

THE INSCRIPTION OF DARIUS,
AT NAKSHI RUSTAM.

TRANSLATED BY

H. F. TALBOT, F.R.S.

THIS important inscription was published by Westergaard in the *Mémoires de la Société Royale des Antiquaires du Nord*, Copenhagen 1844, where it is given in Plate xviii.

Since that time a more perfect copy has been obtained by Tasker, and from these materials Sir H. Rawlinson many years ago gave a restoration of a great part of the inscription, accompanied by a

Latin version. I have carefully revised my former translation of 1862 in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, and I hope the remaining errors are but few.



THE INSCRIPTION OF DARIUS.

- 1 Chief of the gods, is OROMASDES, who created heaven
and earth,
- 2 and created mankind : who gave to men their various
fortunes :
- 3 who created DARIUS, the King of many Kings.
- 4 I am DARIUS the great King, the King of Kings, the
King of the nations
- 5 of every different tongue : the King of the vast and
wide world :
- 6 son of HYSTASPES the Achæmenian : a Persian, son of
a Persian.
- 7 DARIUS the King says : Under the protection
- 8 of OROMASDES, these are the countries which I hold
- 9 besides Persia : and whatever tribute I have com-
manded them to bring,
- 10 that they brought : and whatever things I commanded
them to do,
- 11 that they did ; and they fulfilled my laws.
- 12 Media : Susiana : Parthia : Aria : Bactria : Sogdiana :
Chorasmia :¹
- 13 Zarangia : Arachotia : Sattagydia : Gandaria :²
- 14 India :³ those Cimmerians who are called the Humurga :
those other Cimmerians

¹ Chorasmia, now Khiva.

² Gandaria, now Candahar.

³ Probably only the Punjab, or perhaps the districts near the river Indus.

- 15 who wear gloves on their hands :¹ Babylonia : Assyria :
Arabia :
- 16 Egypt : Armenia : Cappadocia : Sparta : Ionia :
- 17 those Cimmerians who dwell beyond the sea,² in the
land of *Scythia* :
- 18 those Ionians who wear helmets on their heads : the
Budians :
- 19 the *Cossæans* : the *Masiens* : and the land of *Cartha*.
DARIUS the King says :
- 20 When OROMASDES saw that these countries were at war
21 with each other continually, after he had given me to
them
22 and had appointed me to be King over them, then I
the King under the protection
23 of OROMASDES kept them all quiet in their right places.
24 Whatever I said, that they did, and they wished the
thing that I wished.
- 25 And if thou³ should'st say thus : "Surely these nations
will quarrel and split asunder
26 who now obey DARIUS the King," look well at those
statues which support my throne,⁴
27 and if thou dost recognise them,⁵ then it will be known
to thee
28 that the spear of the Persian reaches far !
29 Then it will be known to thee, that the men of Persia
far beyond their own country

¹ "Gloves:" in the original *karbul*. This word occurs in the Old Testament (Daniel, and 1 Chronicles) in the sense of a covering for some part of the body. Gloves were almost unknown to the southern nations though very suitable to the climate of the Cimmerians or Scythians.

² Beyond the Euxine, Darius afterwards waged in person a very disastrous war against these Scythians.

³ Thou : that is, thou, whoever thou art, who shall read these lines.

⁴ Namely, in the original sculpture at Nakshi Rustam.

⁵ That is, the nations meant to be represented.

- 30 wars are wont to wage. DARIUS the King says : All
this that I have done, under the protection of
31 OROMASDES I have done it. OROMASDES gave me
the strength
32 to do these things. May OROMASDES protect me
33 from everything that is evil, both my family and my
country
34 this I pray OROMASDES : may OROMASDES grant it !
35 O man ! whatever OROMASDES commands, do not thou
rebel against it !





END OF SAMPLE TEXT



The Complete Text can be found on our CD:
Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature
which can be purchased on our Website :
www.Brainfly.net

or

by sending **\$64.95** in check or money order to :
Brainfly Inc.
5100 Garfield Ave. #46
Sacramento CA 95841-3839

TEACHER'S DISCOUNT:

If you are a **TEACHER** you can take advantage of our teacher's discount. Click on **Teachers Discount** on our website (www.Brainfly.net) or **Send us \$55.95** and we will send you a full copy of *Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature* **AND** our *5000 Classics CD (a collection of over 5000 classic works of literature in electronic format (.txt))* plus our *Wholesale price list*.

If you have any suggestions such as books you would like to see added to the collection or if you would like our wholesale prices list please send us an email to:

webcomments@brainfly.net