

HOWARD BAKER

THE TUNNEL OF EUPALINUS

Scene: Hades

Phaedrus (to Socrates)

Do you remember the building of the walls at the Piraeus?

Socrates

Yes.

Phaedrus

All that heavy machinery and heavy labor, while the flutes were leading the complicated motions with their music? The precision of the progress, how mysterious it was? And how evident? What a confusion at first! what a settling down to bold orderliness! what solidity, what rigor, were begotten between the string of the plumbline and the string stretched to level the flat tiers of the stones!

Socrates

I cherish the memory. Those beautiful materials, those heavy stones! How much too, too light we have now become!

Phaedrus

And the temple near the Boreas altar? Do you remember it?

Socrates

The temple of Artemis Huntress?

Phaedrus

Yes, that one. One day when we were resting near there, we talked about Beauty.

Socrates

Yes, yes. Alas!

Phaedrus

I've become friend to the man who built that temple. He was an architect from Megara. His name was Eupalinus.