



ABRADATAS

ABRADATAS, a fictional king of Susa in Xenophon's fictional, didactic life of Cyrus (*Cyropaedia*, books 5-7). He and his wife, Panthea, provide a running romantic theme in the work. Originally a subject of the Assyrians, Abradatas was separated from his wife when Cyrus captured her in one of his raids. The Persian prince was then still a vassal to his (fictional) uncle, Cyaxares II. Cyrus treated Panthea nobly, and she persuaded her husband to enter the Persian's service. He apparently became a tributary king in Susa. Xenophon has him die heroically in battle with Croesus's army (during the conquest of Lydia, May, 547 B.C.); and Panthea commits suicide by his grave.

The traditional, but unsystematic etymology of "Abradatas" is *Ahura-dāta, "Created by Ahura" (e.g., Justi, *Namenbuch*, p. 3). Cf. Avestan *ahuraδāta* as an epithet of the God Varathraghna ("Victoriousness," *AirWb.*, cols. 1421-22). If that derivation were valid, and if the name had reached Xenophon from a non-Zoroastrian source (an unlikely supposition for the late 5th century), it would have held some interest for the history of the term *ahura* (q.v.). In fact, the form point to a late old Persian pronunciation of **aparadāta* "the younger" (Av. *aparazāta*). Cf. the term *uvadāta* "lineage," restored in Darius' Bīstūn inscription, IV.90-91 (see W. Hinz, *Neue Wege im Altpersischen*, Wiesbaden, 1973, p. 139). It would have been entirely fitting for Xenophon to know the old Persian form for "younger, cadet" (Greek. *neōteros*); he may well have heard it used as an epithet or nickname during Cyrus (the Younger)'s expedition in 401 B.C.