

Lesson 10

Quintus Curtius Rufus, History of Alexander: *Historiae Alexandri Magni*

Rex armatis stipatus oppidanorum turbam post ultimos pedites ire iussit; ipse cum curru urbem ac deinde regiam intravit. Postero die supellectilem Darei et omnem pecuniam recognovit. Ceterum ipsius urbis pulchritudo ac vetustas non regis modo, sed etiam omnium oculos in semet haud inmerito convertit. Semiramis eam condiderat, non, ut plerique credidere, Belus, cuius regia ostenditur. Murus instructus laterculo coctili, bitumine interlito, spatium XXX et duorum pedum in latitudinem amplectitur; quadrigae inter se occurrentes sine periculo commeare dicuntur. Altitudo muri L cubitorum eminent spatio: turrets denis pedibus quam murus altiores sunt. Totius operis ambitus CCCLXV stadia complectitur; singulorum stadiorum structuram singulis diebus perfectam esse memoriae proditum est. Aedificia non sunt admota muris, sed fere spatium iugeri unius absunt. Ac ne totam quidem urbem tectis occupaverunt - per LXXX stadia habitabatur - , nec omnia continua sunt, credo quia tutius visum est pluribus locis spargi. Cetera serunt coluntque, ut, si externa vis ingruat, obsessis alimenta ex ipsius urbis solo subministrentur.

Translation

23 Alexander, surrounded by armed men, had ordered the throng of townspeople to march after the hindermost of the infantry; he himself entered the city in his chariot, and then entered the palace. On the following day he inspected Darius' furniture and all his wealth.

24 But the beauty and antiquity of the city itself drew to it the eyes, not only of the king, but also of all, and deservedly. Semiramis had founded it, not, as many have believed, Belus, whose palace is still pointed out.

25 Its wall, built of small baked brick, cemented with bitumen covers a space of thirty-two feet in width; it is said that two four-horse chariots can meet and pass each other without risk.

26 The wall rises to a height of fifty cubits; the towers are ten feet higher than the walls. The circuit of the entire work embraces 365 stadia; there is a tradition that the building of each stade was finished in a single day. The edifices of the city are not brought close to the walls, but are distant from them about the space of one iuger.

27 And they have not occupied the whole city either with houses - eighty stadia are occupied by these - and they are not all continuous, I suppose because it seemed safer for them to be scattered over numerous places. The spaces which remain they sow and cultivate, in order that, if a force from without should assail them, supplies may be furnished to the besieged from the soil of the city itself.

Questions

1. Identify in full the following forms (underlined in the text); give their dictionary form and range of meanings; translate the form given here. Find the equivalent of each in the English translation.

1. stipatus
2. credidere
3. iussit
4. interlito
5. ire
6. occurrentes
7. convertit
8. perfectam esse
9. condiderat
10. ingruat

2. Give the case, number and gender of the following; give the dictionary form of each, and their meaning/range of meanings:

1. totius
2. tutius
3. eam
4. cetera
5. pedibus
6. solo
7. altiores
8. ambitus
9. iugeri
10. regiam

3. Find the Latin equivalents of:

1. surrounded
2. can meet and pass each other

3. furniture
4. rises

Give form, dictionary form and range of meanings of the Latin in each case.

Comment on the Latin as compared to the English translation.

4. Translate the following sentences. Comment on the Latin phrasing, word order etc., and compare the Latin to the English translation in each case:

1. Rex armatis stipatus oppidanorum turbam post ultimos pedites ire iussit
2. ipse cum curru urbem ac deinde regiam intravit.
3. ceterum ipsius urbis pulchritudo ac vestutas non regis modo, sed etiam omnium oculos in semet haud immerito convertit.
4. singulorum stadiorum structuram singulis diebus perfectam esse memoriae proditum est.