

BOOK VII

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The recent conspiracy leads Alexander to take up the case of Alexander Lyncestes, who had been in prison for three years. He is called upon to make a defence, and, failing to do so successfully, is put to death. The brothers Amyntas and Simias, friends of Philotas, are accused, but are defended by Amyntas (i).

Amyntas and his brother are restored to favour. Their younger brother, Polemon, who had fled when Philotas was tortured, is pardoned by Alexander. Polydamas is summoned and sent in haste to Media, where he brings about the death of Parmenion. Alexander separates from the rest of the army those soldiers who complained for various reasons (ii).

Alexander after subduing the Arimaspi and the Arachosii crosses Mount Parapanisus with his army and founds at its foot a city of Alexandria (iii).

Bessus at a banquet consults about war against Alexander. Gobares advises against it, but without effect. Bessus is deserted and flees to the Sogdiani. The single combat of Satibarzanes and Erigyus. Alexander arrives at Bactra and hears of the death of Satibarzanes (iv).

Alexander crosses the Oxus. Bessus is betrayed by Spitamenes and brought to Alexander; the king delivers him to Oxathres, brother of Darius, to be crucified (v).

Sogdiana is subdued but revolts again; Cyropolis and other cities are taken. A city of Alexandria is founded on the Iaxartes (vi).

Alexander, suffering from a wound, holds a consultation

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about war with the Scythians. Aristander interprets the omens in accordance with the wishes of Alexander. Menedemus is defeated and slain with a loss of 2500 horsemen. Alexander conceals the disaster (vii).

While Alexander is preparing for war, envoys arrive from the Scythians and deliver an address proposing peace (viii).

Alexander, having dismissed the envoys, crosses the Iaxartes and attacks the Scythians. Having defeated them, he treats them generously. He receives the Sacae in surrender and then pursues Spitamenes, who had defeated Menedemus (ix).

Sogdiana is recovered ; the high spirit of its nobles. Alexander returns to Bactra. Bessus is sent to Ecbatana to suffer punishment. Six cities are founded near Margiana (x).

The crag of Arimaza, almost impregnable from its situation and from the nature of the country, is captured by Alexander. Because of his obstinate defence its commander, Ariamazes, along with his relatives and other nobles, is scourged and crucified (xi).

LIBER VII

I. Philotan sicut recentibus sceleris eius vestigiis iure affectum supplicio censuerant milites, ita, postquam desierat esse quem odissent, invidia in misericordiam vertit. Moverat et claritas iuvenis et patris eius senectus atque orbitas. Primus Asiam aperuerat regi, omnium periculorum eius particeps semper alterum in acie cornu defenderat, Philippo quoque ante omnes amicus et ipsi Alexandro tam fidus, ut occidendi Attalum non alio ministro uti mallet. 4 Horum cogitatio subibat exercitum, seditiosaeque voces referebantur ad regem. Quis ille haud sane motus satisque prudens otii vitia negotio discuti, edicit ut omnes in vestibulo regiae praesto sint. 5 Quos ubi frequentes adesse cognovit, in contionem processit.

Haud dubie ex composito Atarrhias postulare coepit ut Lyncestes Alexander, qui multo ante quam 6 Philotas regem voluisset occidere, exhiberetur. A duobus indicibus, sicut supra diximus, delatus, ter-

^a This is an exaggeration, in spite of Parmenion's services in general.

^b On *defenderat* for *tuebatur* in this sense *cf.* iv. 13. 35.

^c *Cf.* Plut. *Alex.* xlix. 7; *De Fort. Alex.* ii. p. 339 E. Otherwise this fact is not mentioned.

^d Apparently a proverb; *cf.* Senec. *Ep.* lvi. 9.

BOOK VII

I. ALTHOUGH while the traces of his crime were fresh, the soldiers believed that Philotas had been justly punished, yet after the man whom they hated had
2 ceased to live, hatred changed to pity. The distinction of the young Philotas affected them, and the
3 old age and bereavement of his father. Parmenion had been the first to open Asia to the king,^a and as his partner in all dangers had had charge^b of one wing of the army in battle; he had also been first of Philip's friends,^c and was so faithful to Alexander himself that Alexander preferred to use no other
4 emissary in killing Attalus. The thought of these things occurred to the army, and mutinous words were reported to the king. He, being not greatly disturbed by these, and well aware that the faults of idleness are dispelled^d by activity, made proclamation for all to appear at the entrance of his head-
5 quarters.^e When he learned that they were present there in great numbers, he entered the assembly.

Atarrhias, undoubtedly by previous arrangement, began by asking that Lyncestes Alexander, who long before Philotas had wished to kill the king, should be
6 brought before them. He had been charged with this by two informers, as we have said above,^f and

^e This seems to be here, as often, the meaning of *regia*.

^f In Book II (lost); cf. Arr. i. 25. 3 ff.

QUINTUS CURTIUS

tium iam annum custodiebatur in vinculis. Eundem in Philippi quoque caedem coniurasse cum Pausania pro comperto fuit, sed quia primus Alexandrum regem salutaverat, supplicio magis quam crimini 7 fuerat exemptus; tum quoque Antipatri soceri eius preces iustam regis iram morabantur. Ceterum recruduit suppuratus dolor; quippe veteris periculi 8 memoriam praesentis cura renovabat. Igitur Alexander ex custodia educitur iussusque dicere, quamquam toto triennio meditatus erat defensionem, tamen haesitans et trepidus pauca ex his quae composuerat protulit, ad ultimum non memoria solum, 9 sed etiam mens eum destituit. Nulli erat dubium quin trepidatio conscientiae indicium esset, non memoriae vitium. Itaque ex eis,¹ qui proximi adstiterant, obluctantem adhuc oblivioni lanceis confoderunt.

10 Cuius corpore ablato, rex introduci iussit Amyntam et Simian; nam² Polemon, minimus ex fratribus, 11 cum Philotae amicorum hi carissimi fuerant, ad magna et honorata ministeria illius maxime suffragatione producti, memineratque rex summo studio ab eo conciliatos sibi, nec dubitabat huius quoque ultimi 12 consilii fuisse participes. Igitur queritur³ olim sibi esse suspectos matris suae litteris, quibus esset ad-

¹ iis *Vindelinus*; his *A.*

² Simian; nam *Hedicke*; simannam *A.*

³ Igitur queritur *Hedicke*; igitur *A.*

^a Both sons of Andromenes, also Attalus and Polemon, v. 1. 40, Arr. iii. 27. 1; cf. also Curt. vi. 11. 20.

- was now spending the third year of his imprisonment in fetters. It was regarded as certain that he had also, with Pausanias, conspired to kill Philip, but because he had been the first to hail Alexander as king, he was exempted from punishment rather than
- 7 from guilt; then too the prayers of his father-in-law Antipater were delaying the king's just anger. However, the resentment which had been coming to a head broke out anew, since anxiety from the present danger revived the memory of the one of long stand-
- 8 ing. Therefore Alexander (Lyncestes) was brought out of prison, and when ordered to speak, although for three whole years he had practised a defence, yet hesitating and trembling he presented only a few words of what he had composed, and finally, not
- 9 only his memory, but his thoughts failed him. No one doubted that his alarm was an indication of a guilty conscience and not of a failure of memory. Accordingly, some of those who stood nearest to him ran him through with their lances as he was still struggling with forgetfulness.
- 10 When his body had been taken away, the king ordered Amyntas and Simias ^a to be brought in, for Polemon, the youngest of the brothers, had fled when he heard that Philotas was being tortured.
- 11 These had been the dearest of all Philotas' friends, and had been advanced to important and honourable positions mainly through his influence, and the king remembered that Philotas had recommended them to him with the greatest urgency, and did not doubt that they had been participants also in this last design
- 12 of his. Therefore he complained that they had long since been objects of his suspicion because of letters of his mother, in which he had been warned to protect

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