

Precis

The fear of humans being when faced with the mysteries of life and their weakness by comparison with the vastness of nature created in them a need to communicate with the divine. With the supervisor powers which they believed regulated the universe and determined their own fates. Knowledge of wishes of the gods was always a sure guide for human behavior. In ancient Greece, the precise nature of these wishes was 'decoded' by the art of giving oracles, practiced by soothsayers who had the gift of understanding the signs and/or signals sent by the gods.

The soothsayers uttered their oracles by interpreting flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder or the flights of certain birds of prey (omens), alternatively they might observe the direction in which the fire burned when a sacrifice was made, or base judgments on the sacrificial beast's willingness to approach the altar. The

interpretation of dreams was popular too, and so was palmistry. The most notable soothsayers of ancient Greece were Tarsiers, Calchas, Helenus, Amphionus and Cassandra.

However, there were abundant instances in which the gods did not manifest themselves to the faithful in the form of signs but spoke directly to an intermediate who for a short time was overcome by a 'divine mania' and transcended his own human essence. Here the prophet - or more usually the prophetic - entered a state of ecstasy in which he or she delivered the message from the gods to the supplicants.

These practices for foreseeing the future were the basis on which the ancient Greek oracles operated. Each oracle was located within a properly-organized sanctuary and was directly associated with one or other of the gods. Apollo was the archetypal soothsayer for the Greeks, the god who was responsible for conveying

to mortals the decisions pronounced by Zeus. The most important of all the oracles, that at the Delphi, delivered the message with the intervention of Apollo, while the oldest that of Dodona, functioned with the assistance of Zeus.

First Draft

- (1) Men's fear, when compared difficulties of life with universe, which led them to connect with the gods who they believed as controller of their fates. Knowing god's wishes was their guide which was being done by soothsayers who understand divine's signals.
- (2) The soothsayers interpret lightning, thunder, flights of birds, fire direction and sacrificial animal for prediction. Interpretation of dreams and palmistry was also famous. The most popular ancient Greek's soothsayers included Tarsiers, Calchas, Helenus, Amphiaraus and Cassandra.
- (3) There were many cases in which gods didn't show signs but communicated through prophets to the people.

(4) In ancient Greece, these practices were used by oracles for future prediction and each was linked to one or other gods. Apollo was the prominent one, who used to convey mortal order by Zeus. The significant oracle Delphi and the Dodona functioned under Apollo and Zeus respectively.

Final Draft

People's fear, when compared difficulties of life with universe, which led them to connect with the gods who they believed as controller of the world and their fates. For which they required, knowing gods' wishes as done by soothsayers by understanding divine's signals. The soothsayers construed lightning, thunder, birds' movements, fire burning and sacrificial animals for prediction. Dreams analysis and palmistry was also famous. In many cases gods communicated people through prophets. In ancient Greece, each oracle was linked to other gods. Apollo was the prominent one, used to deliver mortals' order by Zeus. Delphi and

Dodona worked under Apollo and Zeus respectively.

Title: Future Prediction In Ancient Greece