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The Persian Expedition

Xenophon · *c. 370 B.C.* · *H. G. Dakyns, 1890s*

Darius and Parysatis had two sons: the elder Artaxerxes, and the younger Cyrus. Xenophon's Anabasis, in Dakyns's English, is the march of the Ten Thousand inland with Cyrus, the battle, the leaderless retreat, and the long road to the sea. The hosted text is this work, not Xenophon's other books.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What becomes of a hired Greek army when its prince falls in the heart of Persia, and who can lead a retreat when the road home is the enemy's country?

"Darius and Parysatis had two sons:"

Book I, the opening

The translation is H. G. Dakyns (1890s), PG #1170. The hosted text is the Anabasis (this library's title: The Persian Expedition), complete in seven books, not Hellenica or the Socratic works. A footnote number sits after "Artaxerxes, and" in this file; quote only a continuous stretch without the number (for example the opening clause). The sea-cry, the election of new leaders, and the moral tests of a hired army belong to the later books. A complete campaign narrative, for older students, not a children's adventure only.

KEY CHARACTERS

Cyrus the younger
The prince whose quarrel with Artaxerxes draws the Greeks inland.

Artaxerxes
The elder son, already on the throne when the march begins.

Xenophon
The Athenian who becomes a leader of the retreat, and who writes the tale.

the Ten Thousand
The hired Greek army that must find a way home after Cunaxa.

TWO SONS

> *"Darius and Parysatis had two sons:"*
>
> Book I, the opening

Grades 9–12

Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Two Sons of Darius

BOOK I, THE OPENING

Darius and Parysatis had two sons; the younger, Cyrus, is summoned, and a Greek force will go up with him. The expedition begins as a prince's quarrel.

- The first clause is exact: 'Darius and Parysatis had two sons:'
- Do not include the footnote number that follows 'and' in this file.
- This volume is the Anabasis, not Xenophon's other works.

> *"Darius and Parysatis had two sons:"*
>
> Book I

02

The March Inland

BOOK I CONTINUED

The Ten Thousand go up through Asia, not always told the true object. Tissaphernes is already in the story.

- The army's ignorance of the aim is part of the plot.
- Cyrus's charm and his danger should both be kept.
- Cite Dakyns's wording.

03

A Battle, and a Death

THE CRISIS

Cunaxa, a tactical success that is a strategic wreck when Cyrus falls. The Greeks are suddenly alone.

- The death of the prince is the hinge, not a minor casualty.
- The army's first shock is a moral as well as a military problem.
- For older students.

04

New Leaders, and a Long Retreat

THE MIDDLE BOOKS

The old generals are taken; new leaders, including Xenophon, must be chosen. The road home is through hostile country.

- Xenophon is a character in his own history; teach that.
- The tests of food, snow, and faithless guides are the retreat's substance.
- Seven books complete in this file.

05

The Sea, and After

BOOK VII AND THE CLOSE

The famous sight of the sea is not the last chapter. The hosted text carries the army through the later bargains and the close of the Anabasis.

- Do not stop at the sea-cry if the seventh book continues.
- Dakyns, 1890s, PG #1170; the Anabasis only.
- A complete campaign narrative, for older students.

A Hired Army · A Prince's Quarrel · Leadership · A Long Retreat · The Sea

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. The translation is H. G. Dakyns (1890s), Project Gutenberg #1170. The hosted text is the Anabasis (The Persian Expedition), complete in seven books, not Hellenica or the Socratic works. The opening is exact: "Darius and Parysatis had two sons:" A footnote number sits after "Artaxerxes, and" in this file; quote only a continuous stretch without the number.
2. A complete campaign narrative of the Ten Thousand, for older students, not a children's adventure only. Xenophon is a character in his own history.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.

Quotations are verbatim from the H. G. Dakyns, 1890s, Project Gutenberg #1170, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-persian-expedition/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.