

in the interior. I do not deny that my description of it will differ in many points from that of the old writers, as I have devoted much care and attention to ascertaining thoroughly the recent events in that region from Domitius Corbulo and the kings sent from there as suppliants or king's children sent as hostages. We will however begin with the Cappadocian tribe. This extends farthest into the interior of all the peoples of Pontus, passing on its left-hand side Lesser and Greater Armenia and Commagene and on its right all the tribes of Asia mentioned above; it spreads over a very large number of peoples, and rises rapidly in elevation towards the east in the direction of the Taurus range, passing Lycaonia, Pisidia and Cilicia, and then advances above the district of Antiochia, the part of it called Cataonia reaching as far as the department of Antiochia named Cyrrestica. Consequently the length of Asia at this point is 1250 miles and its breadth 640 miles.

IX. Greater Armenia begins at the Parihedri *Greater Armenia.* Mountains, and is separated from Cappadocia, as we have said, by the river Euphrates and, when the *v. 83.* Euphrates turns aside,<sup>a</sup> from Mesopotamia by the equally famous river Tigris. Both rivers rise in Armenia, and it forms the beginning of Mesopotamia, the tract of country lying between these two rivers; <sup>b</sup> the intervening space is occupied by the Orroean Arabs. It thus extends its frontier as far as Adiabene, where it is enclosed by ranges of mountains that stretch across it; here it spreads its width on the left, crossing the Aras, to the river Kur, while its length reaches right to Lesser Armenia, from which it is separated by the river Absarrus, which flows

PLINY: NATURAL HISTORY

Pontum defluente et Parihedris montibus qui fundunt Absarrum discreta ab illa.

- 26 X. Cyrus oritur in Heniochis montibus quos alii Coraxicos vocavere, Araxes eodem monte quo Euphrates  $\bar{v}i$  p. intervallo, auctusque amne Usi et ipse, ut plures existimavere, a Cyro defertur in Caspium mare.

- Oppida celebrantur in Minore Caesarea, Aza, Nicopolis, in Maiore Arsamosata Euphrati proximum, Tigri Careathiocerta, in excelso autem Tigranocerta,  
 27 at in campis iuxta Araxen Artaxata. universae magnitudinem Aufidius quinquagens centena milia prodidit, Claudius Caesar longitudinem a Dascusa ad confinium Caspii maris  $|\bar{x}iii|$  p., latitudinem dimidium eius a Tigranocerta ad Hiberiam. dividitur, quod certum est, in praefecturas, quas strategias vocant, quasdam ex his vel singula regna quondam, barbaris nominibus cxx. claudunt eam montes ab oriente, sed non statim, Cerauni, nec Adiabene regio.  
 28 quod interest spatii Cephenni tenent; ab his iuga ultra Adiabeni tenent, per convalles autem proximi Armeniae sunt Menobardi et Moscheni. Adiabenen Tigris et montes invii cingunt. ab laeva eius regio Medorum est ad prospectum Caspii maris; ex

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\* The Aras formed a separate mouth of its own in 1897.

into the Black Sea, and by the Parihedri Mountains in which the Absarrus rises.

X. The source of the Kur is in the Heniochi Mountains, which are called by some persons the Coraxici; while the Aras rises in the same mountains as the Euphrates, at a distance of six miles from it, and after being augmented by the river Usis, itself also, in the opinion of the majority of writers, joins the Kur and is carried by it down into the Caspian Sea.<sup>a</sup> *The river Kur.*

The notable towns in Lesser Armenia are Caesarea, Ezaz and Nicopolis; those in Greater Armenia are Arsamosata, which is near the Euphrates, Kharput on the Tigris and Sert on the high ground, with Artaxata in the plains adjoining the Araxes. Aufidius gives the circumference of the whole of Armenia as 5000 miles, while Claudius Caesar makes its length from Dascusa to the edge of the Caspian Sea 1300 miles and its breadth from Sert to Hiberia half that amount. It is a well-known fact that it is divided into 120 administrative districts with native names, called in Greek military commands, some of which were formerly actual separate kingdoms. It is shut in on the east, but not immediately, by the Ceraunian Mountains and similarly by the Adiabene district. The intervening space is occupied by the Cephenei, and next to them the mountain district beyond is occupied by the Adiabeni, while along the valleys the peoples adjoining Armenia are the Menobardi and Moscheni. Adiabene is encircled by the Tigris and by impassable mountains. The district on the left of Adiabene belongs to the Medes, as far as the point where the Caspian Sea comes into view; this sea derives its water from the Ocean, as we shall say in *Lesser Armenia.*

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