**Alexander of Macedonia’s Letter to Darius, King of Persia, 333BCE**

**Background:** Alexander had this letter drafted in response to a request by Darius (the King of Persia). Darius was looking for allegiances and confirmation of old friendships between the Macedonians and the Persians. He wanted Alexander to send envoys to accompany his Persian emissaries. (An “emissary” is a person on a special mission, often a diplomat.) In short, Darius wanted to make peace with Alexander.

*Alexander's letter read as follows: '*Your ancestors invaded [Macedonia](http://www.livius.org/maa-mam/macedonia/macedonia.html) and the rest of Greece and did us harm although we had not done you any previous injury. I have been appointed commander-in-chief of the Greeks and it is with the aim of punishing the Persians that I have crossed into Asia, since you are the aggressors...You sent unfriendly letters to the Greeks about me, to push them to war against me, and sent money to the Spartans and some other Greeks, which none of the other cities would accept apart from the Spartans. Your envoys corrupted my friends and sought to destroy the peace which I established among the Greeks.

I therefore led an expedition against you, and you started the quarrel. But now I have defeated in battle first your generals and [satraps](http://www.livius.org/sao-sd/satrap/satrap.htm), (satraps are like a Feudal Lord, a person who helps the King) and now you in person and your army, and by the grace of the gods I control the country. All those who fought on your side and did not die in battle but came over to me, I hold myself responsible for them; they are not on my side under duress but are taking part in the expedition of their own free will. Approach me therefore as the lord of all Asia. If you are afraid of suffering harm at my hands by coming in person, send some of your friends to receive proper assurances. Come to me to ask and receive your mother, your wife, your children and anything else you wish. Whatever you can persuade me to give shall be yours.

In future whenever you communicate with me, send to me as king of Asia; do not write to me as an equal, but state your demands to the master of all your possessions. If not, I shall deal with you as a wrongdoer. If you wish to lay claim to the title of king, then stand your ground and fight for it; do not take to flight, as I shall pursue you wherever you may be.'