

Post paucos annos C̄yrus, Pers̄arum princeps, cōpias in Mēdōrum agros dūxit, et tōtam regiōnem celeriter vīcit. Itaque et Mēdiae et Persiae, ingentis regni, rex erat. Croesus, ubi cīvēs C̄yri facta nuntiāvērunt, “Sī C̄yrus,” inquit, “adhūc adolescens, tam celeriter Mēdos superāvit, sine dubio ego, rex maximus dīvitissimusque, C̄yrum superābo.” Cōpias igitur cito collēgit et in finitimos agros dūxit. Sed nōn bene rem gessit. Nōn diū rēgis exercitus hostium impetum sustinēbat. Persae Croesi mīlitēs fugāvērunt. In L̄ydiam contendērunt et omnia loca ferro et ignī vastāvērunt; hominēs necāvērunt; vīcos et frūmentum incendērunt. Rex perterritus rēgiam petīvit. Eō intrāvit C̄yrus. C̄yrus, vehementer irātus, “Cūr, O Croese,” rogāvit, “sine causā bellum in agros meos intulistī? Tū igitur stultitiae tuae poenas gravissimas mihi dābis. Servi mei rogam aedificābunt; tē in rogam impōnent; tum tē rogamque incendēt.”

colligo, 3, -lēgi, -lectum—I collect.

cōpiae, -ārum, *f. pl.*—forces.

ferrum, -i, *n.*—iron, sword.

gero, 3, gessi, gestum—I carry on: **rem** or **rēs bene gero**—I succeed.

impetus, -ūs, *m.*—attack.

infero, -ferre, -tuli, -lātum—I bring into, inflict on.

maximus, -a, -um—greatest, very great.

Mēdia, -ae, *f.*—Media, a country to the South of the Caspian Sea.

Mēdi, -ōrum, *m. pl.*—Medes.

nuntio, 1—I announce.

Persae, -ārum, *m. pl.*—Persians.

rem bene gero—I succeed.

rogus, -i, *m.*—funeral pile.

supero, 1—I overcome.

sustineo, 2, -tinui, -tentum—I hold up, sustain.

trabs, **trabis**, *f.*—beam.

vasto, 1—I devastate, destroy.

It is quite tricky in this exercise to work out who is doing what to whom! You will need to be careful with case endings. My attempt is on the next page.

After a few years, Cyrus, chief of the Persians, led forces into Media and quickly conquered the whole region. So he was king of both Media and Persia, a huge kingdom. When the citizens announced the deeds of Cyrus, Croesus said, “If Cyrus, while still young, so quickly overcame the Medes, without doubt I, a great king and very rich, will overcome Cyrus.” He therefore gathered forces quickly and led them to the neighbouring lands. But he did not succeed. The king's army did not withstand the charge of the enemy for long. The Persians put to flight the soldiers of Croesus. They hurried to Lydia and devastated everywhere by sword and fire. They killed men, they burned vines and corn. The terrified king made for the palace. Cyrus penetrated it. Cyrus greatly angry asked, “Why O Croesus, did you wage war in my lands without a cause? You will therefore render to me the heaviest penalties for your stupidity. My slaves will build a huge funeral pyre with strong beams. They will put you on the pyre and they will burn you and the pyre!”



Will Croesus escape? See the next lesson to find out!