



CYRUS I. THE NAME

CYRUS

i. The Name

Cyrus (Latin form of Gr. Kûros, later also Kóros < OPers. Kuruš [spelled *k''-u-r''-u-š*], reflected in Elam. Ku-raš, Bab. Ku(r)-raš/-ra-áš, Aram. *kwrš*, Heb. Kōreš, and Eg. *kwrš*; see *Iranisches Personennamenbuch* I/2, pp. 23-24 no. 39; cf. NPers. Kūreš) is a Persian name, most notably of the founder of the Achaemenid empire, Cyrus the Great (see iii, below) and of the second son of [Darius II](#) (see vi, below). The etymology of the name, which may be connected with OInd. *Kúru-*, mentioned in the Indian national epic, remains in dispute. Although sometimes given as “young, child, adolescent,” it is more likely to be understood as “humiliator of the enemy in verbal contest” (proposed by Karl Hoffmann). The interpretation of the name by classical authors as identical with the Persian word for “sun” (Ctesias, in Jacoby, *Fragmente* III/C, p. 470 fr. 15.51; Plutarch, *Artoxerxes* 1.3) is certainly incorrect.



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F. H. Weissbach, "Kyros 5-7," in Pauly-Wissowa, Suppl. IV, cols. 1128-29.