

friends when they get there, though I think I shall make many of you prefer what they will get from me here to what they will have at home.'

Then Gaulites, who was at the meeting, spoke. He was an exile from Samos and was in Cyrus's confidence. 'All the same, Cyrus,' he said, 'some people are saying that you are promising a lot now because of being in such a critical position with danger on the way, and, according to them, if things turn out well, you will not remember. And some say that even if you have both the memory and the will, you will not have the power to make good all the promises you have made.'

Cyrus listened to this and said: 'But, soldiers, in front of us lies the empire of my father. It extends southwards to where heat and northwards to where cold make it impossible for men to live. The friends of my brother rule as satraps over all the land between. But if we win, we shall have to make our own friends lords over all this. Consequently I am more afraid of not having enough friends for what I can give than of not having what to give, if things go well, to all my friends. And I shall give an additional present of a golden crown to each one of you Greeks.'

When the Greeks heard this, they became much more enthusiastic themselves and passed on the news to the others. Generals and other Greeks who wanted to know what they would get, if they won, called on Cyrus privately and he satisfied all their expectations before he let them go. All who discussed things with him urged him not to join in the battle personally but to take up a position in their rear. At this time Clearchus asked him some such question as this: 'Do you think, Cyrus, that your brother will come to battle?' 'Certainly,' said Cyrus, 'if he is the son of Darius and Parysatis, and my brother, I shall not gain power without fighting for it.'

A count was taken then of those under arms. In the Greek army there were ten thousand four hundred hoplites and two

Chapter 7

CYRUS PREPARES FOR BATTLE, BUT THE KING RETREATS

FROM here he advanced through Babylonia, a three days' march of thirty-six miles. At the end of the third day's march Cyrus held a review of the Greek and native troops in the plain about midnight, as he thought that on the next dawn the King would appear with his army to give battle. He ordered Clearchus to take the right wing and Menon the Thessalian the left, while he himself saw to the disposition of his own troops.

At daybreak, after the review, deserters from the great King came and gave Cyrus information about the King's army. Cyrus called together the generals and captains of the Greeks for a discussion on how he should fight the battle, and then made the following speech himself to spur them on to greater efforts: 'Soldiers of the Greeks, I am not leading you into battle with me because I am short of native troops. No, the reason why I sought your help was that I considered you to be more efficient and formidable than great numbers of natives. I want you, then, to show yourselves worthy of the freedom which you have won and which I think you happy in possessing. You can be sure that I would rather have that freedom than all I possess, and much more. But to give you knowledge also of the type of fighting into which you are going I will tell you about it from my own experience. The enemy's numbers are very great and they attack with a lot of shouting; but if you stand your ground against this, I really feel ashamed to say what sort of people in every other way you will find the men in this country to be. But if you show yourselves men and if my fortunes turn out well, I shall see to it that those of you who want to return home will be envied by their

thousand five hundred peltasts. There were a hundred thousand native troops with Cyrus and about twenty scythed chariots.¹⁶ On the side of the enemy there were said to be one million two hundred thousand men and two hundred scythed chariots; and apart from these there were six thousand cavalry under the command of Artageres who were placed in position to cover the King's own person. The command of the King's army was in the hands of four generals or leaders, Abrocomas, Tissaphernes, Gobrias and Arbaces. Each had three hundred thousand in his command. Only nine hundred thousand of these, and a hundred and fifty scythed chariots, were engaged in the battle, since Abrocomas, who was marching from Phoenicia, arrived five days late. The deserters from the Great King gave Cyrus this information before the battle, and enemy prisoners taken after the battle told the same story.

Cyrus went a day's march, nine miles, from here with his whole army, Greek and native, in order of battle. He expected that the King would engage him on that day, as about the middle of the day's march there was a deep ditch dug in the ground, five fathoms across and three fathoms deep. The ditch extended inland for thirty-six miles over the plain as far as the Median wall,¹⁷ but near the Euphrates there was a narrow passage about twenty feet wide between the river and the ditch. The Great King had had the ditch dug as an obstacle when he heard of Cyrus's advance. It was by this passage that Cyrus and the army went and so got beyond the ditch.

On this day, then, the King failed to give battle, but there were many signs to be seen of men and horses in retreat. Cyrus at this time sent for Silanus, the Ambracian soothsayer, and gave him three thousand darics. Eleven days before he had told Cyrus during a sacrifice that the King would not

16. There is a description of scythed chariots in the *Education of Cyrus*, VI.1.29f.

17. For the topography see R. D. Barnett, *art. cit.*

give battle in the next ten days, and Cyrus had said to him: 'Then, if he doesn't fight in that time, he won't fight at all. But if what you say turns out true, I promise you ten talents.' Now the ten days had gone by, and he paid him the money.

As the King had made no attempt at the ditch to stop Cyrus's army crossing over, Cyrus and the rest believed that he had given up the idea of fighting, and, as a result of this belief, on the following day Cyrus went forward with less caution. On the third day he travelled seated in his chariot with only a few regular formations in front of him. Most of his army was marching in no sort of order, and much of the soldiers' equipment was being carried on the waggons and baggage animals.

XENOPHON

THE PERSIAN
EXPEDITION

TRANSLATED BY
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