

CYRUS BUILDS UP HIS ARMY

DARIUS and Parysatis had two sons. Artaxerxes was the elder of the two and Cyrus was the younger. When Darius was growing feeble and began to suspect that he had not long to live, he wanted both his sons to be at hand. The elder one happened to be there, but he had to send for Cyrus from the province of which he had made him Satrap. (He had also appointed him Commander-in-Chief over all the troops that muster in the plain of Castolus.)

Cyrus, then, travelled up to the capital with Tissaphernes, whom he regarded as a friend, taking with him three hundred Greek hoplites under the command of Xenias of Parrhasia. But, after the death of Darius, when Artaxerxes was established on the throne, Tissaphernes maligned Cyrus to his brother and accused him of plotting against him. Artaxerxes believed the story and arrested Cyrus with the intention of putting him to death; but his mother by her entreaties secured his life and his recall to his province. Still, after the danger and disgrace from which he had escaped, Cyrus took measures to ensure that he should never again be in his brother's power; instead, if he could manage it, he would become king in his brother's place. His mother Parysatis was on his side, as she was fonder of him than of the reigning king, Artaxerxes. And he used his influence on those who came to him from the Court to such effect that, when they returned, they were more friendly to him than to the King. He gave his attention also to the natives in his district, seeing to it that they were in a fit state for a campaign and well-disposed to him. He got together his Greek troops with the utmost secrecy, wishing to take the King as far as possible off his guard.

This was the way in which he collected his army. He sent orders to the commanders of his garrisons in the various cities to enrol troops from the Peloponnese, as many as possible and the best available, ostensibly on the ground that Tissaphernes was contemplating action against the cities. And in point of fact the cities of Ionia had originally belonged to Tissaphernes, since they had been given to him by the King, but at this time they had all gone over to Cyrus, except for Miletus. In Miletus Tissaphernes had got wind of a plot to follow the other states in going over to Cyrus, and he had put to death some of the conspirators and exiled others. Cyrus received the exiles, got together an army, blockaded Miletus by land and sea, and attempted to restore the banished party. He used this as yet another pretext for raising an army, and he sent to the King asking that, as he was his brother, the cities should be handed over to him instead of being governed by Tissaphernes. His mother did her part too. As a result the King had no idea of the plot that was on foot against him, but thought that Cyrus was spending his money and raising an army for his war with Tissaphernes, and so, with hostilities going on between these two, he felt no uneasiness, especially as Cyrus regularly sent in to him the tribute from the cities which Tissaphernes used to hold.

Another force was being organized for him in the Chersonese opposite Abydos. This was how it was done. Clearchus the Spartan was an exile. Cyrus met him, was greatly impressed with his abilities and gave him ten thousand darics. Clearchus used the money in raising an army and then, with the Chersonese as his base, made war on the Thracians north of the Hellespont. This was to the advantage of the Greeks, and the result was that more money was contributed to him voluntarily by the cities of the Hellespont for the support of his troops. Here then was another of Cyrus's armies which, maintained in this way, attracted no suspicion.

Then there was Aristippus the Thessalian, a friend of Cyrus, who was in political difficulties at home with the opposing party. He came to Cyrus and asked him for two thousand mercenaries and three months' pay for them, saying that this would enable him to come out on top of his opponents. Cyrus gave him four thousand troops and six months' pay and asked him not to come to any agreement with his opponents without previously consulting him. So in Thessaly another army was being maintained for him without attracting suspicion.

He also sent an order to Proxenus the Boeotian, a friend of his, telling him to come with as many men as possible, as he wished to make an expedition against the Pisidians, who had been causing trouble in his province. And he ordered Sophacnetus the Stymphalian, and Socrates the Achaean, who were also friends of his, to bring as many men as they could, as he was going to make war on Tissaphernes in support of the exiles from Miletus. Sophacnetus and Socrates carried out his instructions.

XENOPHON

THE PERSIAN
EXPEDITION

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