

Detailed Account: Bagoas and Alexander

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The texts addressing the character of Bagoas in Alexander's life were considerably similar to each other, indicating a pattern over how Bagoas and Alexander's relationship used to be addressed in literature. Dicaearchus in Athenaeus 603b, Quintus Curtius Rufus (6.5.22-3; 10.1.22-42), Plutarch Alexander 67 all of those extracts addresses Bagoas as an man of influence over Alexander and also some of his actions upon enemies and other kingdom, especially in Quintus Curtius Rufus (6.5.22-3; 10.1.22-42).

On hearing this, the eunuch exercised the power which he had gained by shame and disgrace against the life of an eminent and guiltless man. For he secretly supplied the most worthless fellows of that same nation with false accusations, warning them not to make them public until he himself should have given the word<sup>1</sup>

This approach to Bagoas showed the unpredictiness of a Eunuch having so much influence over a leader. However, it is important to notice that all texts portrayed their relationship as not purely sexual but romantic. It was clear in the texts the tenderness of Alexander over Bagoas and that both had real feelings to each other, which could indicate that Bagoas influence came naturally in consequence of their relationship.

He was so enthralled with the eunuch Bagoas that in the view of the entire theatre he bent back and kissed him deeply, and when the audience shouted approval and applauded, he did as they bid and bent back and kissed him again.<sup>2</sup>

Passed through the theatre and took his seat by Alexander's

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<sup>1</sup> Quintus Curtius Rufus 6.5.22-3.

<sup>2</sup> Dicaearchus in Athenaeus 603b, *Sacrifice at Ilium*.

side; at sight of which the Macedonians clapped their hands and loudly bade the king kiss the victor, until at last he threw his arms about him and kissed him tenderly<sup>3</sup>

The interesting fact about those extracts is the consistency of “minor” facts about Alexander's life, such as his relationship with Bagoas, that diverge from all the different stories and approaches to Alexander and his deeds. Because even though the fact that he had a Eunuch as a lover might not be perceived as a minor fact in the stories, the fact that all three extracts talked about the fact of their care and passion for each other, which could be ignored by other authors that could choose to focus on Alexander's achievements as a conqueror or even only recognize the relationship as just another affair that the leader had during his life. This could say more about the authors and the period that those texts were written than what actually happened during Alexander's time.

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<sup>3</sup> Plutarch Alexander 67