

Philosophical Implications of the Afterlife in Greek and Roman Literature

Research Question: How was the afterlife depicted in Greek/Roman literature and how did the philosophy at that time influence those depictions?

Thesis: This paper looks at the intersection between literature and philosophy when discussing the afterlife, with analysis on their reasoning and comparison between these differences



THE ODYSSEY

- contains the first written record of a Greek afterlife
- very basic structure with no ideas of posthumous punishment

THE MYTH OF ER

- gives a more structured description of the afterlife
- souls are now sorted based on their lives and how they died
- compare to pythagorean ideas about reincarnation



THE AENEID

- carries over similar ideas from the Myth of Er
- provides more information on traveling to the afterlife
- contrasts epicurean ideas about morality and the soul