The Battle of Thermopylae

to accompany Wheelock Chapter 5


Only three hundred Spartan warriors fought against many thousands of Persians at the Hot Gates. Because of their sacrifice, the rest of Greece was given time to prepare for and ultimately defeat the invading Persian army. Herodotus writes that the following epitaph was erected for the Spartans killed at Thermopylae:

O traveller, go tell the Spartans at home that here we lie, obedient to their commands.

exercitus, army
Persicus, -i, a Persian man
terra, -ae, land
Graecus, -a, -um, Greek
oppugnō, oppugnāre (1), attack
Dārēus, -i
rēx, rēgis, 3rd decl., king, ruler
occupō, occupāre (1), usurp, occupy
iūbēo, iūbere, iussi, iussum, bid, order, command
intrō, intrāre (1), enter, go into
calidus, -a, -um, hot, warm
Portās Calidās = Thermopylae, in NE Greece
possum, posse, potui, to be able. (potuit = was not able)
Lacedaemonius, -i, a Spartan man
inquit, says
sagitta, -ae, f., arrow
umbra, -ae, f., shade, shadow; sometimes, a ghost
pugnō, pugnāre (1), to fight
exclāmō, exclāmare (1), to exclaim, shout
cum + ABL, with
apud + ACC, among
fortasse, adv., perhaps
trēs diēs, for three days
arma, armōrum, n., arms, weapons
hastā, -ae, spear
scūtum, -i, shield
vīmeneus, -a, -um, made of wicker
īnfirmus, -a, -um, weak, breakable
necō, necāre (1), to kill, to slay
dēnique, finally
autem, however