

CYRUS THE GREAT



# Persia & Cyrus the Great

The Declaration of Human Rights written by Cyrus the Great has been hailed as the first charter of human rights, predating the **Magna Carta** by nearly two millenniums (~1700 years) and in 1971 the United Nations was published the translation of it in all the official U.N. languages. It is now kept in the British Museum, and it is no exaggeration to say, that it is one of the most precious historical records of the world. Also a replica of the Cyrus cylinder is kept at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

**Cyrus the Great** is regarded as one of the most outstanding figures in history. His success in creating and maintaining the **Achaemenid Persian Empire** was the result of an intelligent blending of diplomatic and military skills, and his rule was tempered with wisdom and tact. He respected the culture, language and religion of subdued nations and did not assimilate nations in similar methods. He considered all nations equal in terms of their rights. Cyrus was relatively liberal and he was the first king who put an end to slavery and dictatorial oppression. While he himself ruled according to Zoroastrian beliefs, he made no attempt to impose **Zoroastrianism** on the people of his subject territories. He was a very down to earth person. The Persians called him “father”, the Greeks saw him as “A worthy ruler and lawgiver” and the Jews regarded him as “The Lord’s anointed”. His ideals were high, as he laid down that no man was fit to rule unless, he was more capable than all of his subjects. As an administrator Cyrus’ insight was great, and he showed himself both intelligent and reasonable. His humanity was equaled by his freedom from pride, which induced him to meet people on the same level, instead of affecting the remoteness and aloofness, which characterized the great monarchs who preceded and followed him. The Persian Empire lasted over 200 years. Alexander the Great ended the Persian empire.



Cyrus' Babylon



Cyrus Cylinder



Cyrus' Tomb