

into a comet and finally fall into some star and be made over into a new world.

With all these strange fancies, prior to the time of Halley and Newton, only one voice was heard telling the truth. It was centuries ago. Wonderful intellect! Seneca, in the time of Nero, said with bitterness that people in the ages to come would cry "Shame" to his day for its blindness. He stated at that early date that the comets formed part of the wonderful plan of the universe, and travelled in paths of their own; but he was laughed to scorn.

Then, what is a comet? A comet is a self-luminous, nebulous body, which, as it nears the sun, reflects also the Solar light and is thus increased in brilliancy. It suddenly appears in our sky, swings itself around the sun, and finally dashes off into space, sometimes to reappear as many of our comets do, oftener to be seen once only and never to return.

Comets vary greatly in shape, size and brilliancy. We have now, in the days of telescopic photography, found that there are many of these transients in our sky; but the most of them are so minute, comparatively speaking, as to escape notice even through the telescope.

If we give any credence to middle age history, comets assumed shapes familiar to man. Sometimes these, as they approached the sun, were very peculiar. Imaginative persons compared them to earthly forms. One was described as a blood red sword held threateningly over the earth as if it were an omen of war or of heavenly wrath.