

## The King and the Philosopher

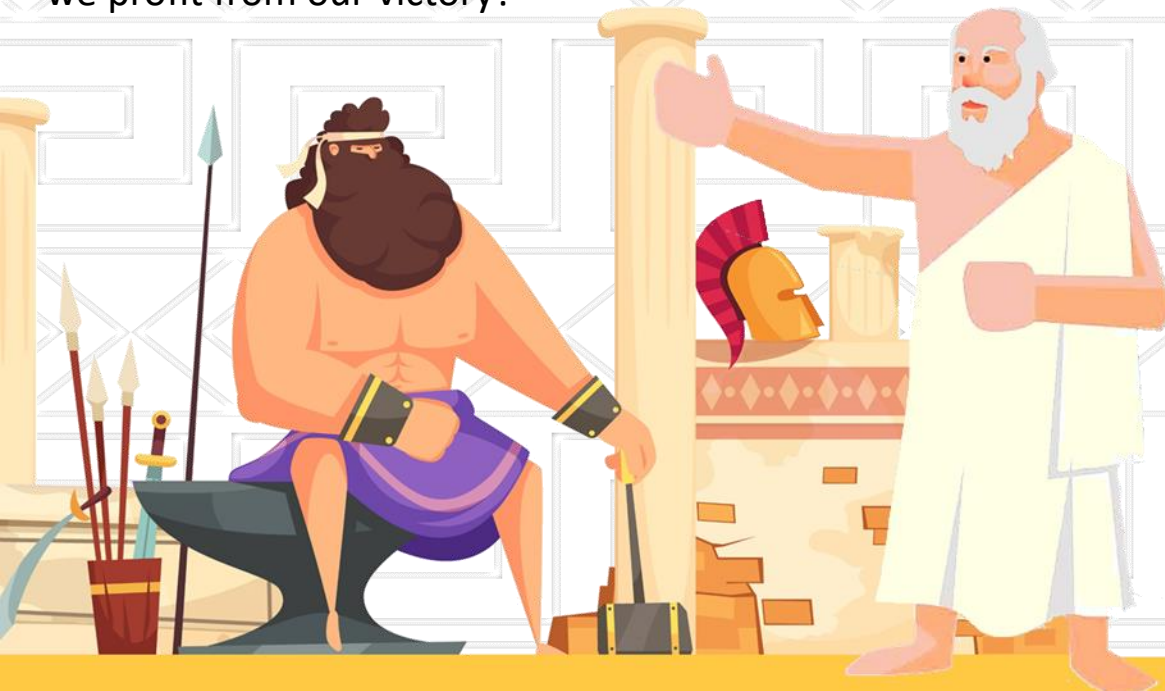
Cineas was an ancient Greek politician and a friend of King Pyrrhus of Epirus, considered one of the greatest generals in antiquity. After spending decades securing his own possessions, it was inevitable that the king would turn his attention toward the new powers of Rome and Carthage, to the west of Greece.

The story goes that Cineas tried to dissuade Pyrrhus from sailing to Italy and urged him to be satisfied with the possessions he already had. "Should the gods permit us to overcome them," Cineas asked, "how will we profit from our victory?"

## 國王與哲學家

西奈斯是古希臘政治家，也是伊庇魯斯的皮洛士國王的朋友，被人認為是中古世紀前最偉大的將軍之一。國王在花了幾十年時間獲取和鞏固自己的財產之後，不可避免地將注意力轉向希臘西部的羅馬和迦太基新政權。

故事這麼說，西奈斯試圖勸阻皮洛士航行到義大利，並敦促他該滿足於他已經擁有的財產。「即使眾神允許我們戰勝他們，」西奈斯問道：「我們會如何從勝利中獲利呢？」



“After we have conquered the Romans, no city in all of Italy will be able to resist us.”

“And once we have Italy, what next?”

“Sicily is a wealthy island and should be easy to take,” said Pyrrhus.

“Will that put an end to the war?”

“Of course not. Carthage would then be within reach,” said Pyrrhus. “After we have taken both Rome and Carthage, who in the world would dare oppose us?”

「在我們征服了羅馬人之後，整個義大利沒有一個城市能夠抵抗我們。」

「當我們佔領了義大利之後，又怎麼樣呢？」

「西西里島是一個富裕的島嶼，應該很容易攻取。」皮洛士說。

「這麼一來，戰事就此結束了嗎？」

「當然不是，接下來迦太基市將觸手可及。」皮洛士說：「在我們佔領了羅馬和迦太基之後，世上還有誰敢敵對我們呢？」



“And then what shall we do?”

“Then, my dear Cineas, we will relax, eat and drink, and have pleasant conversation.”

Cineas delivered the point he was leading to:  
“What is to stop us from doing that right now,  
without causing further hardship to others or  
to ourselves?”

「然後我們將會做些什麼事呢？」

「然後，我親愛的西奈斯，我們將可以放鬆、吃喝玩樂，並愉快地聊天。」

西奈斯提出他要指出的觀點：「我們現在不也是可以這樣做嗎？沒有什麼事可以阻止我們，且不須帶給他人或自己更多艱難困苦呢！」



Pyrrhus and Cineas ended up sailing to Italy, and unfortunately for them, despite several successes—which gave rise to the term “Pyrrhic victory,” for a victory that inflicts such a devastating toll on the victor that it is tantamount to defeat and damages long-term progress—they never did gain that final peace the king referred to.

It’s easy to miss the chance to appreciate and enjoy our current blessings and to instead get so busy pursuing earthly goals that we lose sight of the things that will truly bring peace and contentment. May the story of King Pyrrhus serve as a life lesson to us all about investing in the things that truly matter.

皮洛士和西奈斯最終還是航行至義大利，不幸的是，儘管他們在一些戰役中獲得勝利，卻也付出了慘重的代價。西方諺語「皮洛士式勝利」（Pyrrhic victory）正是源自這個事件。因為這場勝利帶給得勝者如此毀滅性的損失，無異於失敗，並破壞了長期進步，他們從未得到國王所說的最後和平。

我們很容易錯過機會，沒有感激讚賞和享受我們目前的祝福，只是忙於追求塵世的目標，以至於我們忽略了上帝的王國<sup>1</sup>，和會真正帶來和平與滿足的事物。願皮洛士國王的故事，教導我們所有人關於投資在真正重要事物的人生教訓。



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