



# **Plutarch's Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans: With an Introduction by George Wyndam (Classic Reprint)**

*Thomas North*

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Excerpt from Plutarch's Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans: With an Introduction by George Wyndam

I have reason (as I thinke) to compare Nicias with Crassus, and the events that happened to the one in Parthia, with those that befell the other in Sicyle: yet am I to pray them that shall happen to read my wrytinges, not to thinke me in entermeddling with those matters (in the describing and reporting whereof, Thucydides hath gone beyond him selfe, both for variety and livelines of narration, as also in choice and excellent words) to have the like intent and opinion, that Timæus the historiographer had. Who, hoping by the gravety and life of his words and reportes, to darken the glorie of Thucydides, and make Philistus (in comparison of him selfe) appeare ignoraunt, and without any grace of historicall narration: hath in his history of purpose sought occasion to enter into the describing of those battels by sea and by land, and the reporte of those speches and orations, which are delivered by them with great judgement and eloquence. Wherein he commeth as neere them whome he contendes to passe, as doth the footeman to the Lydian coche, as sayth Pindarus: and besides sheweth him selfe fond and of small judgement, or as Diphilus sayth,

A lubber laden with Sicylian grease.


And in divers places, he falleth into Xenarchus follies.

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