

## DECREE OF THE POPULAR ASSEMBLY OF HADES

'Whereas the plutocrats perpetrate a number of inequities in life, by plunder, by violence, and in every way despising the poor and trampling upon all their rights, be it enacted by the Senate and People (SPQR) that after death their bodies shall be punished like other worthless malefactors but their souls shall be sent up on earth again to inhabit asses, until they have passed in that shape a quarter-million of years, becoming asses generation after generation, bearing burdens under the tender mercies of the poor; after which they shall be permitted to die.'

Lucian of Samosata, "Menippus, or The Oracle of the Dead," (adapted from translation of Howard Williams, *Lucian's Dialogues*, London, 1888)