## 3. The death of Socrates

When Socrates had done speaking, for a considerable time there was silence; then he continued:
'Have we not found a path of thought that leads us to the conclusion that while we are in the body, and while the soul is infected with the evils of the body, our desire will not be satisfied? And our desire is of the truth. If we would have pure knowledge of anything, we must be quit of the body. The soul in herself must behold things in themselves,
And then we shall attain the wisdom we desire, and of which we say we are lovers; and thus we shall be pure, and hold converse with the pure, and know of ourselves The pure light everywhere, which is no other than the light of truth.

Let us reflect in another way; and we shall see that there is great reason to hope that death is a good; either death is a state of nothingness and utter unconsciousness, or, as men say, there is a change and migration of the soul from this world to another. Now, if you suppose that there is no consciousness, but a sleep like the sleep of him Who is undisturbed, even by dreams, death will be an unspeakable gain, for eternity is then only a single night.
But if death is a journey to another place, and there, as men say, the dead abide, what good, O my friends, can be greater than this?
Therefore be of good cheer about death; and know of a certainty that no evil can happen to a good man, either in life, or after death.

The hour of departure has arrived, and we go our ways;
I to die, and you to live. Which is better God alone knows.'





















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