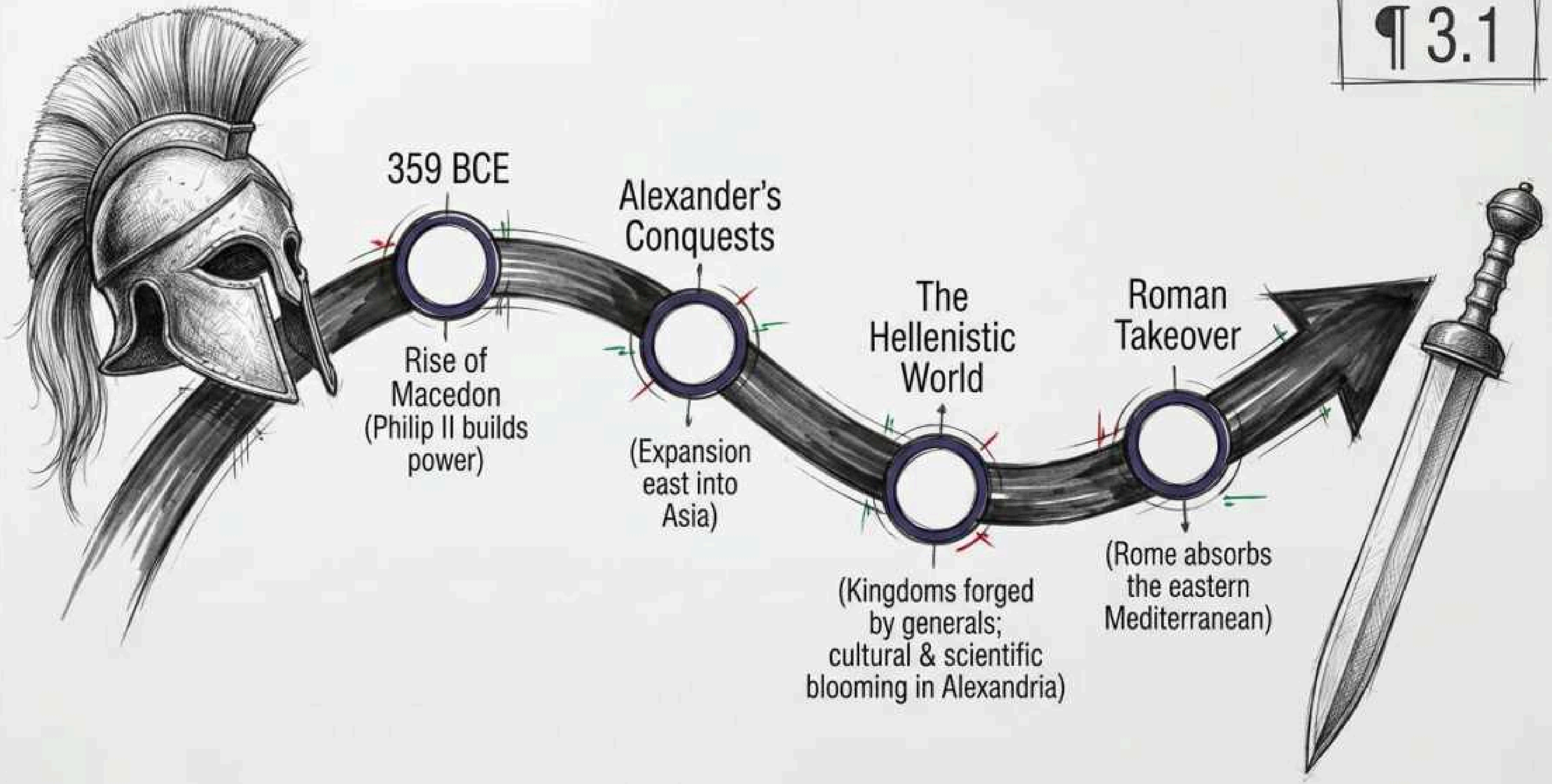
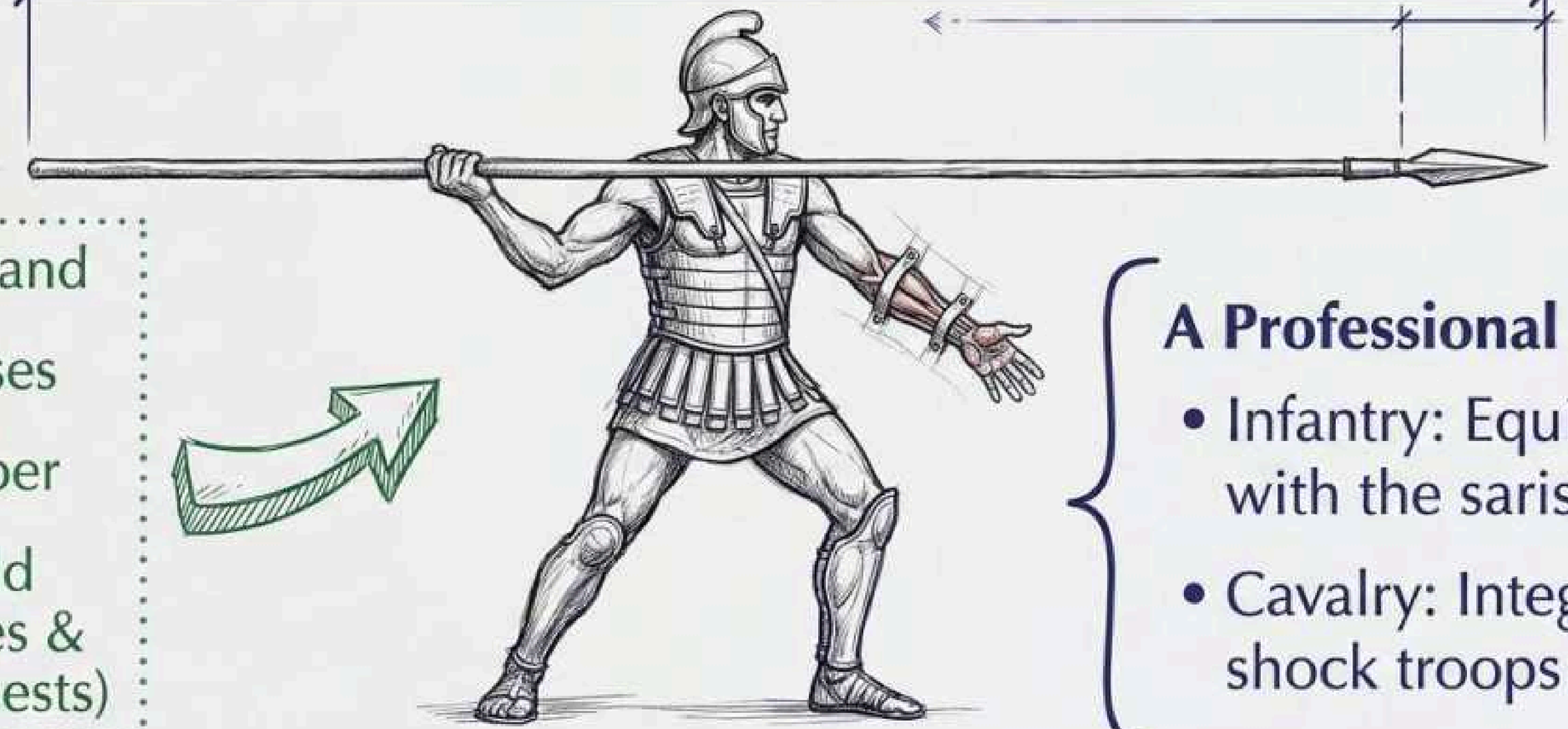
¶ 3.1


359 BCE
Rise of Macedon (Philip II builds power)
Alexander's Conquests
(Expansion east into Asia)
The Hellenistic World
(Kingdoms forged by generals; cultural & scientific blooming in Alexandria)
Roman Takeover
(Rome absorbs the eastern Mediterranean)

¶ 3.2

SARISSA: Extreme Length (18-20 feet)



Farmland
+
Horses
+
Timber
+
Gold
(Mines &
Conquests)

A Professional Army

- Infantry: Equipped with the sarissa
- Cavalry: Integrated shock troops

King Philip II
(Takes throne in 359 BCE)

Philip's Toolkit:
Bribery | Marriage Alliances | Force

¶ 3.3



338 BCE: Victory at Chaeronea (Athens & Thebes defeated). Greek states organized into a league under Philip.

Next Goal: Planned invasion of Persia.

336 BCE: Assassination of Philip II

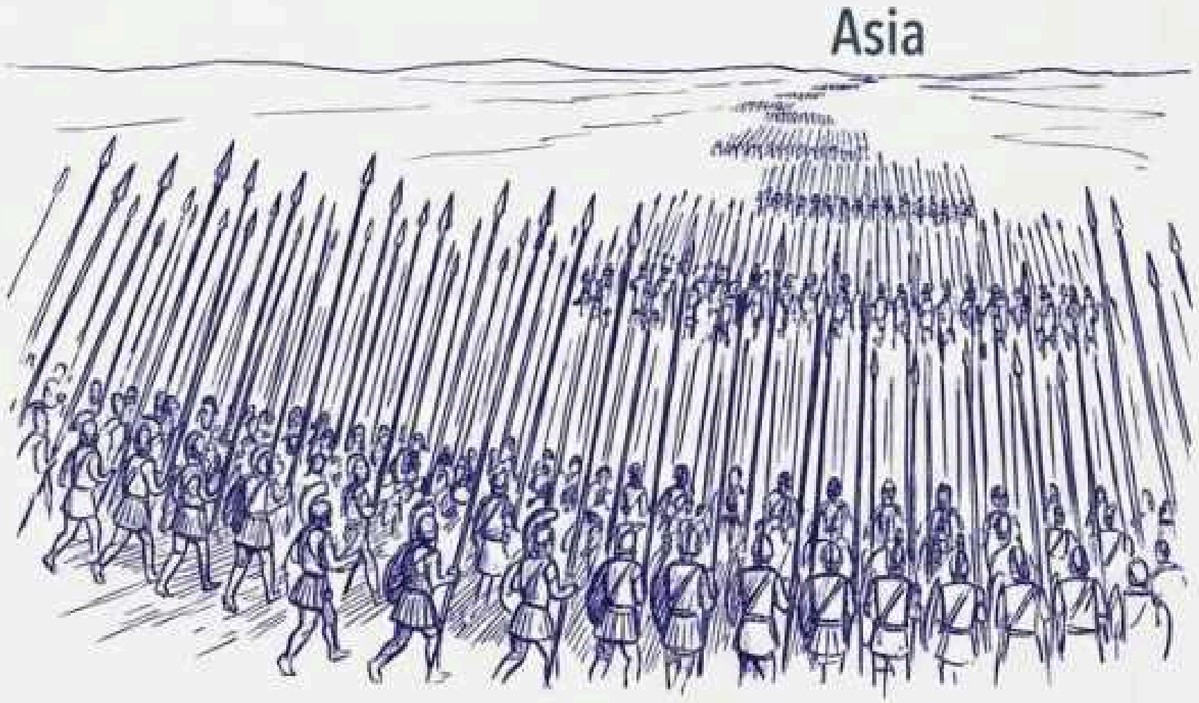
Alexander takes power at age 20.

¶ 3.4

335 BCE – The Iron Fist: Crushes revolt; destroys the city of Thebes.

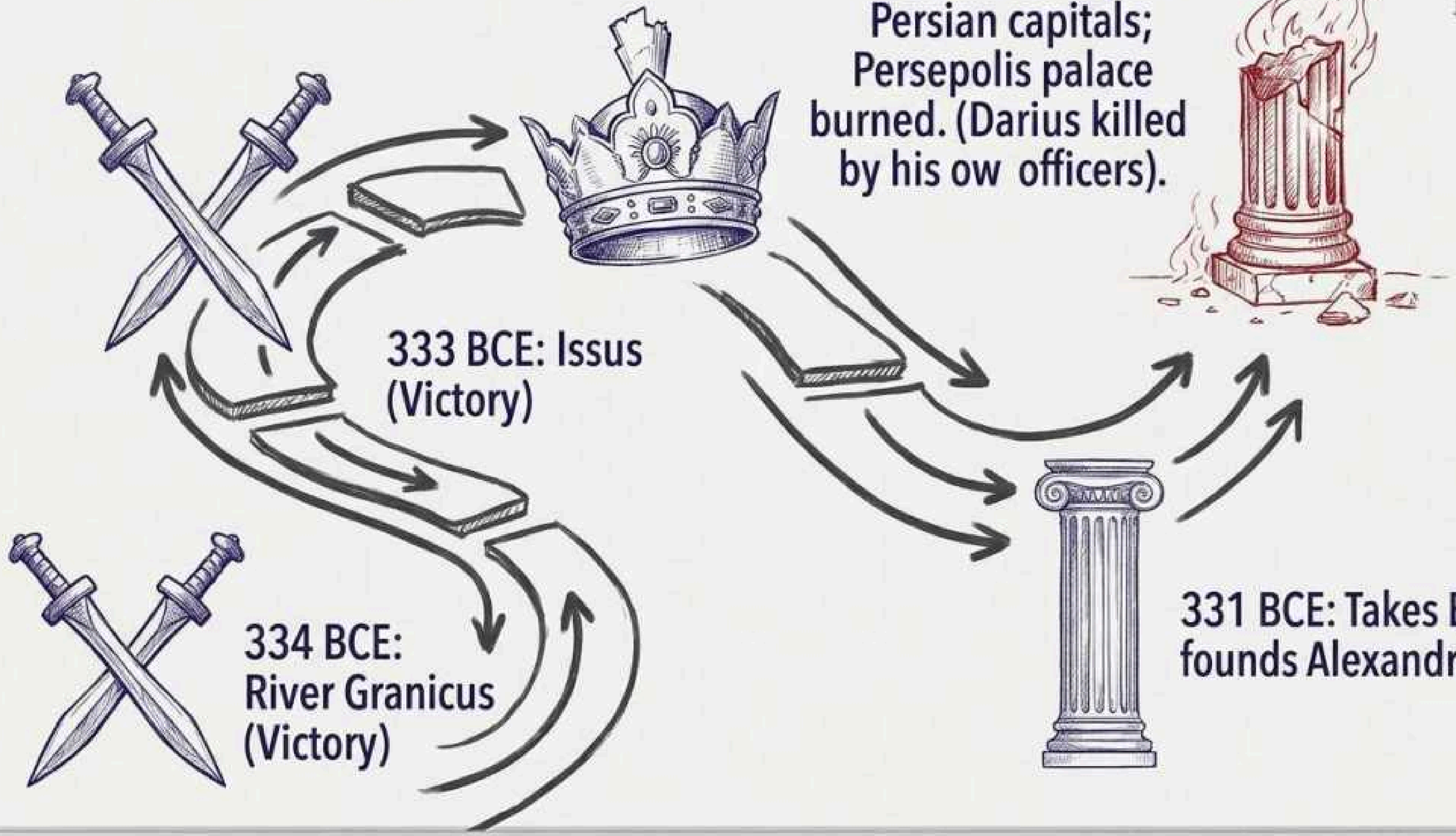


334 BCE – The Invasion: Crosses into Asia with tens of thousands of soldiers.



Stated Aims: Revenge for Persian invasion & liberation of Greek cities. (Reality: Plans grew far larger).

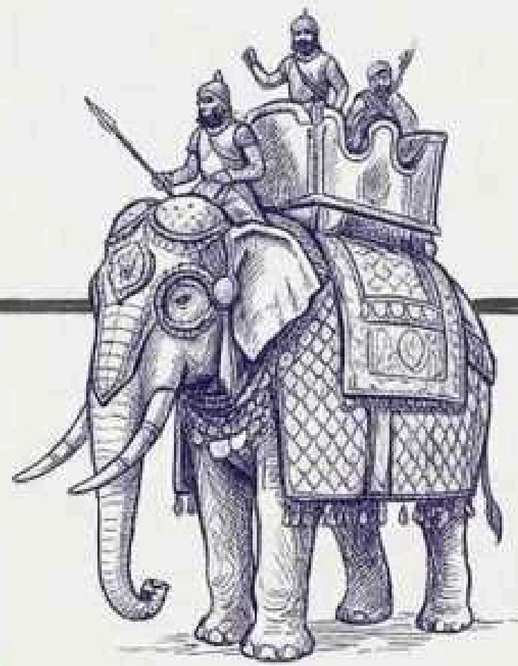
¶ 3.5


330 BCE: Occupies Persian capitals; Persepolis palace burned. (Darius killed by his ow officers).
333 BCE: Issus (Victory)
334 BCE: River Granicus (Victory)
331 BCE: Takes Egypt, founds Alexandria

¶ 3.6

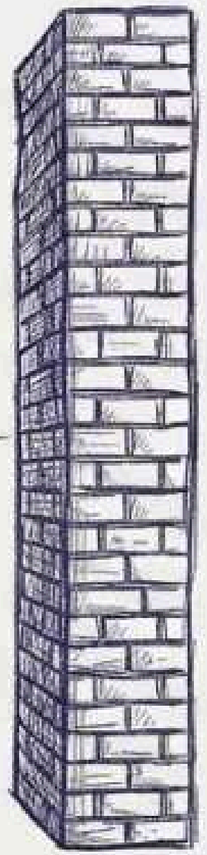
Marching East:
Through Central Asia;
marries Roxane.

326 BCE: Defeats
Indian king at the
River Hydaspes.



The Limit:
River Hyphasis –
weary soldiers
refuse to go farther.

Hyphasis

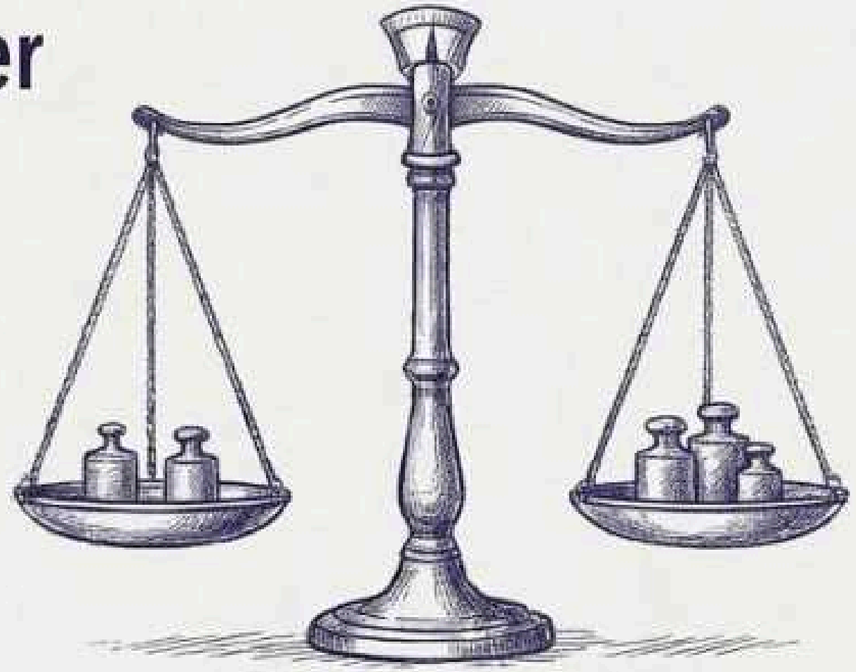


The End (June 323 BCE):
Alexander turns back;
dies in Babylon at age 32.

Evaluating Alexander

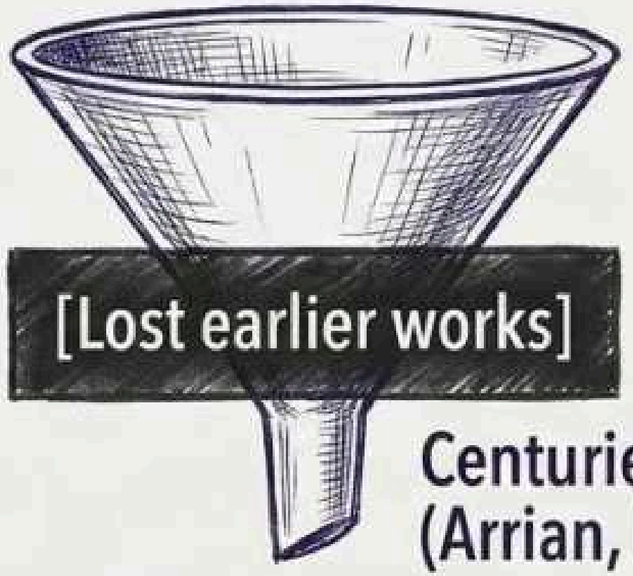
¶ 3.7

The Great:
Commander genius, city founder, spreader of Greek culture.



The Destroyer:
Massacres, destroyed cities, immense cost in lives.

The Source Problem



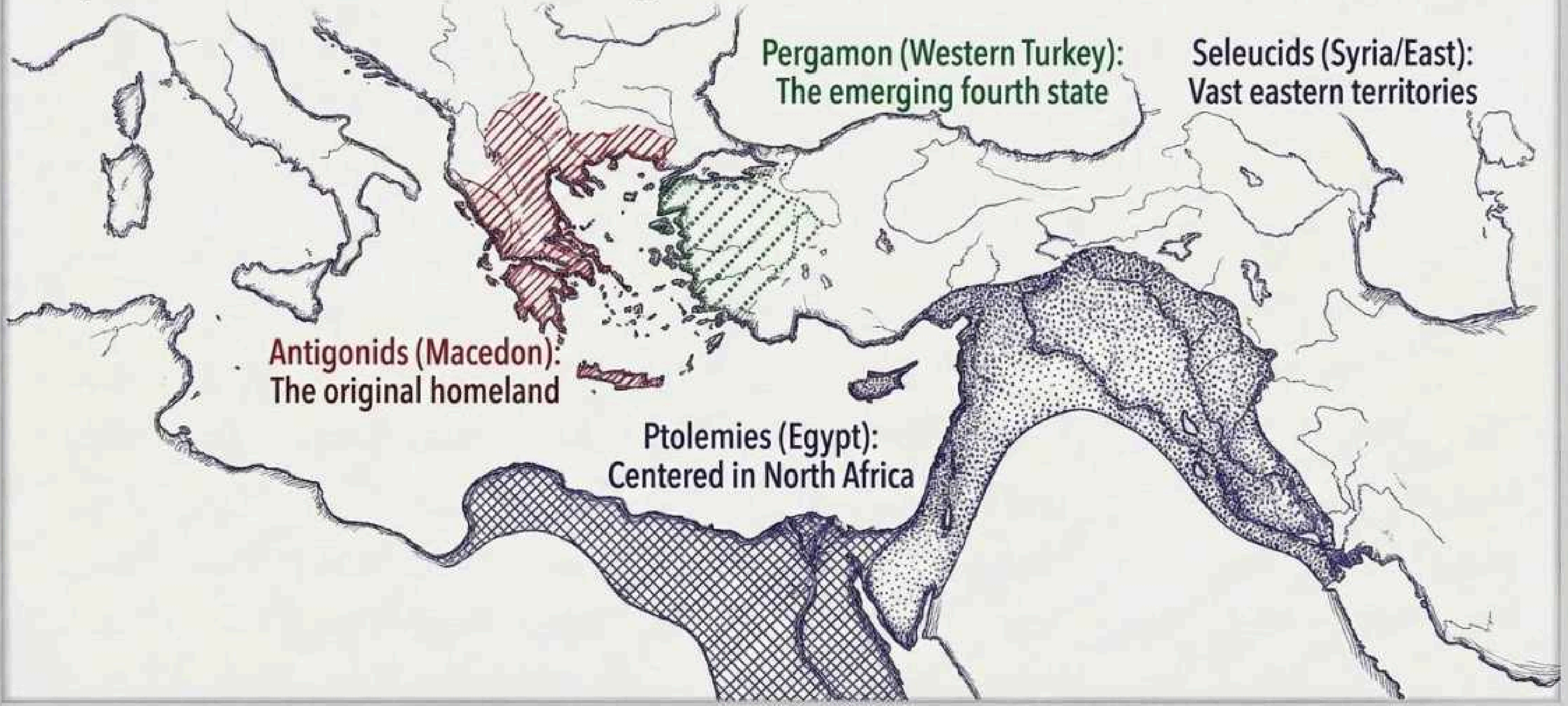
323 BCE: Alexander's death.

Centuries Later: Main surviving accounts (Arrian, Plutarch) are written.

The Successors: Decades of fighting among Alexander's generals.

¶ 3.8

By 275 BCE – The Hellenistic Kingdoms



¶ 3.9

Language: Koine (simplified Greek) becomes the common tongue of government and trade across the Near East.



Infrastructure: Greek-style theaters and gymnasia rise far from Greece.

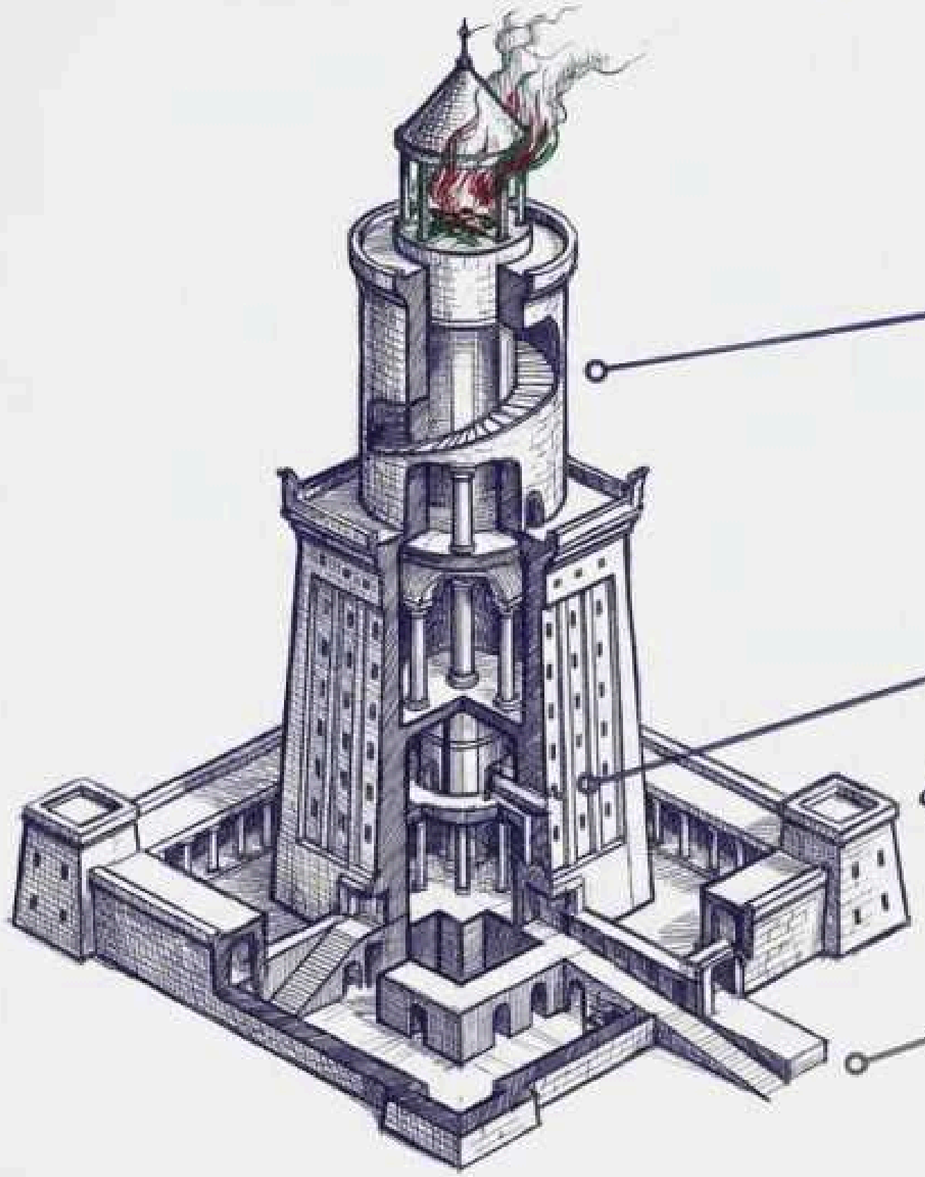
HELLENISTIC

Hellenistic = "Greek-like"

Society: Greek-speaking elite rules over Egyptians, Syrians, Persians (who sometimes adopted Greek ways, sometimes kept their own).

Alexandria: Grandest city, capital of the Ptolemies.

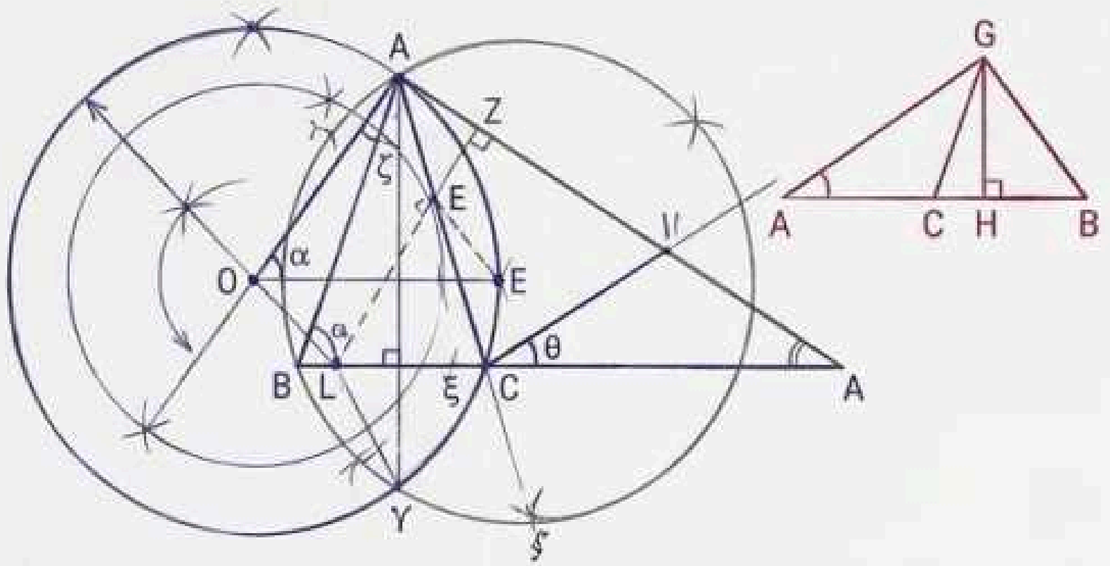
¶ 3.10



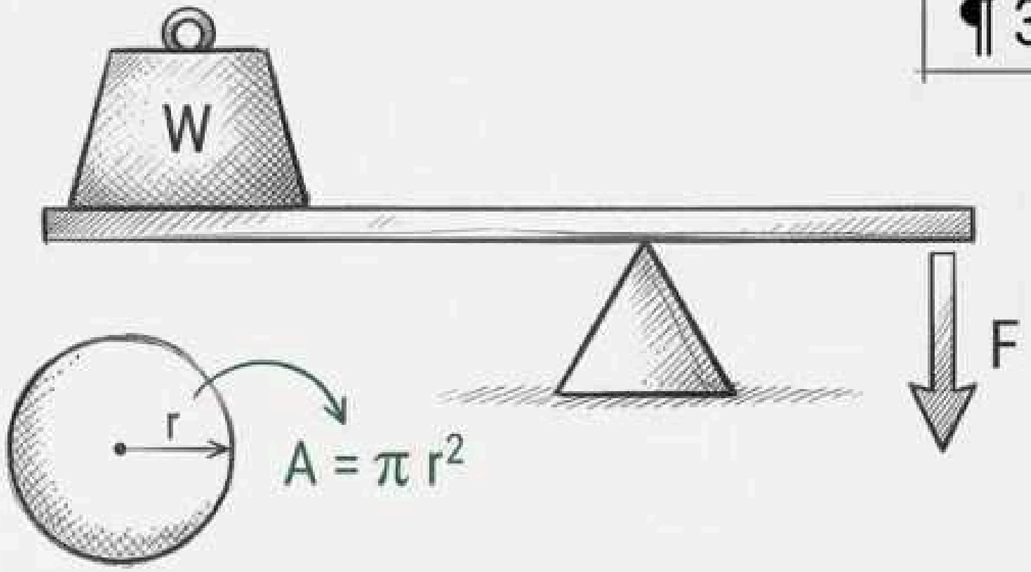
The Pharos: Counted among the wonders of the world.

The Great Library & Museum: Scholars gathered to collect and study texts.

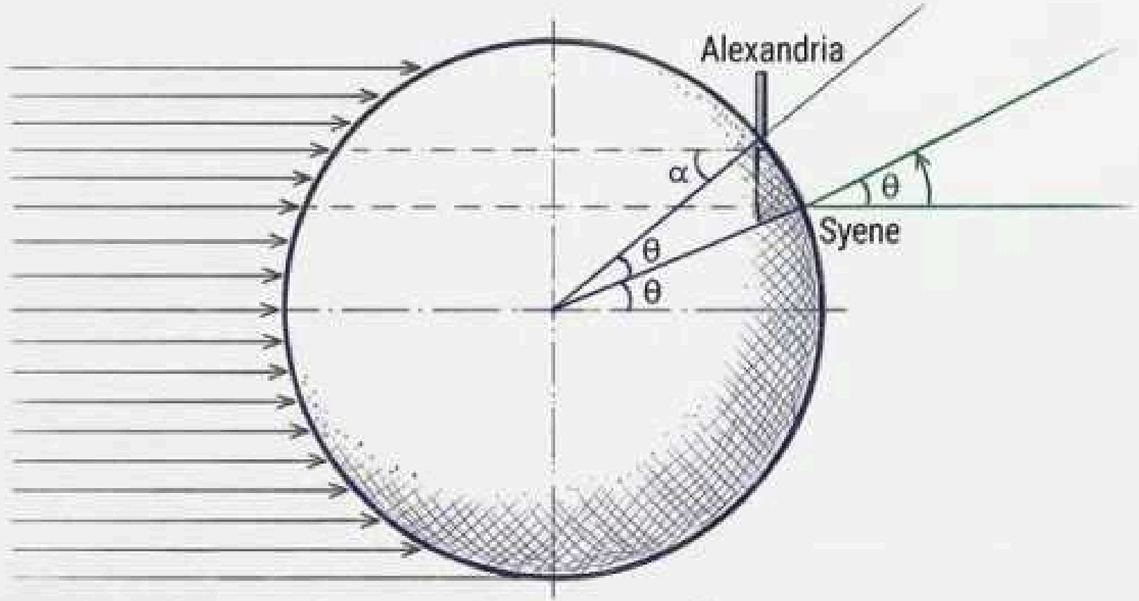
The Septuagint: Jewish scholars produce the Greek translation of Hebrew scriptures (3rd/2nd centuries BCE).



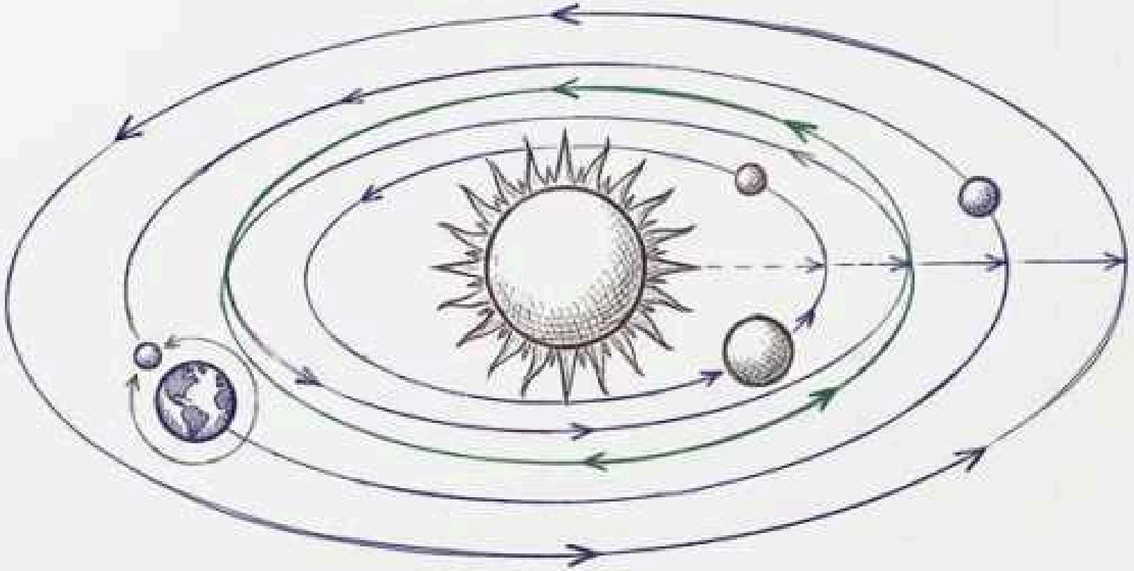
Euclid (~300 BCE): Wrote *The Elements*, a systematic treatment of geometry.



Archimedes of Syracuse: Studied levers, buoyancy, and circle area.



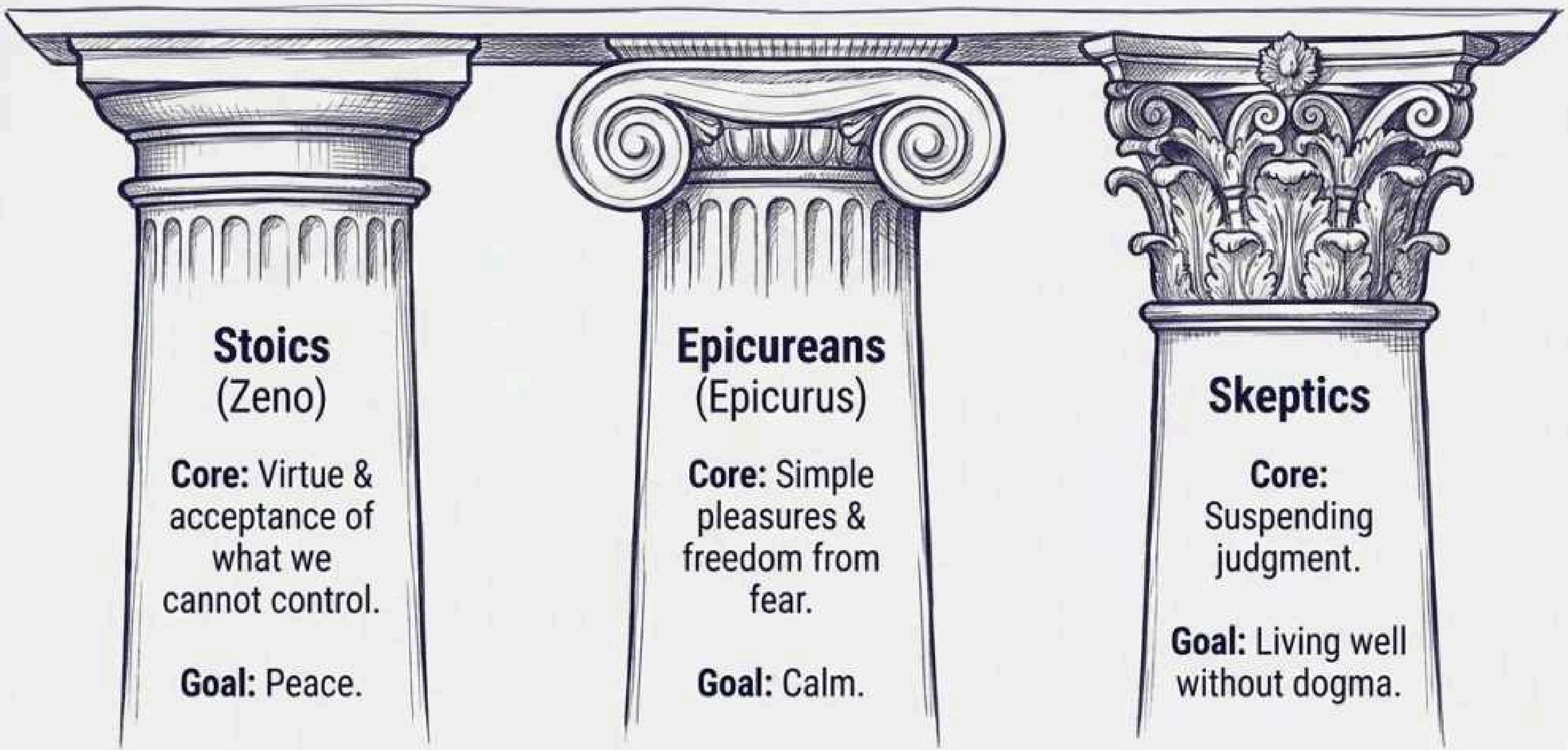
Eratosthenes (~240 BCE): Estimated Earth's circumference with surprising accuracy.



Aristarchus: Proposed the Earth moves around the sun (few followed him at the time).

New schools of philosophy for a larger, less certain world (How an individual can live well).

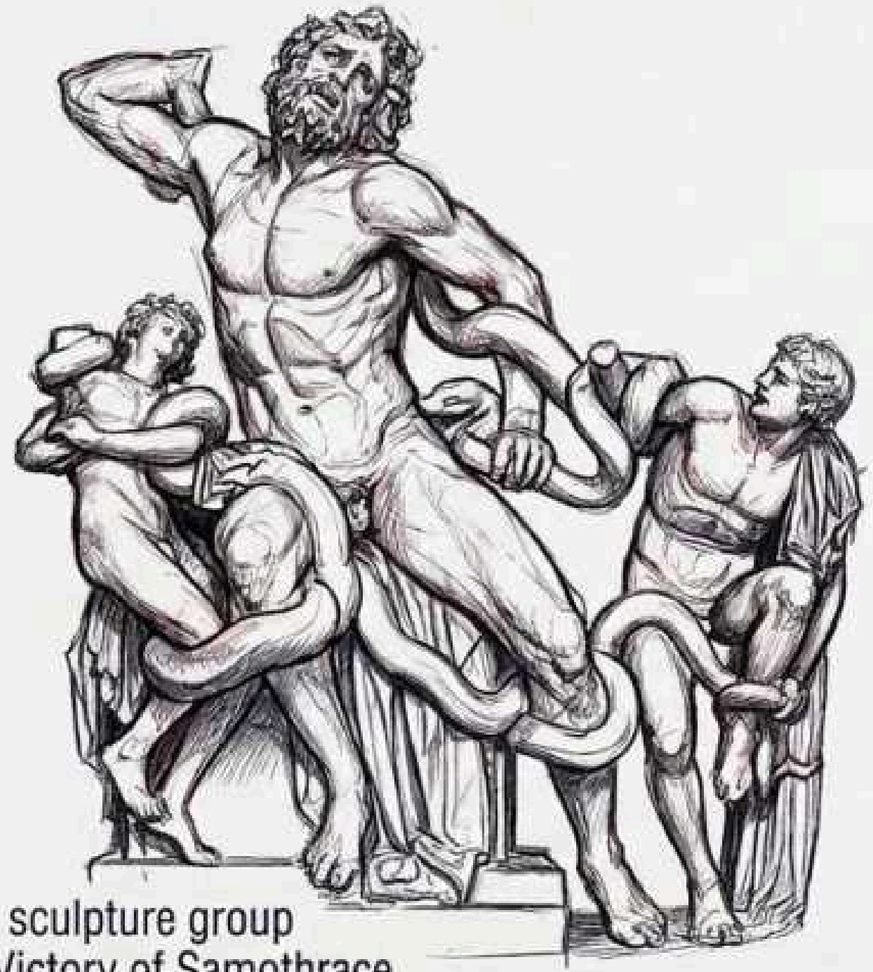
¶ 3.12



Hellenistic Art: Favored drama and emotion.

¶ 3.13

Movement & Feeling



Laocoön sculpture group
Winged Victory of Samothrace
Great Altar at Pergamon

Serene Beauty



Venus de Milo



The Kingdom Paradox: Extremely rich, but deeply troubled (heavy taxes, large royal estates, constant infighting).

Ptolemaic Egypt: Kept old Egyptian temples, added Greek officials.

Women in Power: Royal women held real influence.

Cleopatra VII (69–30 BCE): The last Ptolemaic ruler. Polyglot (spoke several languages); governed Egypt skillfully for two decades.



Rome Enters: Fresh from defeating Carthage, Rome fights Macedon.

197 BCE: Roman army defeats Philip V at Cynoscephalae.

196 BCE: Roman commander Flamininus declares Greek cities "free".

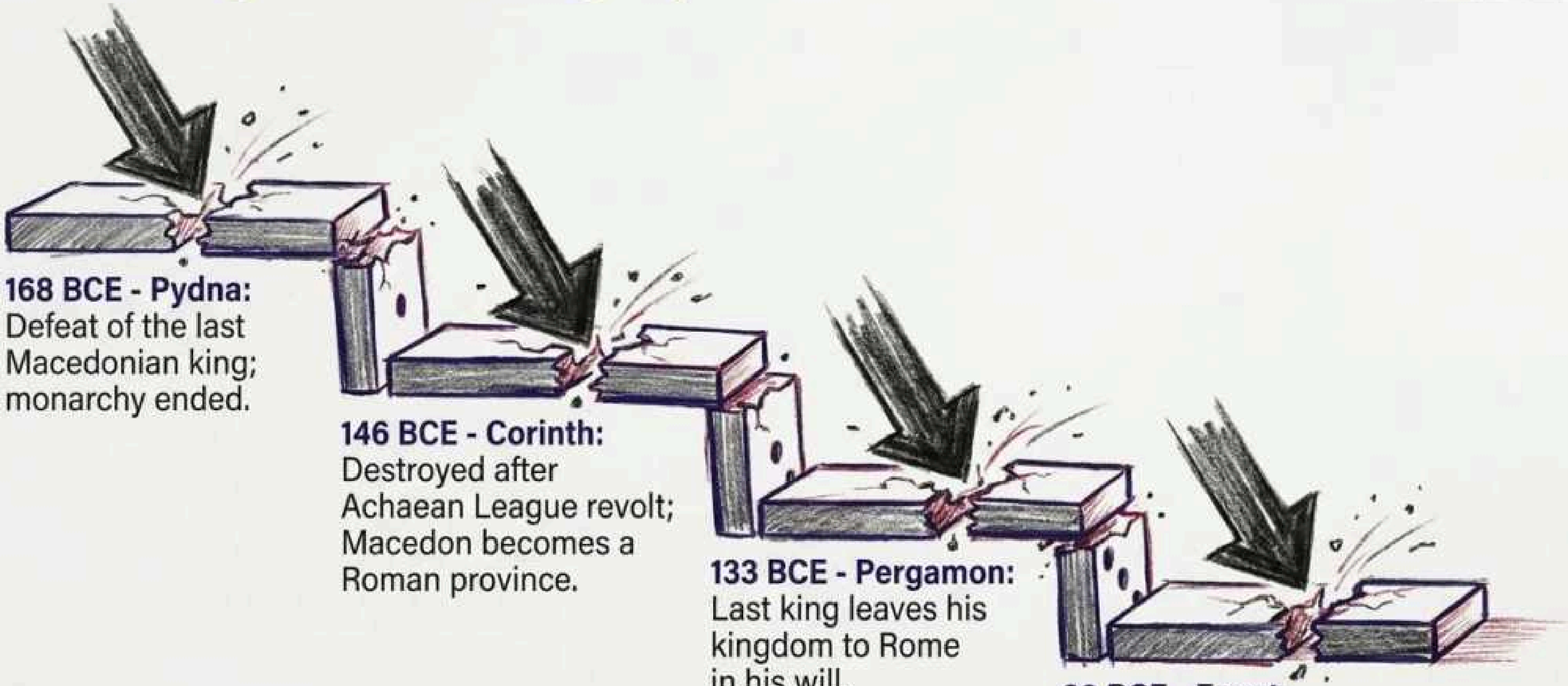
FREE



The Reality Check: Greeks cheer, but soon learn that freedom now depends entirely on the goodwill of Rome.

Rome tightens its grip.

¶ 3.16



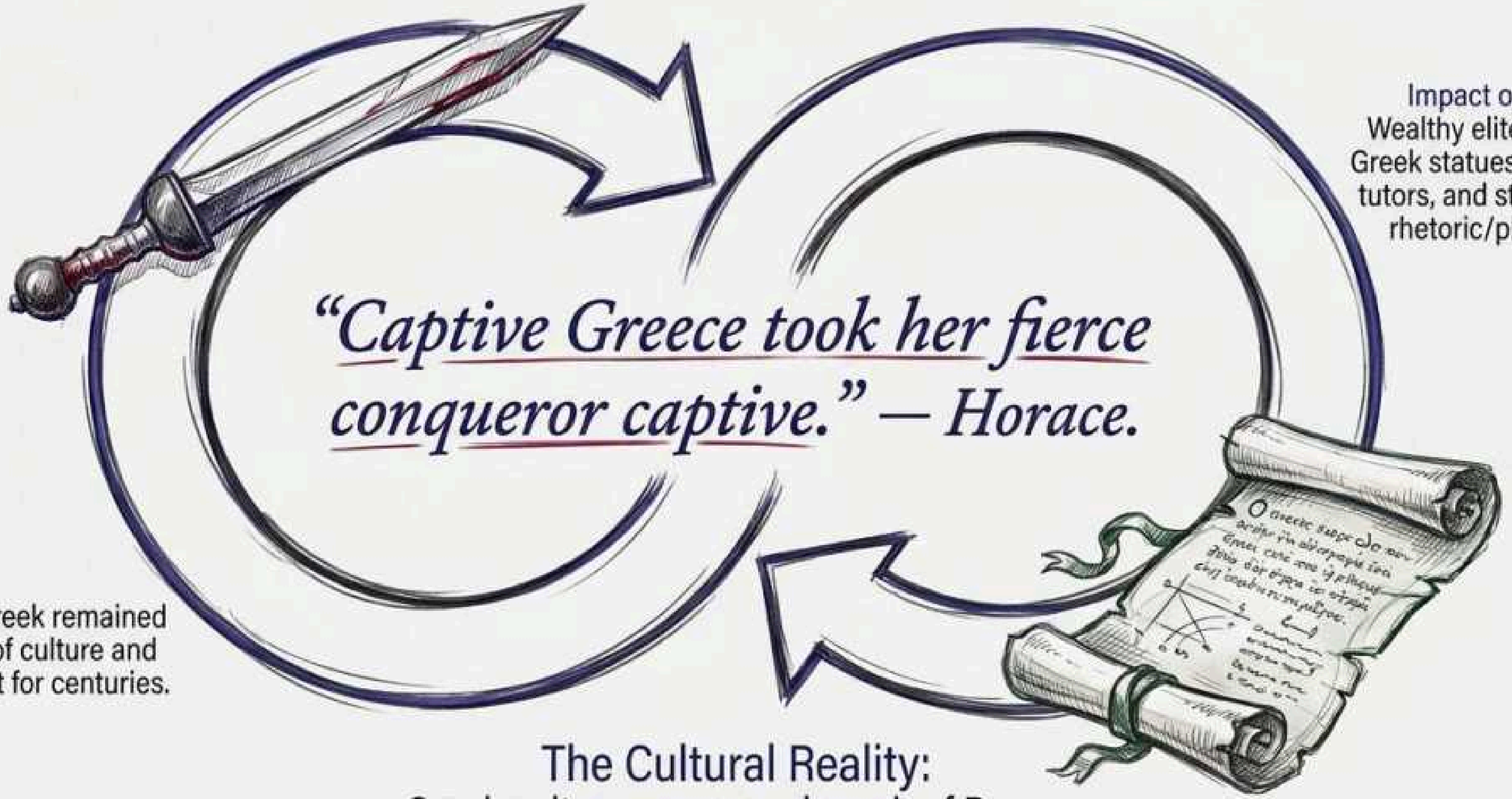
168 BCE - Pydna:
Defeat of the last Macedonian king; monarchy ended.

146 BCE - Corinth:
Destroyed after Achaean League revolt; Macedon becomes a Roman province.

133 BCE - Pergamon:
Last king leaves his kingdom to Rome in his will.

30 BCE - Egypt:
Annexed by Rome (the final Hellenistic kingdom falls).

The Military Reality: Rome conquered Greece.



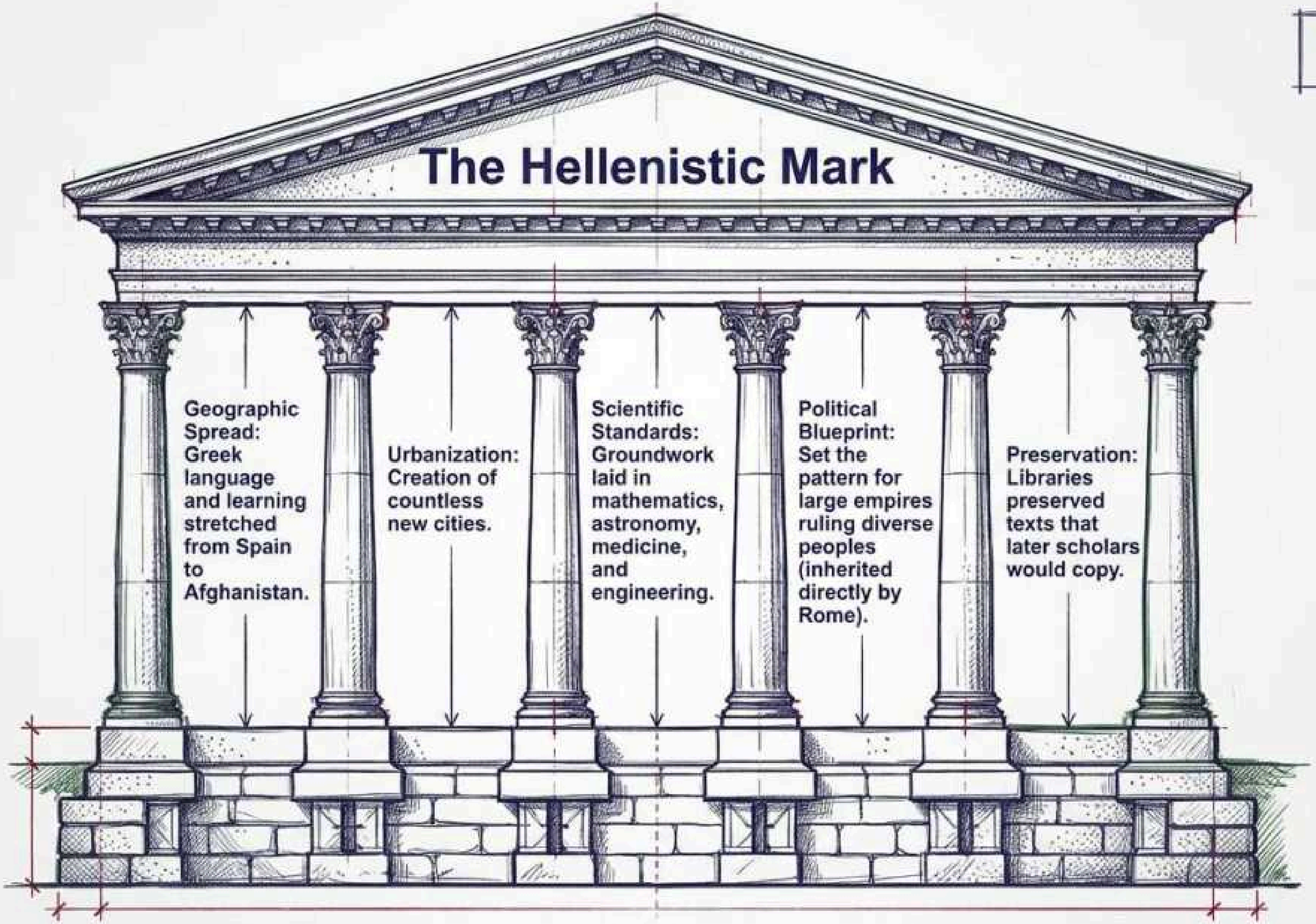
"Captive Greece took her fierce conqueror captive." — Horace.

Impact on Rome:
Wealthy elites collected Greek statues, hired Greek tutors, and studied Greek rhetoric/philosophy.

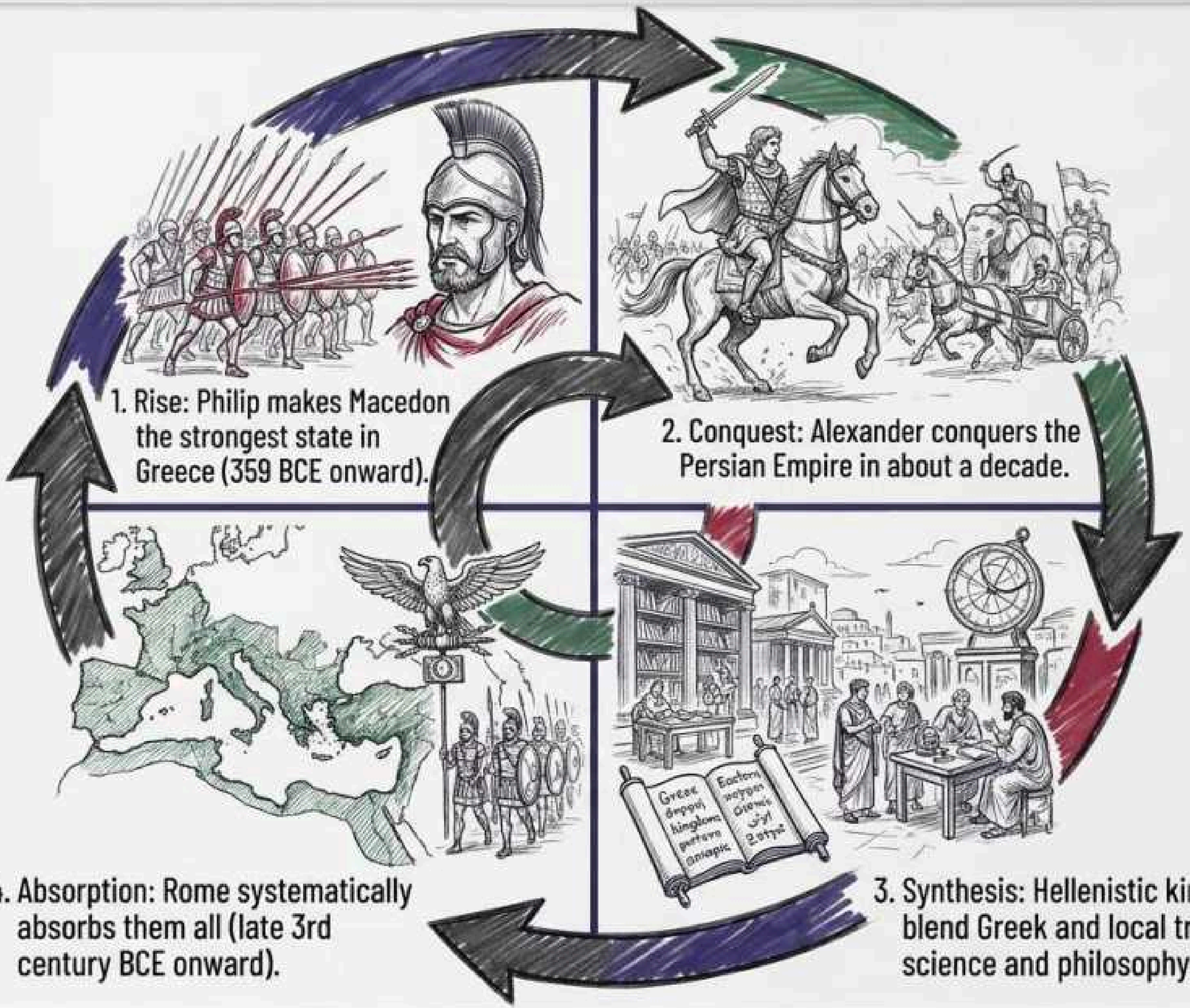
The East: Greek remained language of culture and government for centuries.

The Cultural Reality:
Greek culture conquered much of Rome.

The Hellenistic Mark



¶ 3.19

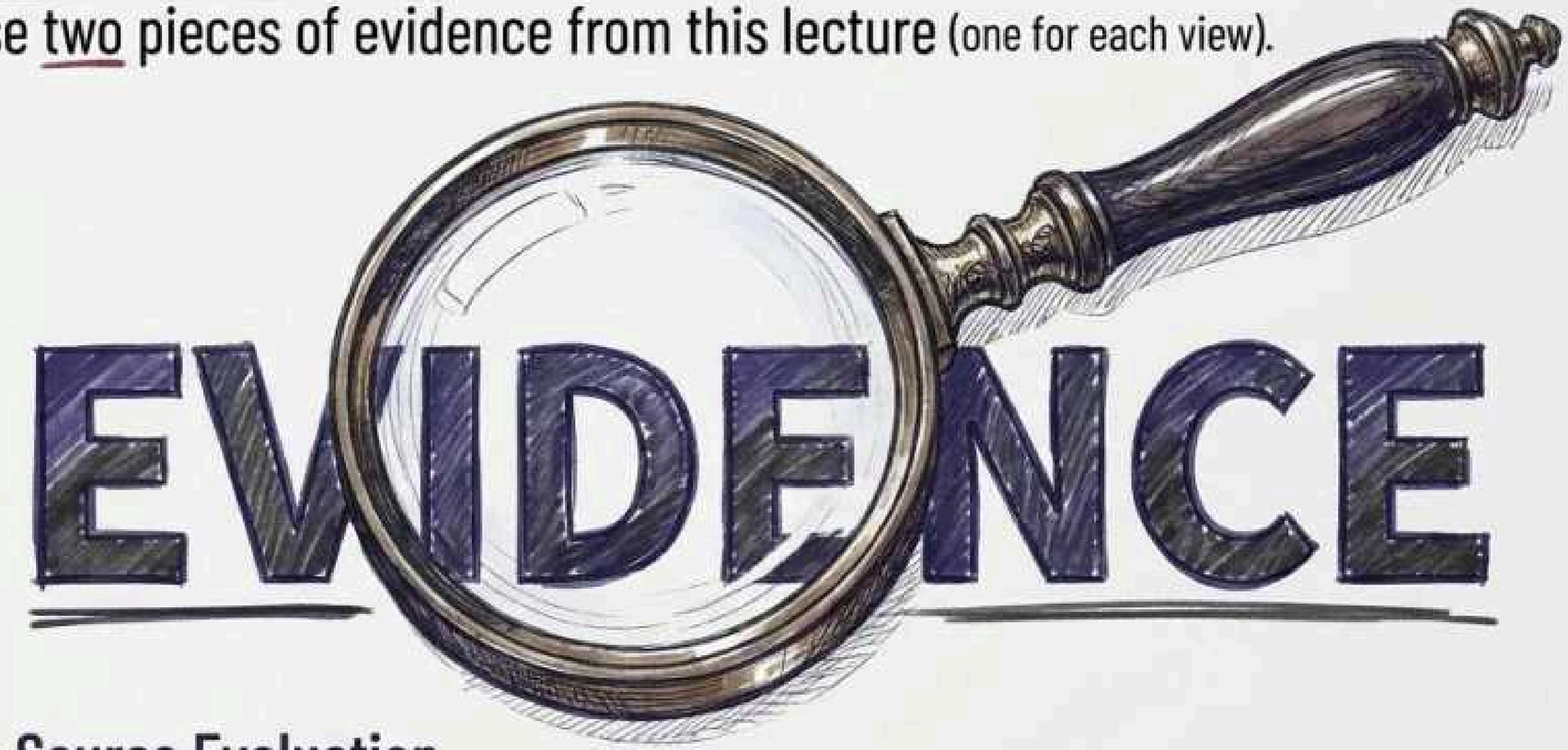

1. Rise: Philip makes Macedon the strongest state in Greece (359 BCE onward).
2. Conquest: Alexander conquers the Persian Empire in about a decade.
3. Synthesis: Hellenistic kingdoms (post-323 BCE) blend Greek and local traditions; foster science and philosophy.
4. Absorption: Rome systematically absorbs them all (late 3rd century BCE onward).

Discussion Question: Alexander is called 'Great' by many and a 'destroyer' by others.

¶ 3.20

☐ **Task 1: The Evidence**

– Choose two pieces of evidence from this lecture (one for each view).



☐ **Task 2: Source Evaluation**

– What sort of source would you need to decide between these views?

– Why must accounts written centuries later be read with care?