

# Herodotus

## *The Histories*

Translations of the Opening Paragraph.

### **Henry Cary (1849):**

This is a publication of the researches of Herodotus of Halicarnassus, in order that the actions of men may not be effaced by time, nor great and wondrous deeds displayed both by Greeks and barbarians deprived of renown; and among the rest, for what cause they waged war upon each other.

### **George Rawlinson (1860):**

These are the researches of Herodotus of Halicarnassus, which he publishes, in the hope of thereby preserving from decay the remembrance of what men have done, and of preventing the great and wonderful actions of the Greeks and the Barbarians from losing their meed of glory; and withal to put on record what were their grounds of feud.

### **G.C. Macauley (1890):**

This is the Showing forth of the Inquiry of Herodotus of Halicarnassos, to the end that neither the deeds of men may be forgotten by lapse of time, nor the works great and marvellous, which have been produced some by Hellenes and some by Barbarians, may lose their renown; and especially that the causes may be remembered for which these waged war with one another.

### **Aubrey de Sélincourt (1954):**

Herodotus of Halicarnassus here displays his inquiry, so that human achievements may not become forgotten in time, and great and marvelous deeds--some displayed by Greeks, some by barbarians--may not be without their glory; and especially to show why the two peoples fought with each other.

### **David Grene (1987):**

I, Herodotus of Halicarnassus, am here setting forth my history, that time may not draw the color from what man has brought into being, nor those great and wonderful deeds, manifested by both

Greeks and barbarians, fail of their report, and, together with all this, the reason why they fought one another.

**Robin Waterfield (1998):**

Here are presented the results of the enquiry carried out by Herodotus of Halicarnassus. The purpose is to prevent the traces of human events from being erased by time, and to preserve the fame of the important and remarkable achievements produced by both Greeks and non-Greeks; among the matters covered is, in particular, the cause of the hostilities between Greeks and non-Greeks.

**Andrea Purvis (2007)**

Herodotus of Halicarnassus here presents his research so that human events do not fade with time. May great and wonderful deeds--some brought forth by the Hellenes, others by the barbarians--not go unsung; as well as the causes that led them to make war on each other.

**Pamela Mensch (2014)**

Here is the showing forth of the inquiry of Herodotus of Halicarnassus, so that neither what human beings have done might disappear in time, nor the deeds great and admirable, partly shown forth by Greeks, and partly by the barbarians, might be without fame--an inquiry that show forth both other things and through what cause they fought against one another.

**Tom Holland (2015):**

Herodotus, from Halicarnassus, here displays his enquiries, that human achievement may be spared the ravages of time, and that everything great and astounding, and all the glories of those exploits which served to display Greeks and barbarians alike to such effect, be kept alive--and additionally, and most importantly, to give the reason they went to war.