

Precis {CSS-1989}

Freedom: Cornerstone of Glory

The author opines that Greeks were one of the greatest civilizations that existed in a dangerous world. The tribes were highly civilized yet violent and feared rise of the Persians. They lost glory due to internal lapses. They did not triumph Greece. The root of their glory is freedom, that people of ~~other~~ competing empires were not granted. The concept of freedom was birthed in Greece and it made all the very difference. The glory of Greece is not based on wealth or power but the exemplary spirit of freedom that elevates man.

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The Greatest" civilization before ours was the Greek. They, too, lived in a dangerous world. They were a little, highly civilized people, surrounded by barbarous tribes and always threatened by the greatest Asian power, Persia. In the end they succumbed, but the reason they did was not that the enemies outside were so strong, but that their spiritual strength had given way. While they had it, they kept Greece unconquered. Basic to all Greek achievements was freedom. The Athenians were the only free people in the world. In the great empires of antiquity — Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Persia — splendid though they were, with riches and immense power, freedom was unknown. The idea of it was born in Greece, and with it Greece was able to prevail against all the manpower and wealth arrayed against her. At Marathon and at Salamis overwhelming numbers of Persians were defeated by small Greek forces. It was proved there that one free man was superior to many submissively obedient subjects of a tyrant. And Athens, where freedom was the dearest possession, was the leader in those amazing victories. Greece rose to the very height, not because she was big, she was very small, not because she was rich, she was very poor, not even because she was wonderfully gifted. So doubtless were others in the great empires of the ancient world who have gone their way leaving little for us? She rose because there was in the Greeks the greatest spirit that moves in humanity, the spirit that sets men free."

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