

"These souls which you see", the voice went on, "are brought to heel and stabilized in the end, however long it takes. It is among those who are responsive and obedient to the *daimon* from the start that we find the race of prophets and inspired men.

You will know more about these things, young man, in two months' time. You may go for the present." The voice stopped. Timarchus wanted to turn round and see who the speaker was. But he again felt a violent pain in his head, as though it was being forcibly squashed together. He lost consciousness; but after a little while he came to again, and found himself lying in the Cave of Trophonius, near the entrance, just where he had lain down in the first place.

[23] 'Well, that was Timarchus' story. He returned to Athens, and died two months later, just as the voice had foretold. We told Socrates the strange tale, and he reproved us for not telling him while Timarchus was alive, because he would have liked to hear it from his own lips and question him in more detail. And so, Theocritus, you have your myth, and your argument too. But perhaps we should ask our guest to join our discussion. This a theme very appropriate to a holy man.'

'Why doesn't Epaminondas offer his opinion?' said the stranger; 'he has had the same training as I have.'

My father smiled. 'That's his way, sir,' he said, 'silent and cautious in speech, but insatiable in learning and listening.

593 Spintharus of Tarentum, who spent a long time with him here, says that he never met anyone who knew more and said less than Epaminondas. Pray tell us what you think yourself about what has been said.'

Theanor praises Simmias' account by relating it to something more familiar, horse breeding and training:

And just as horse-fanciers do not take equal care for every specimen of the species, but are always choosing and selecting the best, and training, rearing, and cherishing them above all others, so those who are above us put their brand, as it were, on the best of the herd, and think they deserve special guidance. They use no reins or halters, of course, but guide them by reason, using secret signs of which the common herd have no experience.