Greek sources are cited according to traditional Classicist practice. If quoted, the texts are mostly taken from the digital versions of published editions available on the Perseus Digital Library website edited by Gregory R. Crane of Tufts University, which is cited in the text or notes simply as “Perseus”. Translations from Perseus are given as “from Perseus” plus the translator’s surname, e.g., for the Perseus translation of Herodotus, which is by A. D. Godley (1920), the reference is “from Perseus, tr. Godley”. The full references are available on the Perseus site. For other published texts and translations, standard references are given. If otherwise unnoted, the translations are my own.

Old Persian sources are cited according to the standard practice among Iranists. Because most readers do not know the system, the codes used for cited inscriptions are given in the main Abbreviations list. In all cases the texts have been taken from the exact transliterations provided in the edition of Schmitt (2009), which have enabled me to set the passages in Old Persian cuneiform script as well as Romanized transcription. Translators are cited; otherwise the transcriptions and translations are my own.

Chinese sources are cited in standard Sinological fashion. Texts have mostly been quoted from the Chinese Text Project (CTP), and so cited; other sources are cited in full. Translators are cited; otherwise the translations are my own.

In general, quotations taken from secondary sources—mainly works by other scholars—are cited verbatim as given in the quoting
source; if modified by me, that fact is noted. Most “second-hand” quotations have been checked against the original, but unfortunately, due to pandemic-induced restrictions, in some cases it was not possible to check the originals to ensure that the secondary source copied them correctly. Also, the inaccessibility of my own library and the Indiana University library down to shortly before the manuscript was finished meant it was not possible to check recent editions of source texts I could not find online.