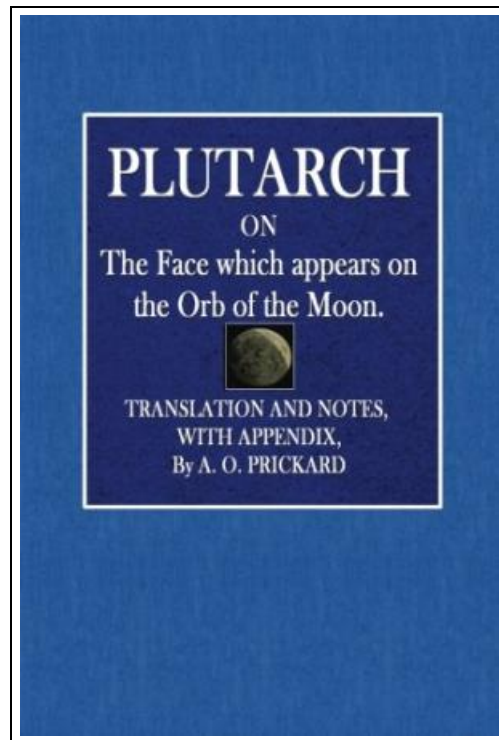


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From the INTRODUCTORY NOTE. The opening chapters of the Dialogue being lost, we have no clue to the place where it is supposed to take place, nor to the time - unless one is given by the Eclipse of the Sun mentioned by Lucius in c. 19 - and some points in the actual course of the discussion require a word of explanation. This can be most readily supplied by an enumeration of the speakers, in the order of their appearance, followed by a short analysis of the argument. Where the names are those of real persons living in Plutarch's lifetime, or of those who appear in other dialogues, I assume identity. PERSONS OF THE DIALOGUE. 1. Sextius Sylla, the Carthaginian, mentioned in the Life of Romulus (c. 15) as a man wanting neither learning nor ingenuity, who had supplied Plutarch with a piece of archaeological information. Elsewhere (De cohib. ira. c. 1) he is addressed as O most eager Sylla! In another dialogue he declines to be led into a discussion on all cosmology by answering the question whether the egg or the bird comes first? (Quaest. conv. ii, 3). He has a story, or myth, to tell about the Moon, which he is impatient to begin. This story, which he had heard from a friend in Carthage, is mainly geographical in interest. The details remind us of those quoted from Pytheas about his journeys to Britain and the Northern Seas. The whole conception of the globe is clearly earlier than that of Ptolemy (see especially as to the Caspian Sea, c. 26). The myth also introduces us to the worship of Cronus as practiced at Carthage, and connects...

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