

Number would amount to very near three Hundred. And no Wonder, that they who were entirely ignorant of the real Source of human Misery, should be at a Loss in discovering the true Method to redress it. They all saw clearly that Man, in his present State of Imperfection, frail, and abounding even from within himself with numberless Causes of Evil and Sorrow, could never have originally come thus framed out of the Hands of a perfect Creator. One of them calls him the Child of a Step-mother, rather than of a kind indulgent Parent: Others imagin'd the Body to be a Prison, into which the Soul was committed by way of Punishment for Transgressions committed in some former State; whence the Opinions of Præ-existence, and Transmigration of Souls, the Parents of infinite Superstition and Folly in the Pagan Worship, took Rise, and prevailed generally among the Followers of *Pythagoras* and *Plato*. And yet it is observable, that whenever a Ray of Light shone in upon the Mind through all this Ignorance and Darknes, so as to let the Truth in upon it, we find the Soul naturally soaring towards Heaven, and placing all her solid Hopes of Happiness there. The wisest and most admired among the Ancients agree, that Happiness is only to be acquired by living according to the Rules of Virtue; which *Plato* and his Followers derive from God; and therefore found their Happiness