

- Socrates says that death will spare him from suffering the misery of old age
- Socratic agnosticism and positivity → death might be a change of location
- Now Socrates is ready to irritate the underworld → underlines how important his mission is because he is ready to carry on his mission among the dead

What did Plato think he was doing by scripting Socrates in three parts?

- The 'Apology' revisits the events instead of just recording them in order to
 - Write Socrates a more effective defense for the court rather than the one he actually gave
 - Write a more effective defence for posterity in general, forgetting about what might or might not have actually worked in court
- And why might this have mattered to Plato?
 - To take revenge on Athens
 - To show that Socrates wasn't a loser
 - To articulate an ideal of life that he was himself developing

The question of what am I doing as a philosopher and my relationship to the city of Athens → key questions for Plato

- Evident in Plato, Epistle 7
 - Recalls soul searching and whether to take part in the political life of Athens
 - Shows that Plato went through a stressful life to decide what kind of life he wanted to live
 - One could argue that the 'Apology' is an example of a medium of working out whether to live the life of a good Athenian or a philosopher
 - But the status of the 7th letter is debated - some people think he wrote it; others think (including Dr Trapp) that it is not his genuine opinion
- The reflective nature of the 'Apology' gives it a biographical feel
 - Greek culture did not have anything like a biography until Plato and Xenophon started writing

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