

**FORERUNNERS OF DANTE: AN  
ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE  
MORE IMPORTANT VISIONS OF  
THE UNSEEN WORLD, FROM THE  
EARLIEST TIMES**

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Forerunners of Dante: An Account of Some of the More Important Visions of the Unseen World, from the Earliest Times by Marcus Dods

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FORERUNNERS OF DANTE

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BY

MARCUS DODS

M.A. (EDIN.), B.A. (CANTAB.)

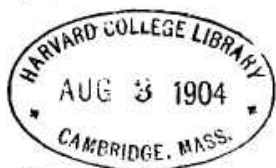
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*"And is it likely that the soul, which is invisible, in passing to the place of the true Hades, which like her is invisible, and pure, and noble, and on her way to the good and wise God, whither, if God will, my soul is also soon to go,—that the soul, I repeat, if this be her nature and origin, will be blown away and destroyed immediately on quitting the body, as the many say? That can never be*

*But then, O my friends, he said, if the soul is really immortal, what care should be taken of her, not only in respect of the portion of time which is called life, but of eternity! And the danger of neglecting her from this point of view does indeed appear to be awful. If death had only been the end of all, the wicked would have had a good bargain in dying, for they would have been happily quit not only of their body, but of their own evil together with their souls. But now, inasmuch as the soul is manifestly immortal, there is no release or salvation from evil except the attainment of the highest virtue and wisdom. For the soul when on her progress to the world below takes nothing with her but nurture and education; and these are said greatly to benefit or greatly to injure the departed, at the very beginning of his journey thither."*

SOCRATES, in the *Phædo* (Jowett).





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