

THE SPARTANS

by

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In August, 480 BC, a band of 300 Spartans, led by King Leonidas and joined by 700 Thespians, faced the mighty Persian horde at Thermopylae ("Hot Gates").

And as they looked down, all the Spartans could see was rank after rank of Persian troops fading over the horizon.

No one knows the exact numbers of the Persians, and estimates of 210,000 to 2,000,000 men have been proffered.



Xerxes, the king of the Persians sent his emissary to the Spartans with a simple ultimatum; and in a voice confident, and filled with the condescending air of victory, the emissary sneered, "You are finished... It's over.... and if you don't surrender now, we'll darken the sky with our arrows."

A hush fell over the scene, and only the warm breeze continued its conversation with the grass and trees.

King Leonidas simply smiled, and looking right into the eyes of the enemy he raised his spear and cried, "That's good... we prefer to fight in the shade!"

End.

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