

BOOK XI
THE SYRIAN WARS

Λ'

ΣΥΡΙΑΚΗ

I

CAP. I. Ἀντίοχος ὁ Σελεύκου τοῦ Ἀντιόχου, Σύρων καὶ Βαβυλωνίων καὶ ἐτέρων ἔθνων βασιλεύς, ἕκτος δὲ ἀπὸ Σελεύκου τοῦ μετ' Ἀλέξανδρον Ἀσίας τῆς περὶ Εὐφράτην βεβασιλευκότος, ἐσβαλὼν ἐς Μηδίαν τε καὶ Παρθυηνὴν καὶ ἕτερα ἔθνη ἀφιστάμενα ἔτι πρὸ αὐτοῦ, καὶ πολλὰ καὶ μεγάλα δράσας, καὶ μέγας Ἀντίοχος ἀπὸ τούδε κληθείς, ἐπαιρόμενος τοῖς γεγονόσι καὶ τῇ δι' αὐτὰ προσωνυμίᾳ, Συρίαν τε τὴν κοίλην καὶ Κιλικίας ἔστιν ἂν Πτολεμαίου τοῦ φιλοπάτορος, Αἰγύπτου βασιλέως ἔτι παιδὸς ὄντος, ἐπιδραμὼν περιέσπασε, καὶ μικρὸν οὐδὲν ἐνθυμούμενος Ἑλλησποντίους ἐπήγει καὶ Αἰολέας καὶ Ἴωνας ὡς οἱ προσήκοντας ἄρχοντι τῆς Ἀσίας, ὅτι καὶ πάλαι τῶν τῆς Ἀσίας βασιλέων ὑπήκουον. ἐς τε τὴν Εὐρώπην διαπλεύσας Θράκην ὑπήγετο καὶ τὰ ἀπειθοῦντα ἐβιάζετο, Χερρόνησόν τε ὠχύρου, καὶ Λυσιμάχειαν ὠκίζεν, ἣν Λυσίμαχος μὲν ὁ Θράκης ἐπὶ Ἀλεξάνδρῳ βασιλεύσας ἐκτίσεν ἐπιτείχισμα τοῖς Θραξίν

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1. ANTIOCHUS (the son of Seleucus and grandson of Antiochus), king of the Syrians, the Babylonians and other nations, was the sixth in succession from that Seleucus who succeeded Alexander in the government of the Asiatic countries around the Euphrates. He invaded Media and Parthia, and other countries that had revolted from his ancestors, and performed many exploits, from which he was named Antiochus the Great. Elated by his successes, and by the title which he had derived from them, he invaded Coele-Syria and a portion of Cilicia and took them away from Ptolemy Philopator,¹ king of Egypt, who was still a boy. Filled with unbounded ambition, he marched against the Hellespontines, the Aeolians, and the Ionians as though they belonged to him as the ruler of Asia, because they had been formerly subjects of the Asiatic kings. Then he crossed over to Europe, brought Thrace under his sway, and reduced by force those who would not obey him. He fortified Chersonesus and rebuilt Lysimacheia, which Lysimachus, who ruled Thrace after Alexander, built as a stronghold against the

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B.C. 224

Ambition of
Antiochus
the Great

B.C. 198

B.C. 196

¹ *An error for Epiphanes.*

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CAP. I. εἶναι, οἱ Θράκες δ' ἀποθανόντος τοῦ Λυσιμάχου καθηρήκεσαν. καὶ ὁ Ἀντίοχος συνώκιζε, τοὺς τε φεύγοντας τῶν Λυσιμαχέων κατακαλῶν, καὶ εἴ τινες αὐτῶν αἰχμάλωτοι γεγονότες ἐδούλευον ὠνούμενος, καὶ ἑτέρους προσκαταλέγων, καὶ βοῦς καὶ πρόβατα καὶ σίδηρον ἐς γεωργίαν ἐπιδιδούς, καὶ οὐδὲν ἐλλείπων ἐς ταχεῖαν ἐπιτειχίσματος ὁρμήν· πάνυ γὰρ αὐτῷ τὸ χωρίον ἐφαίνετο λαμπρῶς ἔχειν ἐπὶ ὅλην Θράκην, καὶ ταμιεῖον εὐκαιρον ἐς τὰ λοιπὰ ὧν ἐπενόει πάντων ἔσεσθαι.

2. Ταῦτα δ' αὐτῷ διαφορᾶς φανερᾶς καὶ πρὸς Ῥωμαίους ἤρξεν. ὡς γὰρ δὴ μετῆει τὰς τῆδε Ἑλληνίδας πόλεις, οἱ μὲν πλείονες αὐτῷ προσετίθεντο καὶ φρουρὰς ἐσεδέχοντο δέει τῷ τῆς ἀλώσεως, Σμυρναῖοι δὲ καὶ Λαμψακηνοὶ καὶ ἕτεροι ἔτι ἀντέχοντες ἐπρεσβεύοντο ἐς Φλαμινῖνον τὸν Ῥωμαίων στρατηγόν, ἄρτι Φιλίππου τοῦ Μακεδόνος μεγάλη μάχη περὶ Θετταλίαν κεκρατηκότα· ἐγίγνετο γὰρ δὴ καὶ τὰ Μακεδόνων καὶ τὰ Ἑλλήνων ἐπίμικτα ἀλλήλοις ἀνὰ μέρη καὶ χρόνους, ὡς μοι ἐν τῇ Ἑλληνικῇ γραφῇ δεδήλωται. καὶ γίνονται τινες Ἀντιόχῳ καὶ Φλαμινίῳ διαπρεσβεύσεις τε ἐς ἀλλήλους καὶ ἀπόπειραι ἀτελεῖς. ἐκ πολλοῦ δὲ οἱ Ῥωμαῖοι καὶ ὁ Ἀντίοχος ὑπόπτως εἶχον ἀλλήλοις, οἱ μὲν οὐκ ἀτρεμήσειν ὑπολαμβάνοντες Ἀντίοχον ἐπαιρόμενον ἀρχῆς τε μεγέθει καὶ εὐπραξίας ἀκμῇ, ὁ δὲ Ῥωμαίους οἱ μόνους αὐξομένῳ μάλιστα ἐμποδῶν ἔσεσθαι, καὶ κωλύσειν ἐς τὴν Εὐρώπην περαιούμενον. οὐδενὸς δὲ πω

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Thracians themselves, but which they destroyed after his death. Antiochus repeopled it, calling back the citizens who had fled, redeeming those who had been sold as slaves, bringing in others, supplying them with cattle, sheep, and iron for agricultural purposes, and omitting nothing that might contribute to its speedy completion as a stronghold; for the place seemed to him to be admirably situated to hold all Thrace in subjection, and a convenient base of supplies for all the other operations that he contemplated.

2. This was the beginning of an open disagreement with the Romans as well, for as he passed among the Greek cities thereabout most of them joined him and received his garrisons, because they feared capture by him. But the inhabitants of Smyrna and Lampsacus, and some others who still resisted, sent ambassadors to Flaminius, the Roman general, who had lately overthrown Philip the Macedonian in a great battle in Thessaly; for the affairs of the Macedonians and of the Greeks were closely linked together at certain times and places, as I have shown in my Grecian history. Accordingly, certain embassies passed between Antiochus and Flaminius and they sounded each other without result. The Romans and Antiochus had been suspicious of each other for a long time, the former surmising that he would not keep quiet because he was so much puffed up by the extent of his dominions and the height of fortune that he had reached. Antiochus, on the other hand, believed that the Romans were the only people who could put a stop to his increase of power and prevent him from passing over to Europe. Still, there was no

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His first
disagree-
ment with
Rome

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 φαιεροῦ γεγονότος αὐτοῖς ἐς ἔχθραν ἀφίκοντο
 πρέσβεις ἐς Ῥώμην παρὰ Πτολεμαίου τοῦ φιλο-
 πάτορος, αἰτιωμένου Συρίαν τε καὶ Κιλικίαν
 Ἀντίοχον αὐτὸν ὑφελέσθαι. καὶ οἱ Ῥωμαῖοι τῆς
 ἀφορμῆς ἐπέβαινον ἄσμενοι, κατὰ καιρὸν σφίσι
 γενομένης, καὶ πρέσβεις ἐς τὸν Ἀντίοχον ἔστελλον,
 οἱ λόγῳ μὲν ἔμελλον συναλλάξειν Πτολεμαίου
 Ἀντιόχῳ, ἔργῳ δὲ κατασκέψασθαι τὴν ὀρμὴν
 Ἀντιόχου καὶ κωλύσειν ὅσα δύναιντο.

3. Τούτων δὴ τῶν πρέσβεων Γναῖος ἡγούμενος
 ἠξίου τὸν Ἀντίοχον Πτολεμαίῳ μὲν, ὄντι Ῥωμαίων
 φίλῳ, συγχωρεῖν ἄρχειν ὅσων ὁ πατὴρ αὐτῷ
 κατέλιπε, τὰς δ' ἐν Ἀσίᾳ πόλεις, ὧν Φίλιππος ὁ
 Μακεδῶν ἦρχεν, αὐτονόμους εἶναι· οὐ γὰρ εἶναι
 δίκαιον Ἀντίοχον κρατεῖν ὧν Φίλιππον ἀφείλοντο
 Ῥωμαῖοι. ὅλως δ' ἀπορεῖν ἔφη τί τοσοῦτον στόλον
 ὁ Ἀντίοχος καὶ τοσαύτην στρατιὰν ἄγων ἄνωθεν
 ἐκ Μήδων ἔλθοι τῆς Ἀσίας ἐπὶ θάλασσαν, ἐς τε
 τὴν Εὐρώπην ἐσβάλοι, καὶ πόλεις ἐν αὐτῇ κατα-
 σκευάζοιτο, καὶ Θράκην ὑπάγοιτο, εἰ μὴ ταῦτά
 ἐστὶν ἑτέρου πολέμου θεμέλια. ὁ δ' ἀπεκρίνατο
 Θράκην μὲν, τῶν προγόνων αὐτοῦ γενομένην τε
 καὶ δι' ἀσχολίας ἐκπεσοῦσαν, αὐτὸς ἐπὶ σχολῆς
 ὧν ἀναλαμβάνειν, καὶ Λυσιμάχειαν ἐγείρειν οἰκη-
 τήριον Σελεύκῳ τῷ παιδὶ εἶναι, τὰς δ' ἐν Ἀσίᾳ
 πόλεις αὐτονόμους εἶσιν, εἰ τὴν χάριν οὐ Ῥωμαίοις

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open breach between them until ambassadors came to Rome from Ptolemy Philopator complaining that Antiochus had taken Syria and Cilicia away from him. The Romans gladly seized this occasion as one well suited to their purposes, and sent ambassadors to Antiochus ostensibly to bring about a reconciliation between him and Ptolemy, but really to find out his designs and to check him as much as they could. CHAP.
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3. Gnaeus,¹ the chief of the embassy, demanded that Antiochus should allow Ptolemy, who was a friend of the Roman people, to rule over all the countries that his father had left to him, and that the cities of Asia that had been part of the dominions of Philip should be left independent, for it was not right that Antiochus should seize places of which the Romans had deprived Philip. "We are wholly at a loss to know," he said, "why Antiochus should come from Media bringing so large a fleet and an army from the upper country to the Asiatic coast, make an incursion into Europe, build cities there, and subdue Thrace, unless these are the preparations for another war." Antiochus replied that Thrace had belonged to his ancestors, that it had slipped from their grasp when they were occupied elsewhere, and that he had resumed possession because he had leisure to do so. He had built Lysimacheia as the future seat of government of his son Seleucus. He would leave the Greek cities of Asia independent if they would acknowledge the favour as due to himself and not to the Romans. A conference
at Lysimacheia

¹ The name of this ambassador, according to Polybius (xvii. 31), was Lucius Cornelius. In other respects the account of the conference by Polybius agrees with that of our author. The conference took place at Lysimacheia.

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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