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DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

IX

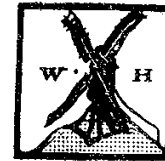
DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY
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ON THE BASIS OF THE VERSION OF
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IN NINE VOLUMES

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
EPITOME OF BOOK LXXI	3
EPITOME OF BOOK LXXII	11
EPITOME OF BOOK LXXIII	73
EPITOME OF BOOK LXXIV	123
EPITOME OF BOOK LXXV	161
EPITOME OF BOOK LXXVI	203
EPITOME OF BOOK LXXVII	239
EPITOME OF BOOK LXXVIII	279
EPITOME OF BOOK LXXIX	341
EPITOME OF BOOK LXXX	437
FRAGMENT OF BOOK LXXX	489
GENERAL INDEX	491

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DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY

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DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY
 EPITOME OF BOOK LXXI

- 1² Μάρκος δὲ Ἀντωνῖνος ὁ φιλόσοφος ἐπειδὴ τοῦ ποιησαμένου αὐτὸν τελευτήσαντος Ἀντωνίνου τὴν ἀρχὴν ἔσχε, προσειλήφει ἐς κοινωνίαν τοῦ κράτους εὐθύς τὸν τοῦ Λουκίου Κομόδου υἱὸν Λούκιον Βῆρον. αὐτὸς μὲν γὰρ ἀσθενὴς ἦν τῷ σώματι καὶ τὰ πολλὰ λόγοις ἐσχόλαζε (λέγεται γὰρ καὶ αὐτοκράτωρ ὦν μὴ αἰδεῖσθαι μηδὲ ὀκνεῖν ἐς διδασκάλου φοιτᾶν, ἀλλὰ καὶ Σέξτω προσίεναι τῷ ἐκ Βοιωτῶν φιλοσόφῳ, καὶ ἐς ἀκρόασιν τῶν ῥητορικῶν Ἑρμογένους λόγων μὴ ὀκνήσαι παραγε-
 2 νέσθαι· προσέκειτο δὲ τοῖς ἐκ τῆς στοᾶς μάλιστα δόγμασιν), ὁ δὲ Λούκιος ἔρρωτό τε καὶ νεώτερος ἦν, τοῖς στρατιωτικοῖς τε ἔργοις καταλληλότερος. ὅθεν καὶ γαμβρὸν αὐτὸν ἐπὶ τῇ θυγατρὶ Λουκίλλᾳ ὁ Μάρκος ποιήσας εἰς τὸν πρὸς Πάρθους ἔπεμψε πόλεμον.
 3 Ὁ γὰρ Οὐολόγαισος πολέμου ἤρξε, καὶ στρατόπεδον τε ὅλον Ῥωμαϊκὸν τὸ ὑπὸ Σεβηριανῷ τεταγμένον ἐν τῇ Ἐλεγεΐᾳ, χωρίῳ τινὶ τῆς Ἀρμενίας, περισχῶν¹ πάντοθεν αὐτοῖς ἡγεμόσι κατετόξευσε καὶ διέφθειρε, καὶ τῆς Συρίας
 2 ταῖς πόλεσι πολὺς ἐπήει καὶ φοβερὸς. ὁ οὖν Λούκιος ἐλθὼν ἐς Ἀντιόχειαν καὶ πλείστους στρατιώτας συλλέξας, καὶ τοὺς ἀρίστους τῶν

¹ περισχῶν Sylb., ἐπισχῶν VC.

DIO'S ROMAN HISTORY
 EPITOME OF BOOK LXXI

MARCUS ANTONINUS, the philosopher, upon obtain-^{A.D. 161} ing the throne at the death of Antoninus, his adoptive father, had immediately taken to share his power Lucius Verus, the son of Lucius Commodus. For he was frail in body himself and devoted the greater part of his time to letters. Indeed it is reported that even when he was emperor he showed no shame or hesitation about resorting to a teacher, but became a pupil of Sextus, the Boeotian philosopher,¹ and did not hesitate to attend the lectures of Hermogenes on rhetoric; but he was most inclined to the doctrines of the Stoic school. Lucius, on the other hand, was a vigorous man of younger years and better suited for military enterprises. Therefore Marcus made him his son-in-law by marrying him to his daughter Lucilla and sent him to conduct the war against the Parthians.

Vologaesius, it seems, had begun the war by hemming in on all sides the Roman legion under Severianus that was stationed at Elegeia, a place in Armenia, and then shooting down and destroying the whole force, leaders and all; and he was now advancing, powerful and formidable, against the cities of Syria. Lucius, accordingly, went to Antioch^{A.D. 162} and collected a large body of troops; then, keeping

¹ Sextus of Chaeronea, the nephew of Plutarch.

ἡγεμόνων ὑφ' ἑαυτὸν ἔχων, αὐτὸς μὲν ἐν τῇ πόλει
 ἐκάθητο διατάπτων ἕκαστα καὶ τὰς τοῦ πολέμου
 χορηγίας ἀθροίζων, Κασσίω δὲ τὰ στρατεύματα
 3 ἐπέτρεψεν. καὶ ὃς ἐπιόντα τε τὸν Οὐολόγαισον
 γενναίως ὑπέμεινε, καὶ τέλος ἐγκαταλειφθέντα
 ὑπὸ τῶν συμμάχων καὶ ὀπίσω ἀναχωρήσαντα
 ἐπεδίωξε, μέχρι τε Σελευκείας καὶ Κτησιφῶντος
 ἤλασε, καὶ τὴν τε Σελεύκειαν διέφθειρεν ἐμπρή-
 4 σασ, καὶ τὰ τοῦ Οὐολογαίου βασιλεία τὰ ἐν τῇ
 Κτησιφῶντι κατέσκαψεν. ἔν γε μὴν τῇ ὑπο-
 στροφῇ πλείστους τῶν στρατιωτῶν ὑπὸ λιμοῦ
 καὶ νόσου ἀπέβαλεν, ἀπενόστησε δ' ὁμως ἐς τὴν
 Συρίαν μετὰ τῶν λοιπῶν στρατιωτῶν. καὶ ὁ
 μὲν Λούκιος τούτοις ἐπεκυδαίνετο καὶ μέγα
 ἐφρόνει, οὐ μὴν αὐτῷ καὶ τὰ τῆς ἄκρας εὐτυχίας
 3, 1¹ ἐς ἀγαθόν τι ἀπέβη· λέγεται γὰρ μετὰ ταῦτα καὶ
 τῷ πενθερῷ Μάρκῳ ἐπιβεβουλευκῶς, πρὶν τι καὶ
 δράσαι, φαρμάκῳ διαφθαρῆναι.—Xiph. 258, 9-
 259, 10 R. St.

“Ὅτι Μάρτιος Βῆρος τὸν Θουκυδίδην ἐκπέμπει
 καταγαγεῖν Σόαιμον¹ εἰς Ἀρμενίαν· ὃς δέει τῶν
 ὀπλων καὶ τῇ οἰκείᾳ περὶ πάντα τὰ προσπίπτοντα
 εὐβουλία τοῦ πρόσω εἶχετο ἐρρωμένως. ἦν δὲ
 ἱκανὸς ὁ Μάρτιος οὐ μόνον ὀπλοῖς βιάσασθαι
 τοὺς ἀντιπολέμους ἢ ὀξύτητι προλαβεῖν ἢ ἀπάτη
 κατασοφίσασθαι, ἢ περ ἐστὶ στρατηγῶν ἀλκή,
 ἀλλὰ καὶ λόγῳ πιθανῶ πείσαι καὶ δωρεαῖς μεγα-
 λόφροσιν οἰκειώσασθαι καὶ ἐλπίδι ἀγαθῇ δελεά-
 σαι. χάρις τε ἦν ἐπὶ πᾶσι τοῖς πρασσομένοις
 ὑπ' αὐτοῦ καὶ λεγομένοις, τὸ μὲν ἀγανακτοῦν
 ἐκάστου καὶ τὸ θυμούμενον παραμυθουμένη, τὸ δὲ
 ἔλπιζον ἔτι μᾶλλον αὐξουσα. κολακείας τε καὶ²

the best of the leaders under his personal command, ^{A.D. 162}
 he took up his own headquarters in the city, where
 he made all the dispositions and assembled the
 supplies for the war, while he entrusted the armies
 to Cassius. The latter made a noble stand against ^{A.D. 163}
 the attack of Vologaesius, and finally, when the king
 was deserted by his allies and began to retire, he
 pursued him as far as Seleucia and Ctesiphon,
 destroying Seleucia by fire and razing to the ground
 the palace of Vologaesius at Ctesiphon. In return-
 ing, he lost a great many of his soldiers through
 famine and disease, yet he got back to Syria with
 the survivors. Lucius gloried in these exploits and
 took great pride in them, yet his extreme good for-
 tune did him no good; for he is said to have engaged
 in a plot later against his father-in-law Marcus and
 to have perished by poison before he could carry out
 any of his plans.

Martius Verus sent out Thucydides to conduct ^{A.D. 164}
 Sohaemus into Armenia, and this general, thanks to
 the terror inspired by his arms and to the natural
 good judgment that he showed in every situation,
 kept pressing vigorously forward. Now Martius had
 the ability not only to overpower his antagonists by
 force of arms, to anticipate them by swiftness, or to
 outwit them by strategy, which is the true strength
 of a general, but also to persuade them by plausible
 promises, to conciliate them by generous gifts, and
 to tempt them by bright hopes. There was a quality
 of charm about all that he said or did, a charm that
 soothed the vexation and anger of everyone while
 raising their hopes even more. He knew the proper

¹ Σόαιμον Val., σόαιμον MSS.

² καὶ supplied by Bk.

δώρων καὶ τῆς παρὰ τραπέζαις δεξιώσεως καιρὸν ἦδει. οἷς προσὸν τὸ πρὸς τὰς πράξεις σύντονου καὶ τὸ πρὸς τοὺς ἐχθροὺς σὺν ὀξύτητι δραστήριον, αἰρετώτερον ἐδείκνυε τοῖς βαρβάροις εἶναι τῆς φιλίας αὐτοῦ μᾶλλον ἢ τῆς ἐχθρας ἀντιποιεῖσθαι. ἀφικόμενος οὖν εἰς τὴν Καινὴν πόλιν, ἣν φρουρὰ Ῥωμαίων κατεῖχεν ἐκ Πρίσκου καταστᾶσα, νεωτερίζειν πειρωμένους λόγῳ τε καὶ ἔργῳ σωφρονίσας, ἀπέφηνε πρώτην εἶναι τῆς Ἀρμενίας.
—Suidas s. v. Μάρτιος.

Ζεύγνυται δὲ Ῥωμαίοις ἀπουώτατα τῶν ποταμῶν τὰ ρεύματα, ἅτε καὶ τοῦτο διὰ μελέτης ἀεὶ τοῖς στρατιώταις ὡσπερ ἄλλο τι τῶν πολεμικῶν ὄν καὶ¹ ἀσκούμενον ἐπὶ τε Ἰστρῷ καὶ Ῥήνῳ καὶ Εὐφράτῃ. ἔστι δὲ ὁ τρόπος (οὐ γὰρ δὴ πάντας εἰκὸς² εἰδέναί) τοιόσδε. πλατεῖαι μὲν εἰσιν αἱ νῆες δι' ὧν ὁ ποταμὸς ζεύγνυται, ἀνορμίζονται δὲ ὀλίγον ἔνω τοῦ ρεύματος ὑπὲρ τὸν μέλλοντα ζεύγνυσθαι τόπον. ἐπὰν δὲ τὸ σημεῖον δοθῇ, ἀφιασι πρώτην μίαν ναῦν κατὰ ῥοῦν φέρεσθαι πλησίον τῆς οἰκείας ὄχθης. ἐπὰν δὲ κατὰ τὸν ζευγνύμενον ἦκη τόπον, ἐμβάλλουσιν εἰς τὸ ρεῦμα φορμὸν λίθων ἐμπεπλησμένον, καλωδίῳ δήσαντες, ὡσπερ ἄγκυραν· ἀφ' οὗ δεθείσα ἡ ναῦς πρὸς τῇ ὄχθῃ ἴσταται, καὶ³ σανίσι καὶ ζεύγμασιν, ἅπερ ἀφθονα αὐτοῖς ἡ ναῦς φέρει, παραχρῆμα μέχρι τῆς ἀποβάσεως καταστρώννυται. εἶτα ἄλλην ἀφιασιν ὀλίγον ἀπ' ἐκείνης, καὶ ἄλλην ἀπ' ἐκείνης, ἔστ' ἂν ἐπὶ τὴν ἀντιπέραν ὄχθην ἐλάσωσι τὸ

¹ ὄν καὶ supplied by Val. (after στρατιώταις) and Bs.

² εἰκὸς supplied by Bernhardt.

³ καὶ supplied by Bs.

time for flattery and presents and entertainment at A.D. 164
table. And since in addition to these talents he showed perseverance in his undertakings and energy combined with swiftness against his foes, he made it plain to the barbarians that his friendship was more worth striving for than his enmity. So when he arrived in the New City, which was held by a garrison of Romans placed there by Priscus, and found them attempting a mutiny, he took pains both by word and by deed to bring them to a better temper; and he made this place the foremost city of Armenia.

Rivers are bridged by the Romans with the greatest ease, since the soldiers are always practising bridge-building, which is carried on like any other warlike exercise, on the Ister, the Rhine, and the Euphrates. Now the method of procedure—which probably is not familiar to everybody—is as follows. The ships by means of which the river is to be bridged are flat-bottomed, and these are anchored a little way up-stream from the spot where the bridge is to be constructed. Then, when the signal is given, they first let one ship drift down-stream close to the bank that they are holding; and when it has come opposite to the spot that is to be bridged, they throw into the stream a wicker-basket filled with stones and fastened by a cable, which serves as an anchor. Made fast in this way, the ship remains in position near the bank, and by means of planks and bridge-work, which the vessel carries in large quantity, a floor is at once laid to the landing-place. Then they send down another ship at a little distance from the first, and another one beyond that, until they have extended the bridge to the opposite bank.

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