Alexander and Bucephalus

This passage is from section 6 of the *Life of Alexander* by the Greek author [Plutarch of Chaeronea](http://www.livius.org/pi-pm/plutarch/plutarch.htm)

Plutarch was a Greek historian and biographer during the time of the Roman Empire.

Bucephalus was Alexaner the Great’s horse and is considered by some to be the most famous horse in history. Alexander and Bucephalus’ initial meeting was unique but demonstrated the true character of one of the greatest generals in all of history.

Philonicus the Thessalian brought the horse Bucephalus to [Philip](http://www.livius.org/phi-php/philip/philip_ii.htm), offering to sell him for thirteen talents. But when they went into the field to try him, they found him so very vicious and unmanageable, that he reared up when they endeavored to mount him, and would not so much as endure the voice of any of Philip's attendants. Upon which, as they were leading him away as wholly useless and untractable, Alexander, who stood by, said, 'What an excellent horse do they lose for want of address and boldness to manage him!'

Why did Alexander feel the problem was not with Bucephalus?

Why did King Phillip give up on the horse, Bucephalus?

Philip at first took no notice of what he said; but when he heard him repeat the same thing several times, and saw he was much vexed to see the horse sent away, 'Do you reproach,' said he to him, 'those who are older than yourself, as if you knew more, and were better able to manage him than they?'

What was the wager Alexander made with his father?

  'I could manage this horse,' replied he, 'better than others do.'   
 'And if you do not,' said Philip, 'what will you forfeit for your rashness?'   
 'I will pay,' answered Alexander, 'the whole price of the horse.'

Why did Alexander feel like he could ride Bucephalus?

At this the whole company fell a-laughing; and as soon as the wager was settled amongst them, he immediately ran to the horse, and taking hold of the bridle, turned him directly towards the sun, having, it seems, observed that he was disturbed at and afraid of the motion of his own shadow; then letting him go forward a little, still keeping the reins in his hands, and stroking him gently when he found him begin to grow eager and fiery, he let fall his upper garment softly, and with one nimble leap securely mounted him, and when he was seated, by little and little drew in the bridle, and curbed him without either striking or spurring him.

Presently, when he found him free from all rebelliousness, and only impatient for the course, he let him go at full speed, inciting him now with a commanding voice, and urging him also with his heel. Philip and his friends looked on at first in silence and anxiety for the result, till seeing him turn at the end of his career, and come back rejoicing and triumphing for what he had performed, they all burst out into acclamations of applause; and his father shedding tears, it is said, for joy, kissed him as he came down from his horse, and in his transport said, 'O my son, look thee out a kingdom equal to and worthy of thyself, for [Macedonia](http://www.livius.org/maa-mam/macedonia/macedonia.html) is too little for thee.'

What did Phillip mean when he said Macedonia was too small for Alexander?

What was Phillip’s reaction to Alexander riding Bucephalus?