

## Some Greco-Roman views of the afterlife

1. **HOMER:** As “shades” (*skiai*), “ghosts” (*psuchai*), “phantoms” (*eidola*): living a shadowy existence in the underworld (Hades), occasionally visible to the living.
2. **POETS:** pictures of ongoing life as “normal” beyond the grave
3. **PLATO (GREEK) AND SENECA (ROMAN):** the immortality of the “soul” (*psuchē*) released from “imprisonment” in the body
4. **STOICS (E.G., CICERO):** temporary afterlife for the “soul” until the rebirth of the universe in a primitive fire, other than some “virtuous” who would experience unending joy among the stars
5. **DIVINATION OF EMPERORS** alongside “gods” and “heroes”
6. **EPICUREANS (E.G., LUCRETIUS):** denial of, even mockery of, any afterlife
7. **VARIETY OF POPULAR VIEWS:** most people did (do) not read philosophers, poets or propagandists 😊