

## Diodorus Siculus, 17.37-38

**37** The kings, however, were still occupied. When he knew that he was decisively defeated, Dareius gave himself up to flight and mounting in turn one after another of his best horses galloped on at top speed, desperately seeking to escape from Alexander's grasp and anxious to reach the safety of the upper satrapies. <sup>2</sup> Alexander followed him with the companion cavalry<sup>74</sup> and the best of the other horsemen, eager to get possession of Dareius's person. He continued on for two hundred furlongs and then turned back, returning to his camp about midnight. **p223** Having dispelled his weariness in the bath, he turned to relaxation and to dinner.

<sup>3</sup> Someone came to the wife and the mother of Dareius<sup>75</sup> and told them that Alexander had come back from the pursuit after stripping Dareius of his arms. At this, a great outcry and lamentation arose among the women; and the rest of the captives, joining in their sorrow at the news, sent up a loud wail, so that the king heard it and sent Leonnatus, one of his friends, to quiet the uproar and to reassure Sisyingambris<sup>76</sup> by explaining that Dareius was still alive and that Alexander would show them the proper consideration. In the morning he would come to address them and to demonstrate his kindness by deeds. <sup>4</sup> As they heard this welcome and altogether unexpected good news, the captive women hailed Alexander as a god and ceased from their wailing.

<sup>5</sup> So at daybreak, the king took with him the most valued of his Friends, Hephaestion, and came to the women. They both were dressed alike, but Hephaestion was taller and more handsome. Sisyingambris took him for the king and did him obeisance. As the others present made signs to her and pointed to Alexander with their hands she was embarrassed by her mistake, but made a new start and did obeisance to Alexander. <sup>6</sup> He, however, cut in and said, "Never **p225**mind, Mother. For actually he too is Alexander."<sup>74</sup> By thus addressing the aged woman as "Mother," with this kindest of terms he gave the promise of coming benefactions to those who had been wretched a moment before. Assuring Sisyingambris that she would be his second mother he immediately ratified in action what he had just promised orally.

**38** He decked her with her royal jewelry and restored her to her previous dignity, with its proper honours. He made over to her all her former retinue of servants which she had been given by Dareius and added more in addition not less in number than the preceding. He promised to provide for the marriage of the daughters even more generously than Dareius had promised and to bring up the boy as his own and to show him royal honour. <sup>2</sup> He called the boy to him and kissed him, and as he saw him fearless in countenance and not frightened at all, he remarked to Hephaestion that at the age of six years the boy showed a courage beyond his years and was much braver than his father.<sup>75</sup> As to the wife of Dareius, he said that he would see that her dignity should be so maintained that she would experience nothing inconsistent with her former happiness.

3 He added many other assurances of consideration and generosity, so that the women broke out into uncontrolled weeping, so great was their unexpected joy. He gave them his hand as pledge of all this and was not only showered with praises by those who had been helped, but won universal recognition throughout his own army for his exceeding propriety of conduct. p2274 In general I would say that of many good deeds done by Alexander there is none that is greater or more worthy of record and mention in history than this. 5 Sieges and battles and the other victories scored in war are due for the most part either to Fortune or valour, but when one in a position of power shows pity for those who have been overthrown, this is an action due only to wisdom.<sup>76</sup> 6 Most people are made proud by their successes because of their good fortune<sup>77</sup> and, becoming arrogant in their success, are forgetful of the common weakness of mankind. You can see how very many are unable to bear success, just as if it were a heavy burden. 7 Although Alexander lived many generations before our time, let him continue to receive in future ages also the just and proper praise for his good qualities.<sup>78</sup>