

Structure of "On Socrates' Personal Deity"

*There is a work of Plutarch's about Socrates...
the whole of it depends upon Epaminondas.*
—Montaigne, *Essais*, "Of vanity."

Prologue: distinguishing individuals in a crowd akin to appraising a crowded historical painting.

Revolt of Thebes against tyrants: broad outlines.

Theocritus: Charon vs. Epaminondas; Caphisias: principles of Epaminondas' non-participation.

1st alarm: Archias questions Theocritus on ill omens.

Philosophy: interpretations of antique inscriptions, oracle at Delos;
Galaxidorus accepts reading external "signs" when reason cannot
decide—though he attacks superstitious interpretation of them.

Theocritus objects: Socrates' Dæmon / Genius; story of pigs and a sneeze:
external sign or internal one?

Interruption: Theanor arrives to repay family for sheltering Lysis.

Epaminondas on refusing gifts: internal training by reason
to do the right thing.

Theanor reappraises Epaminondas.

2nd alarm: Hipposthenidas' superstition over external signs
unnerves discipline; panicked, he has warned away exiles.

Interruption: Chlidon was unable to leave—his wife had lent his
bridle, conspiracy not called off, after all.

Simmias: Socrates' dæmon (personal deity) was an internal sign;
the myth of Timarchus.

Religion: Theanor defends interpretation of internal "signs" as purposeful
communication by deities. Epaminondas gives a sign that it is time to act.

Epaminondas: refuses again to join the plot, states the principles of his non-participation.

3rd alarm: Archias summons Charon; Archias refuses to read letter of warning.

Revolt of Thebes against tyrants: specifics of the action, rebel Cephisodorus dies happy.

Crowd gathers in confusion at the agora (central market / public square of ancient Greek cities) under
Epaminondas' direction; frightened Spartans concede defeat.