

“What!” cried Cyrus, “can one solitary speech fill the hearer's soul on the selfsame day with honour and uprightness, guard him from all that is base, spur him to undergo, as he ought, for the sake of glory every toil and every danger, implant in him the faith that it is better to die sword in hand than to escape by flight? If such thoughts are ever to be engraved in the hearts of men and there abide, we must begin with the laws, and frame them so that the righteous can count on a life of honor and liberty, while the bad have to face humiliation, suffering, and pain, and a life that is no life at all.”

Could a presidential candidate say this today?
What would be the modern response?

What was the overarching theme
of Plato's *Republic*?

Were there any other themes?

What are the major themes
of Xenophon's *Cyropædia*?

What was fantastic or idealized
about Hesiod's five ages?
about Plato's Callipolis and Atlantis?

What is fantastic or idealized in the *Cyropædia*?

What are Cyrus' two main tools for ruling?
Does he seem to favor one over the other?

How important was nature in Cyrus' formation,
and how important was his education?

What does Xenophon say about
man's natural capacity for leadership?
What makes an excellent leader?

If man is not naturally capable of leadership,
what form of government is best for him?

In the first book, what is the Persian state like,
and what role does education play in the state?

How is Persia different from other states?

Is this credible?

Which Greek city best resembles the Persians?
What about the Medes?

Story of the Coats

Does justice consist in redistribution of wealth so that each person has what is most fitting or in safeguarding private property rights?

How does this story compare to the plates of meat Cyrus gives his grandfather's servants?

How does this compare to justice in the *Republic*? What would Thrasymachus do?

How does this relate to the spoils of victory in 4?

The Army

How is the army organized?

Who are the Peers, and why are they so called?

The army needs to be reorganized:
the auxiliaries must be made equal to peers.
How does Cyrus accomplish this?

Cyrus Exhorts his Troops (1.5)

"I cannot bring myself to believe that there is a single virtue practiced among mankind merely in order that the brave and good should fare no better than the base."

What does he mean by that?

Is self-interest important in motivating a good citizen?

Cyrus Exhorts his Troops (continued)

Does the speech motivate the men?

What are the three prizes or triple ornament of a warrior?

Compare this speech to the life of a Guardian from Plato's *Republic*. What would a Guardian think of Cyrus?

The Dinner (2.2)

“Such is the ordinance of God:
those who will not work out their own salvation
he gives into the hands of other men
to bear rule over them.”

“He who works the hardest
and does most for the common good
deserves the highest recompense.”

Who said these things, and what do they mean?

The Dinner (continued)

Chrysantas brings up distribution of spoils.
What are the two positions, and which wins?

Why does Cyrus ask the troops to deliberate?

2.2.25: drones. Are these like Plato's drones?

The Speeches about Spoils (2.3)

“And a knife, I remember, I never could resist:
I clutched the thing whenever I caught sight of it:
not a soul showed me how to hold it, only nature herself,
I do aver. I did it, not because I was taught to do it,
but in spite of being forbidden, like many another thing
to which nature drove me, in spite of my father and mother both.”

“By bearing arms, weapons of war, tools that the wit
of the whole human race has made as light as well could be:
but Necessity drove us, my fellows and myself, to stagger
under burdens so heavy that to-day, if I may speak for myself,
these weapons of mine seem rather wings to lift me
than weights to bear.”

The Second Dinner (2.3)

What is the difference between a friend and an enemy?

How does force play a role in making that distinction?

Trial of the Armenian (3)

Do winners ever face justice, or only losers?

What is the loser's responsibility?

What is friendship?

What role does friendship play in this trial?

What about enmity?

How does Cyrus use fear and love to deal with the Armenian problem?

Trial of the Armenian (3)

“Do you suppose then,” asked Tigranes,
“that anything can enslave a man more utterly
than fear? Do you not know that even the men
who are beaten with the iron rod of war,
the heaviest rod in all the world,
may still be ready to fight again,
while the victims of terror cannot be brought
to look their conquerors in the face,
even when they try to comfort them?”