who have the right view, however, call it *daimon*, and know it is outside them.

How does this vision of souls after death confirm Simmias' conception of consciousness on p. 105?

At this, Timarchus (as he told us) looked more closely and saw some of the stars tossing about more violently than others, like the buoys we see marking nets 592 in the sea. Some were describing an irregular and confused spiral, like a spindle as the thread is spun, and seemed unable to stabilize their motion in any straight path. The voice explained that those who exhibited a straight, orderly movement had souls made responsive to the rein by good breeding and education, and an irrational element which was not unduly obstinate or savage. Those which swerved up and down, up and down, in a confused and irregular fashion, as though tearing themselves away from their bonds, were in fact struggling against characters made disobedient and uncontrollable by lack of education, sometimes successfully guiding their course to the right, sometimes twisted by emotion and dragged down by wrongdoing, and then making further efforts to resist and force their way up.