

1. Make a precis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title.

The greatest civilization before ours was the Greek. They, too, lived in a dangerous world. They are 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 Persian 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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Greek and Spirit of Freedom

Greek was a civilized civilization in its time. However, it faces many challenges, including the threats of Persia. They were defeated by Persia because they lost their inner strength. However, they learnt a lesson from the Athenians who were free among all other empires. Their inspiration worked and Greece defeated the Persian empire again. The conquest of Greece showcased that freedom was superior to dictatorship. In the end, it experienced an infinity level of success because of its greatest spirit — spirit of freedom.