

BOOK IX

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Alexander advances to the Hypasis River; he subdues many nations and cities, whose manners and customs are described (i).

When he prepares to cross the Hypasis and attack two powerful nations, his soldiers show signs of weariness and reluctance to go farther. The king appeals to their devotion in an eloquent speech (ii).

Coenus replies to the king in the name of the soldiers. Alexander finally turns back after setting up twelve altars as a memorial of his expedition, and founding Nicaea and Bucephala. He prepares a fleet and sails down the Hypasis. Coenus falls ill and dies (iii).

Alexander subdues the Sibi. He suffers great peril at the confluence of the Hydaspes and the Acesines, but reaches the land of the Malli. The soldiers show renewed signs of disaffection, but a speech of the king rouses their enthusiasm. He defeats the barbarians, and in spite of the warning of a seer attacks their city (iv).

He leaps from the wall of the citadel into the midst of the enemy and, after fighting against great odds, is severely wounded but is rescued by members of his body-guard (v).

Before his wound is healed the king appears in public. His friends urge him to have more consideration for his own and the public safety. He expresses gratitude, but persists in his determination to conquer the whole world (vi).

Disturbances among the Greeks in Bactriana. Envoys from the Malli and the Sudracae offer submission. Alexander gives them a banquet, at which Dioxippus, an Athenian, and Corratas, a Macedonian, fight a duel. The Greek is victor, but kills himself because of the calumnies of his enemies (vii).

HISTORY OF ALEXANDER, IX

Alexander sails down the Indus to Patala and subdues the neighbouring tribes. Ptolemy is wounded by a poisoned arrow, and is miraculously cured (viii).

Alexander at last satisfies his longing to reach the Ocean, not without danger from the tides and the inexperience of his sailors (ix).

Leaving Nearchus to explore the Ocean with the fleet and come back by sea, Alexander returns through the great deserts of Cedrosia, where the army suffers greatly from hunger and disease. At length they reach Carmania and pass through it in a bacchanalian procession (x).

LIBER IX

I. Alexander tam memorabili victoria laetus, qua sibi Orientis finis apertos esse censebat, Soli victimis caesis, milites quoque, quo promptioribus animis reliqua belli obirent, pro contione laudatos, docuit quidquid Indis virium fuisset, illa dimicatione prostratum ; cetera opimam praedam fore celebratasque¹ opes in ea regione eminere quam peterent. Proinde iam vilia et obsoleta esse spolia de Persis ; gemmis margaritisque et auro atque ebore Macedoniam Graeciamque, non suas tantum domos repleturos.²

3 Avidi milites et pecuniae et gloriae, simul quia numquam eos affirmatio eius fefellerat, pollicentur operam ; dimissisque cum bona spe navigia exaedificari iubet, ut, cum totam Asiam percucurrisset,³

4 finem terrarum, mare, inviseret. Multa materia navalis in proximis montibus erat ; quam caedere aggressi magnitudinis invisitatae repperere serpentes.

¹ celebratasque *Lauer*; celebratesque *A.*

² repleturos *I*; repleturum *A.*

³ percucurrisset *C*; percurrisset *P.*

^a Diodorus says (xvii. 89. 3) that it was because that god had given him victory over the Orient. Arrian (v. 20. 1) merely says "to the gods."

BOOK IX

- I. ALEXANDER, rejoicing in so memorable a victory, by which he believed that the bounds of the Orient were opened to him, sacrificed victims to the Sun^a; then, in order that his soldiers also might meet the rest of the war with readier minds, he called an assembly, and after praising them informed them that whatever strength the Indi had possessed had
2 been overthrown in the recent battle; that hereafter there would be nothing but rich booty, and that world-renowned riches were conspicuous in that region to which they were on their way. Furthermore, he said that the spoils taken from^b the Persians were now cheap and shabby, that his hearers would fill, not only their homes, but all Macedonia and Greece with gems and pearls and gold and ivory.
- 3 The soldiers, being eager both for wealth and for glory, and at the same time because no assertion of his had ever disappointed them, engaged their service; and when they had been dismissed full of good hope, he ordered ships to be built, in order that, when they had overrun all Asia, they might visit the
4 world's end, the sea. There was an abundance of timber^c for ships in the neighbouring mountains, and when they began to attack it they found snakes

^b Cf. *spolia de hostibus*, viii. 8. 9; ix. 10. 12.

^c Especially cedar, Diod. xvii. 89. 4; Strabo xv. 1. 29.

QUINTUS CURTIUS

- 5 Rhinocerotes quoque, rarum alibi animal, in eisdem montibus erant. Ceterum hoc nomen beluis inditum a Graecis; sermonis eius ignari Indi¹ aliud lingua sua usurpant.
- 6 Rex, duabus urbibus conditis in utraque fluminis quod superaverat ripa, copiarum duces coronis et m aureis singulos donat; ceteris quoque pro portione aut gradus² quem in amicitia obtinebant, aut navatae 7 operae, honos habitus est. Abisares, qui, priusquam cum Poro dimicaretur, legatos ad Alexandrum miserat, rursus alios misit pollicentes omnia facturum quae imperasset, modo ne cogeretur corpus suum dedere; neque enim aut sine regio imperio victurum 8 aut regnaturum esse captivum. Cui Alexander nuntiari iussit, si gravaretur ad se venire, ipsum ad eum esse venturum.
- Hinc, praerapido³ amne superato, ad interiora 9 Indiae processit. Silvae erant prope in immensum spatium diffusae procerisque et in eximiam altitudinem editis arboribus umbrosae. Plerique rami instar ingentium stipitum flexi in humum, rursus quae se curvaverant erigebantur, adeo ut species esset non rami resurgentis, sed arboris ex sua radice generatae.
- 11 Caeli temperies salubris; quippe et vim solis umbrae

¹ Indi added by Hedicke. ² gradus *Acidalius*; gradu *A.*
³ praerapido *Hedicke*; poro *A.*

^a Diod. xvii. 90. 1 says sixteen cubits in length; they were pythons.

^b *Cf.* viii. 9. 17, but the truth of the statement is doubtful.

^c Nicaea and Bucephala, named in ix. 3. 23.

^d A somewhat rare expression; *cf.* Livy vii. 1. 8; xxxiv. 50. 7. So also *pro rata portione*, Pliny, *N.H.* xi. 15 (40).

5 of unheard-of size.^a There were in those mountains rhinoceros also, an animal rare elsewhere.^b This, however, was the name given to the beasts by the Greeks; the Indi, being unacquainted with that tongue, use another word in their own language.

6 The king, having founded two cities,^c one on each bank of the river which he had crossed, presented each of the leaders of his forces with a crown of gold and a thousand gold-pieces; and to the rest also, according to the degree^d or the rank which they held in his friendship or the extent of their services,

7 honour was paid. Abisares, who had sent envoys to Alexander before he fought with Porus, again sent others, promising that he would do everything that the king should order, provided only that he might not be compelled to surrender his person; for he would not live without royal power, nor reign as a captive.

8 To him Alexander ordered it to be announced that if Abisares was reluctant to come to him, he himself would come to Abisares.

Then, after crossing a very rapid river, he advanced
9 into the interior of India. There were forests^e extending over an almost immeasurable space and given shade by trees towering to an enormous height.
10 Most of their branches, which were as huge as great trunks, being bent down to the earth, rose again from where they had curved, so that the appearance was, not of a branch rising again, but of a tree sprung
11 from its own roots.^f The temperature of the air is wholesome; for the shade tempers the force of the sun, and there is an abundant flow of water from

^e This shows that his march was at first towards the north.

^f Cf. Strabo xv. 1. 21. The description fits the banyan (*Ficus Indica*); see also Arr. *Indica* 11. 7.

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