**Herodotus on the aftermath of the Battle of Salamis**

*Herodotus was born in one of the Ionian Greek cities, Halicarnassus. Twenty years after the Persians were defeated, Herodotus started to write a history of the Persian Wars because he thought they were so important.*

*Herodotus is often viewed as the ‘first’ historian.*

The Great King Xerxes watched from above the battle. After seeing the actions of Artemisia he is said to have told his generals that his ‘men have turned to women, my women to men.’

Amongst the Persians killed was Ariabignes, Xerxes’ brother, and many other well-known men from the Persian Empire. There were also Greek casualties, but not many, for most of the Greeks could swim, and those who lost their ships, provided they were not killed in the fighting, swam over to Salamis. Most of the enemy, on the other hand being unable to swim, were drowned. The greatest destruction took place when the ships that had been first engaged turned tail and collided with the huge number behind them. In the confusion which resulted, some Phoenicians who had lost their ships came to Xerxes and tried to make out that their loss was due to the treachery of the Ionians. But the upshot was that it was they themselves who were executed for misbehavior. While they were speaking an Ionian ship from Samothrace sank an Athenian ship and captured another. This exploit saved the Ionians, for when Xerxes saw an Ionian ship do such a fine piece of work, he turned to the Phoenicians and, ready as he was in his extreme anger to find fault with anyone, ordered their heads to be cut off.

After the battle the Athenians fully expected that Xerxes would use his remaining ships to make another attack. Xerxes, when he realized the extent of the disaster, was afraid that the Greeks might sail to the Hellespont and break the bridges there. If this happened he would be cut off in Europe and in danger of destruction. Accordingly, he made his plans for escape, but in order to conceal this from the Greeks and his own troops, he made other preparations as if he intended to fight at sea again.