



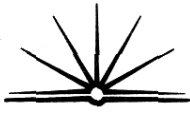
3. (a) Herodotus generally uses the gods to explain events which can not otherwise be explained. It was popular belief at the time that the gods were very real indeed, and since Herodotus worked from popular belief at times when better evidence was lacking, gods and divinity would be used by him and others to explain what seemed to be supernatural events.

Natural occurrences were sometimes explained in this way, such as the earthquake at Delos. Herodotus states that after the Persian arrival at the island, they felt an earthquake, and that there had never been another one in the area, neither before that time nor since. Herodotus explains this ~~strange~~ by quoting an oracle. "Delos too



"I will shake, though it has never been shaken before." Herodotus claims that the gods were angry and it was not surprising ~~in~~ considering that during the reign of Darius and his son Xerxes and grandson Artaxerxes, Greece suffered more due to internal conflict and attempted invasions than in the twenty generations previous to Darius.

Herodotus introduces divine elements in the events ^{described in} his work to add to the entertainment value. In his defence however, Herodotus believed that the gods existed and hence did not consider such stories as absurd if they included references to divinity. The messenger who was sent to Sparta to ask for help at Marathon claimed that he had an encounter with the god Pan. None of those hearing this story ever



questioned its validity and thus Herodotus was a victim to his own beliefs.

Herodotus' inclusion of divine elements in the events described in Book VI and indeed his other works, has led to much criticism of his style and the suggestion that much of what he has written is false. As we will never know for sure how much of his work is true, the controversy surrounding Herodotus is one that will be haunting us for years to come.