Source 2 is from Herodotus, The Histories, c. 440 BC. He states his opinion on how the Persians dealt with their dead and implies it was disgusting to his Greek sensibilities. One can assume that the implicit meaning of this text is the difference in cultures and how it influences his point of view on the Persian’s beliefs. The author of this source was Herodotus, an ancient Greek historian who was born in Halicarnassus during the height of the Persian Empire.

**SOURCE 2: The Treatment of the Persian Dead according to Herodotus**

So much I can say of them from my own certain knowledge. But there are other matters concerning the dead which are secretly and obscurely told: how the dead bodies of Persians are not buried before they have been mangled by birds or dogs. [2] That this is the way of the Magi, I know for certain; for they do not conceal the practice. But this is certain, that before the Persians bury the body in earth, they embalm it in wax. These Magi are as unlike the priests of Egypt as they are unlike all other men: [3] for the priests consider it sacrilege to kill anything that lives, except what they sacrifice; but the Magi kill with their own hands every creature, except dogs and men; they kill all alike, ants and snakes, creeping and flying things, and take great pride in it. Leaving this custom to be such as it has been from the first,1 I return now to my former story.

1 Lit. “let matters stand concerning this custom as it was first instituted:” i.e., apparently, “let us be content with knowing that this custom is as it has been from its origin.”

**Reference:** www.perseus.tufts.edu. (n.d.). Herodotus, The Histories, Book 1, chapter 140. [online]. Available at: http://www.perseus.tufts.edu

The source’s author Herodotus originates from the Persian-controlled Halicarnassus, during a time in which the Persian Empire

This source is a secondary literary source and has been created to ‘inform’ the Greeks about the culture of the Persians but it is immensely biased this is evident when he states *“been mangled by birds or dogs”* which can also be shown in Source 3 - which refers to the towers of silence, and that *“these Magi are unlike the priests of Egypt as they are unlike all other men:”* His use of descriptive terms shows that he has a distaste towards their practices and he also tries to make them seem alienated from other societies like the Egyptians.

Even though there is a negative point of view about the Persian’s funerary beliefs, this source also provides some knowledge of the Persian culture, including the fact that *“before the Persians bury the body in earth, they embalm it in wax.”* He also informs us about the traditional funerary practices including the use of vultures to clean the bodies of their flesh, and how the Magis beliefs differ from the beliefs of other priests in surrounding countries. Herodotus fails to mention other details of the Towers of Silence funerary practice, such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but his source is still somewhat trustworthy. even though Herodotus was born in Persia, saying, *“so much I can say of them from my own certain knowledge”.* Henegatively influences our opinion of Persian’s beliefs, he also informs us about the traditional funerary practices including the use of vultures to clean the bodies of their flesh, and how the Magi’s beliefs differ from the beliefs of other priests in surrounding countries.