

BOOK III

## CONTENTS OF BOOK III

While Darius was mustering his forces at the Euphrates, Alexander had conquered the greater part of the western and south-western coasts of Asia Minor. After settling the affairs of Lycia and Pamphylia, he took Celaenae in Phrygia and at Gordium loosed the fateful Gordian knot; he then marched to meet Darius (i).

Darius, having encamped near Babylon, numbered his force after the example of Xerxes. He put to death Charidemus, an Athenian, because he had expressed too free an opinion of the Persian army (ii).

Darius put Thymondas in command of the Greek troops and gave Pharnabazus the power formerly held by Memnon. The king has a dream, which is variously interpreted. The Persian army is described and compared with that of the Macedonians (iii).

Alexander reached the entrance to Cilicia, called "the Gates." Arsames, governor of that province, instead of holding the narrow pass, was laying waste the whole country with fire and sword. Alexander enters Cilicia, marvelling at his good fortune, and arrives at Tarsus in time to save it from destruction by fire (iv).

When Alexander, while overheated, bathed in the cold waters of the river Cydnus, he was taken seriously ill. The anxiety of the army was great, since the king was unwilling to wait for the effect of slow remedies, seeking rather an opportunity to make war than an escape from death (v).

Philip, a faithful friend and skilful physician, promised to lessen the violence of the ailment by a medicated draught. Although Alexander received a letter from Parmenion in which he warned the king not to trust his safety to Philip, he drank the potion unterrified and was cured (vi).

Darius, on learning of Alexander's illness, hastened to take

## HISTORY OF ALEXANDER, III

possession of Cilicia. Alexander came to Soli, where he paid by games to Aesculapius and Minerva the vows which he had made for his safety. He then went on to Issus and decided to fight a decisive battle there (vii).

Patron, commander of Darius' Greek troops, urges him to return to Mesopotamia and encounter the Macedonians there. The courtiers question Patron's motive and advise Darius to kill the Greeks as traitors. The king refuses, and boasts greatly of his strength. He sends his money and valuables to Damascus, but met the Macedonians at Issus (viii).

A description of the arrangement of each army ; of that of Darius the Greeks formed the main strength ; of Alexander's the phalanx and the cavalry. The Persian forces covered whatever room there was in the narrow space, but their army, made up of many nations, was confused and ineffective (ix).

Alexander, after warning his men not to enter battle at full speed, encouraged them by exhortations adapted to the spirit of each group, reminding the Macedonians of their native valour and the spoils of the Orient, the Greeks of the outrages of Xerxes, the Illyrians and Thracians of the vast and easily won booty (x).

A description of the battle and the rout of the Persians. The contest centres round the chariot of Darius, until his horses are maddened with terror and the king, fearing to be taken alive by the enemy, leaps down, is put upon a horse, and flees (xi).

Alexander, returning to camp after pursuing the enemy, sends Leonnatus to console the mother and the wife of Darius. On the following day, after burying his dead, he visits them in person and gives a noble example of compassion and continence (xii).

At Damascus the treacherous governor delivers to Parmenion the treasures of Darius and many high-born captives, whom the governor had cruelly treated. He is killed by one of his accomplices and his head taken to Darius (xiii).

QUINTUS CURTIUS RUFUS  
HISTORIARUM ALEXANDRI MAGNI  
MACEDONIS

LIBER III

I. Inter haec Alexander, ad conducendum ex Peloponneso militem Cleandro cum pecunia misso, Lyciae Pamphyliaeque rebus compositis ad urbem Celaenas<sup>1</sup> 2 exercitum admovit. Media illa tempestate moenia interfluebat Marsyas, amnis fabulosis Graecorum carminibus inclitus. Fons eius, ex summo montis cacumine excurrentis, in subiectam petram magno strepitu aquarum cadit; inde diffusus circumiectos rigat campos, liquidus et suas dumtaxat undas trahens. 4 Itaque color eius placido mari similis locum poetarum mendacio fecit; quippe traditum est nymphas amore 5 amnis retentas in illa rupe considerare. Ceterum quamdiu intra muros fluit, nomen suum retinet; at

<sup>1</sup> Celaenas *Aldus*; caelenas *A.*

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<sup>a</sup> According to Arrian (ii. 20. 5), he brought back 4000 Greek mercenaries.

<sup>b</sup> Cf. Xen. *Anab.* i. 2. 7. It was the principal city of Phrygia (Livy xxxviii. 13. 5); Apamea Cibotus was founded near its site by Antiochus Soter.

QUINTUS CURTIUS RUFUS  
HISTORY OF ALEXANDER THE  
GREAT OF MACEDON  
BOOK III

I. MEANWHILE Alexander, after sending Cleander <sup>a</sup> 333 B.C. with money to hire soldiers from the Peloponnesus and setting in order the affairs of Lycia and Pamphylia, moved his army to the city of Celaenae.<sup>b</sup>  
2 Through the middle of the city at that time flowed the Marsyas, a river famed in the storied songs of the  
3 Greeks. Its source, gushing forth from the summit of a mountain, falls with a great noise of its waters upon a rock below ; from there, divided into several branches,<sup>c</sup> it irrigates the adjacent plains, clear <sup>d</sup>  
4 and carrying only its own waters. Therefore its colour, like that of a calm sea, has given opportunity for a fancy of the poets ; for it is said that nymphs, kept there by love of the river, dwell upon that  
5 rock.<sup>e</sup> Now, so long as it flows within the city the river retains its own name, but when it rolls forth

<sup>c</sup> Eight or nine, Pococke, *Travels*, quoted by Müttzell (see Bibliographical Note, p. xxxiii).

<sup>d</sup> Cf. Ovid, *Metam.* vi. 400 *Marsya . . . Phrygiae liquidissimus amnis.*

<sup>e</sup> There is no other reference to this.

## QUINTUS CURTIUS

cum extra munimenta se evolvit, maiore vi ac mole agentem undas Lycum appellant.

- 6 Alexander quidem urbem destitutam ab suis intrat, arcem vero, in quam confugerant, oppugnare adortus caduceatorem praemisit, qui denuntiaret, ni dederent, 7 ipsos ultima esse passuros. Illi caduceatorem in turrem et situ et opere multum editam perductum, quanta esset altitudo intueri iubent ac nuntiare Alexandro non eadem ipsum et incolas aestimatione munimenta metiri; se scire inexpugnabiles esse, ad 8 ultimum pro fide morituros. Ceterum ut circum-sederi arcem et omnia sibi in dies artiora esse viderunt, sexaginta dierum indutias pacti, ut, nisi intra eos auxilium Dareus ipsis<sup>1</sup> misisset, dederent urbem, postquam nihil inde praesidii mittebatur, ad praestitutam diem permisere se regi.
- 9 Superveniunt deinde legati Atheniensium, petentes ut capti apud Granicum amnem redderentur sibi. Ille non hos modo, sed etiam ceteros Graecos restitui 10 suis iussurum respondit, finito Persico bello. Ceterum Dareo imminens, quem nondum Euphraten superasse cognoverat, undique omnes copias contrahit totis viribus tanti belli discrimen aditurus.
- 11 Phrygia erat, per quam ducebatur exercitus; pluribus vicis quam urbibus frequens, tunc habebat nobi-

<sup>1</sup> ipsis *Modius*; ipse *A.*

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<sup>a</sup> According to Arrian (i. 29. 1), the citadel was held by a garrison of 1000 Carians and 100 Greek mercenaries under command of the satrap of Phrygia.

<sup>b</sup> *Sexaginta* is doubtful; Arrian (i. 29. 2) merely says that they specified a date.

<sup>c</sup> Arr. i. 29. 6 gives, as Alexander's reason, that he wished to keep the Greeks on the anxious seat.

beyond the ramparts and drives on its waters with greater force and mass, they call it the Lycus, "Wolf."

6 The city, indeed, when Alexander entered it, had been abandoned by its inhabitants, but having determined to attack the citadel, in which they had taken refuge,<sup>a</sup> he first sent a herald, to threaten that if they did not surrender it, they would suffer the utmost  
7 penalties. They led the herald to a tower raised high both by its natural situation and by the hand of man, telling them to observe how lofty it was and to report to Alexander that he and the inhabitants did not set the same value on their fortifications; that they knew them to be impregnable and were ready  
8 to die as loyally as might be. But when they saw that the citadel was beset on every side, and that all their supplies were becoming scantier day by day, they bargained for a truce of sixty days,<sup>b</sup> agreeing that if Darius did not send them help within that time, they would surrender the city; and when no aid came to them from that quarter, on the stipulated day they gave themselves up to the king.

9 Then came envoys of the Athenians, asking that their citizens who had been taken prisoner at the river Granicus should be returned to them. Alexander replied that he would give orders that not only these but also the rest of the Greeks should be restored to their homes, as soon as the Persian war was ended.<sup>c</sup>

10 Then, intent upon Darius, who, as he had learned, had not yet crossed the Euphrates, he assembled all his troops from every side, intending to meet the crisis of so great a war with all his strength.

11 Phrygia was the country through which the army was being led; abounding in villages rather than in cities, it was at that time the seat of the once

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