

In The Name of God

Alexander vs. Darius III

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and
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In The Blessed Name Of The Most Beautiful

To My Mom, To My Love

You are the sunlight in my day,

You are the moon I see far away.

You are the tree I lean upon,

You are the one that makes troubles be gone.

You are the one who taught me life,

How not to fight, and what is right.

You are the words inside my song,

You are my love, my life, my world.

Actually the victorious emergences of Darius III against the army of Alexander was an alluring event in the history of ancient Iran which ignited our so far patriotic sensation to which we could dedicate time to inspect the existent reigns of that era, battles between empires and the outcome of those quarrels in detail through which we wrote this book to help readers go over the glorious era in Iran's history and touch upon the great Iranian civility. Thus the book provides Its readers a chance to travel backward in time to feel the glory of an empire which manifested itself in heroic events in history and splendid pieces of architecture which are presently traces back to the magnificent Iran.

Words of acknowledgment are not enough to express our sincere gratefulness to all our friends who incited us to strive our goal. We owe a debt of gratitude to family members without whose admiring words and inspiration the book would not been completed. It was because of your presence that we are able to piece together the complete story of the book today.

Hatef Rastegarnia

&

Negin Bodaghi-Khajepour

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Chapter 1

Achaemenid Empire

The Achaemenid Empire (550–330 B.C.), also known as the **Persian Empire**, was the successor state of the Median Empire, ruling over significant portions of what would become Greater Iran. The Persian and the Median Empire taken together are also known as the Medo-Persian Empire, which encompassed the combined territories of several earlier empires.

The Persian Empire was the largest empire by geographical extent in ancient times; at the height of its power, the empire encompassed approximately 8 million km².

The Achaemenid Empire left a lasting impression on the heritage and the cultural identity of Asia and Middle East, as well as influencing the development and structure of future empires. In fact, the Greeks and later on the Romans copied the best features of the Persian method of governing the empire and variously adopted them.

In 546, Cyrus the Great had defeated Croesus, the Lydian king of fabled wealth, and had secured control of the Aegean coast of Asia Minor, Armenia, and the Greek colonies along the Levant. Moving east, he took Parthia (land of the Arsacids, not to be confused with Parsa, which was to the southwest),