CLAH6003: Sources and Issues (1)

The first day at Thermopylae:

Xerxes with his army came against the Greeks at Thermopylae. And he put the Medes in front of all the other peoples, either because he preferred them by reason of their courage or because he wished to destroy them in a body; for the Medes still retained a proud spirit, the supremacy which their ancestors had exercised having only recently been overthrown. [4] And he also designated together with the Medes the brothers and sons of those who had fallen at Marathon, believing that they would wreak vengeance upon the Greeks with the greatest fury. The Medes, then, having been drawn up for battle in the manner we have described, attacked the defenders of Thermopylae; but Leonidas had made careful preparation and massed the Greeks in the narrowest part of the pass. Diodoros 11.6

He let four days go by, expecting them to run away at any minute. They did not leave, and it seemed to him that they stayed out of folly and lack of due respect. On the fifth day he became angry and sent the Medes and Cissians against them, bidding them take them prisoner and bring them into his presence. [2] The Medes bore down upon the Hellenes and attacked. Many fell, but others attacked in turn, and they made it clear to everyone, especially to the king himself, that among so many people there were few real men. The battle lasted all day. Herodotos 7.210

CLAH6003: Sources and Issues (1)

Sappho F16

Some say a host of horsemen is the most beautiful thing
on the black earth, some say a host of foot-soldiers,
some, a fleet of ships; but I say it is
whatever one loves.
Wholly easy it is to make this intelligible
to everyone, for she who by far surpassed
all humankind in beauty, Helen,
forsook her husband,
noblest of men, to sail away to Troy;
neither of child nor of beloved parents
did she take thought at all, being led astray by . . .
[one line missing]

CLAH6003: Sources and Issues (1)

"To take first the nations known to us. In Asia the rulers are the Persians; the Syrians, Lydians and Phrygians are the ruled.
In Europe the Scythians rule, and the Maeotians are ruled.
In Africa the Carthaginians rule, and the Libyans are ruled. Which of the two classes, think you, enjoys the pleasanter life? Or take the Greeks, of whom you yourself are one; do you think that the controlling or the controlled communities enjoy the pleasanter life?" [11]

"Nay," replied Aristippus, "for my part I am no candidate for slavery; but there is, as I hold, a middle path in which I am fain to walk. That way leads neither through rule nor slavery, but through liberty, which is the royal road to happiness." [12]

"Ah," said Socrates, "if only that path can avoid the world as well as rule and slavery, there may be something in what you say. But, since you are in the world, if you intend neither to rule nor to be ruled, and do not choose to truckle to the rulers [13] — I think you must see that the stronger have a way of making the weaker rue their lot both in public and in private life, and treating them like slaves. You cannot be unaware that where some have sown and planted, others cut their corn and fell their trees, and in all manner of ways harass the weaker if they refuse to bow down, until they are persuaded to accept slavery as an escape from war with the stronger. So, too, in private life do not brave and mighty men enslave and plunder the cowardly and feeble folk?"

Xenophon *Memorabilia* 2.10-3

When making a sally at night to surprise the enemy outside your walls the following precautions should be observed. First of all, take care that no-one deserts; secondly, that there are no lights in the open air: for a glow in the sky over the city may betray your intentions. 2. Any chance of dogs' barking or cocks' crowing must be done away with: you can keep them quiet for the time by cauterizing some parts of their bodies; for the noise they make by barking or crowing altogether betrays what is going on. 3. The following device has been employed in making a sally. The citizens made a plausible pretence of sedition within the city, watched their opportunity for a sally, and made a surprise attack on the enemy with complete success. 4. In another city the besieged surprised the enemy by sally in the following way. They walled up the gates in full view of the enemy; but at the point where an attack upon the latter was most practicable, they let down a sail and after a while drew it up again. This surprised the enemy at first, but on its frequent repetition they ceased to take notice of it; 5. then, at night, the besieged made a hole in the wall large enough for their purpose, built a retired wall across the gap and stretched the sail over; when the opportunity came, they made their sally and took the enemy by surprise. While they were doing all this they took good care that no one should desert. None of these points, therefore, must be neglected. Aeneas Tacticus 23

- … to Antiochides and Phanosthenes… to the Athenians… and the others that… the demos (people) of the Athenians, who has the greatest respect for those importing oars and thus desires to return their service, let them have ateleia (exemption from taxes) from the hekatoste (1/100th) tax for the oars they bring to the trieropoioi (trireme makers) and the trieropoioi (trireme makers)… put in the naupegion (naval yard). IG I^3 182 (excerpts)
- Translation: E. Bissa

CLAH6003: Sources and Issues (1)

Terracotta metopes, 600-575 BCE. From a small temple or sepulchral building. Parade of warriors. Found in Sparta, near the Eurotas bridge (modern).





CLAH6003: Sources and Issues (1)

Leaf-shaped iron spear points. Either from hoplite spear or from Macedonian cavalry lance. From Chaeroneia.

