

# ANCIENT LEGACIES

## How important are the accomplishments of ancient peoples?

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### ODE

We are the music makers,  
And we are the dreamers of dreams,  
Wandering by lone sea-breakers,  
And sitting by desolate streams; —  
World-losers and world-forsakers,  
On whom the pale moon gleams:  
Yet we are the movers and shakers  
Of the world for ever, it seems.

We, in the ages lying,  
In the buried past of the earth,  
Built Nineveh with our sighing,  
And Babel itself in our mirth;  
And o'erthrew them with prophesying  
To the old of the new world's worth;  
For each age is a dream that is dying,  
Or one that is coming to birth.

*Arthur O'Shaughnessy, 1844-1881*

Do you value anything we have inherited from ancient civilisations?