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Šahrestānīhā ī Ėrānšahr

A Middle Persian Text on Late Antique Geography, Epic, and History

*With English and Persian Translations and Commentary*

Touraj Daryaee

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With love and devotion,

to my wife, Marjan Asgari
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Editor's Preface

Šāhrestānīhā ī Ėrānšahr is the seventh volume in Intellectual Traditions Series, a series aimed to provide scholars and students of Iranian Islamic heritage with new source materials. Future publications in the series will include studies in philosophy, mysticism and ‘Irfān, religion, intellectual history, and literature.

Šāhrestānīhā ī Ėrānšahr is a short Middle Persian text compiled in Late Antiquity which recounts the various cities in what it claims to be Ėrānšahr, the “Domain of Iranians.” The text also includes discussion of legendary and historical figures who are said to have founded the various cities. The significance of this work is threefold. First, the text is of interest for those who work on Middle Iranian languages. The text contains a number of unique terms especially toponyms. Secondly, the text is of interest for those who are concerned with Sasanian administrative geography and history. The text enumerates the various divisions, districts and a long list of geographical locations and names of cities. It includes historical material as well as names of the Sasanian kings who established the various cities. Thirdly, the text contains much information in regard to the Persian epic, the Xwadāy-nāmag, “Book of Kings.”

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Hossein Ziai
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pad nām ī yazdān

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Touraj Daryaee
Santa Monica, California
January 12, 2002
Introduction

Šahrestānīhā-ī Ėrān-šahr (henceforth ŠĒ) is a short Middle Persian text compiled in Late Antiquity which recounts the various cities in what it claims to be Ėrān-šahr, the “domain of the Iranians.” The text also discusses the sometimes legendary, sometimes historical personage who founded the various cities and the center of their activity. The significance of this work is threefold. First, the text is of interest for those who work on Middle Iranian languages. The text contains a number of unique terms especially toponyms. Secondly, the text is of interest for those who are concerned with Sasanian administrative geography and history. The text enumerates the various divisions, districts and a long list of geographical locations and names of cities. It includes historical material as well as the names of the Sasanian kings who established the various cities. Thirdly, the text contains much information in regard to the Persian epic, the Xwadāy-nāmag, “Book of Kings.”

Since some of the information supplied by the ŠĒ is rare or unique and cannot be found in other texts, the translation of the text has faced certain problems. The content of the text appears to have been drawn from the Sasanian conception of Ėrān-šahr and other material was added to it in the early Islamic era. The last redactors of the text were living under the Abbasid Caliphate in the eighth century.

When the Sasanian empire was established in the third century CE, Ardaxšīr I (224-240 CE) and Sabuhr I (240-270 CE) unified an area which they considered to be Ėrān/Ěrān-šahr. This geographical conception can be delineated by comparing Sabuhr’s Ka’ba Zardušt inscription and Kerdir’s inscription at Naqš-e Rustam. Although the conceptual view of Ėrān-šahr differs somewhat between the royal and Kerdir’s inscription, a territory emerges which corresponds roughly to the eastern Iranian world, the Iranian Plateau, and Mesopotamia. The religious-political view at least in the third century of what Ėrān was territorially is indicated by Kerdir as: Persis, Parthia, Babylonia, Mesene, Adiabene, Atropatene, Isfahān, Rāy, Kirmān, Sagastān, Gurgān up to Pešāwar (Gignoux 1991; 71). The territories which the Sasanian kings mention to be under their rule and which are not part of Kerdir’s list of provinces must then be considered an-Ěrān the “non-Iranian” realm. There are no problems with this geographic conception of Ėrān-šahr which remained
almost constant as the territory of the Sasanian empire with the usual border fluctuations. In this Middle Persian text which was composed during the latter part of the Sasanian dynasty and redacted again in the eighth century, Erān-šahr has a much larger territorial definition. This reminds us of the Sasanian imperial inscription of Šābuhr I, but it is even larger in scope, since it does not conform to the administrative history of Erān in most of the Sasanian period (Gyselen 1988: 206).

The ŠE includes Africa and Arabia as part of Erān-šahr which certainly was not part of the traditional territory of Erān-šahr, nor was this the case in the inscription of Kerdir in the third century CE. One must question why the Zoroastrian scribes of the eighth century had such a geographical definition of Erān-šahr. How did the Zoroastrian scribes come up with this conception of a unique geographical outlook and especially that of Erān-šahr? There are several possibilities which need to be discussed and the first question that must be asked is whether the enumeration of the cities of Erān-šahr in this text reflects a religious/mythical point of view or whether it portrays a historical, hence an imperial ideology of Erān-šahr. It is clear that the Avestan conception of Airyanem Vaéjō/Erān-wēž comprises the Central Asian regions of Sogdiana, Marw, Balx, Herāt, Hermand, and Rāy as mentioned in the first chapter of Widēwdaḏ. Therefore we cannot look at the Avestan territorial conception of Erān-wēž for the inspiration of the ŠE. If we are to seek a historical view for such a territory, then we have to ask when such a scenario would exist and when would parts of Africa and Arabia have been considered as part of the Persian Empire.

The second possibility is to look at the Achaemenid period to see whether the ŠE was influenced by that territorial conception. Of course this is contingent upon whether the Sasanians did remember the Achaemenids or had a memory of them. This is not the place to discuss this question, but we know that what the Classical authors tell us in terms of the Sasanian Persian claims to the Achaemenid territorial integrity was a fabrication of Classical historiography and probably not of the Sasanians themselves (Kettenhofen 1984: 189-190). Still, I believe there were avenues of transmission of Achaemenid memory which the Sasanians chose selectively (Daryaee 1995: 129-141 : 1998: 434), but the territory of Erān is not one of them. There are two reasons why we can not assign this territory to the Achaemenids. First of all, the conception of Erān appears to have been an Avestan idea which was reinvented by the Sasanians in the third century CE (Gnoli 1989: 175). Secondly, the territory which Darius I mentions in the Behistun inscription does not match this
conception of Ėrān-šahr, nor is it certain that the Achaemenids had a name for their empire. Darius I, in the sixth century BCE, in the Behistun inscription enumerates the following areas which were part of his empire (DB I 1.12-7):

θātiy Dārayavaus xšāyaṭiya imā dahyāwa tayā manā patiyyaṣa vaṣna Auramazdaḥa adamṣaṃ xšāyaṭiya āham Pārsa Ūvja Bābiruš Aḥurā Arabāya Mudrāya tyaiy drayahyā Sparda Yauna Māda Armina Kapatuka Pāthava Zraka Harauva Uvārzmiy Bāxtriš Sugda Gadaša Saka ṭataguš Harauvatiš Maka fraharavam dahyāva XXIII

“Says the king Darius, these are the regions that came to me by the favour of Ahura Mazda I was their king: Persia, Elam, Babylonia, Assyria, Arabia, Egypt (those) who are beside the sea, Sardis, Ionía, Media, Armenia, Cappadocia, Parthia, Drangiana, Aria, Chorasmia, Bactria, Sogdiana, Gandara, Scythia, Sattagidia, Arachosia, Maka, in all, 23 provinces.” (Kent 1953; 118-119; Schmitt 1991; 49-50).

By looking at the ŠE one can see most of the places mentioned in the Behistun inscription, but the inscription covers a different area than ŠE. As for the Sasanian period, we have the royal inscriptions of the third century CE to rely on. The territory of Ėrān-šahr as mentioned by Šābuhr I does not match that of ŠE either (Back 1978; 285-288; Huyse 1999; 23-24). In the third century inscription of Šābuhr I (240-270 CE) the various provinces of the empire are mentioned in this manner (SKZ based on the Greek version):


“I am the ruler of Ėrān-šahr and hold these šahrs: Persia, Parthia, Xuzistān, Mēšān, Assyria, Adiabene, Arabia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Geogrīs, Segān, Albania, Balāsakān, up to the Caucasus mountains and the
The only time the Sasanian empire reached such a limit again began in the sixth century CE and continued to the time of Husraw II in the seventh century CE. Therefore the ŠE may be a reflection of this expanded empire which reached its largest limits during the time of Husraw II. While the eastern territories had been under the control of the Sasanians periodically, by the sixth century CE Arabia had become a major scene of activity as well. Yemen had been conquered in 575 CE by the Sasanians and placed under the governorship of Bādhān who ruled from Ṣan‘ā. From Yemen envoys had been sent to Medina by a Persian governor to collect taxes from the people (Kister 1968; 145) and also to inquire about the rising power of the Prophet Muhammad. As for northern Arabia, Oman had also been placed under Persian rule (Wilkinson 1975; 98). Arab sources suggest that as early as the rule of Kawād I the Persians were involved in Mecca, where he is said to have imposed the religious ideas of Mazdak on the Arabs of Najd and Tihāma. It is stated that when some of the population of Mecca refused, he ordered one of his Arab commanders to destroy the Ka‘ba which was not carried out (Kister 1968; 145-146). The only other problem remaining is the question of Africa. The ŠE mentions frīgā which in the Islamic period came to be known as Maghrib, more clearly Egypt, Tunisia, Tripolitania and the surrounding region (Modi 1899; 130). We know that in the early seventh century Husraw II’s forces conquered Egypt and ruled the region for several years, where they even went further west and south, making inroads into Libya and Nubia (Altheim-Stiehl, 1992; 92).

If these historical developments are the point of reference for the geographical outlook of the ŠE, then we can make certain assumptions. One is that during the late Sasanian period a conceptual worldview had developed which was based on the imperialistic policies beginning with Kawād I to the time of Husraw II. This is the time when the Sasanian Empire reached its furthest limits and exerted its influence beyond the traditional borders of the Sasanian empire. Consequently, the concept of Ėrān-šahr in our text was an imperialistic notion of what Ėrān-šahr was territorially. This idea seems to have survived even after the fall of the Sasanian empire in the seventh century CE and was incorpo-
rated not only in the Zoroastrian Middle Persian texts, but also became part of the epic narrative of the Perso-Islamic Period. It is no wonder then that when the preface to the Šāhnāme-ye Abū Mansūrī describes the limits of Ėrān-šahr, it provides a similar view to of our text:

"Ėrān-šahr is from the Amū Daryā (Oxus) River to the Miṣr (Nile) River and these other regions are around it (Ėrān-šahr) and among these seven regions, Ėrān-šahr is worthier in every art and from the direction of the east are the Chinese and from its right are the Indians and on its left are the Turks and others are Xazars and that more to the right belong to the Barbarians and from the second left belong to the Xawārān (westerners) and people from Mazandaran, and the Egyptians say that it is from Marzandarān and all of these are all the land of Ėrān.”

(Qazvinī 1332; 49 cf. Monchi-Zadeh 1975; 8).

This point also brings us to the conceptual division of the universe according to the Zoroastrian tradition. In the Zoroastrian tradition the earth is divided into seven tracts haft kīswar “seven continents/climes,” (Avestan) karsūars, where one tract was at the center which was the size of all the six climes combined (Schwartz 1985; 643). The six other tracts surround the central tract which was called (Avestan) Šxvanirātā, (Middle Persian) Xwanirah. Reference to Xwanirah is found in the oldest period of Iranian civilization, in the Gāthās of Zoroaster. Yasna 32.3 mentions the seventh region, būmiā haptaišē, literally “the seventh part of the earth,” which is to be identified with Xwanirah. The sea of Farāxkārt surrounds Xwanirah and protects it. It is said that Ohrmazd made Xwanirah more beneficent than all other regions and it is in this kīswar where the Mazda-worshipping religion, kings and heroes were created (Shahbazi 1983; 241-242). Thus, Xwanirah becomes the central land and the focal point where the history of ancient Persians unfolds and the SE reflects this clime, i.e., Ėrān-šahr. The others kīswars are Arzah
(east), Fradadafaš (southeast), Widadafaš (southwest), Sawah (west), Wörübarṣt (northwest), and Wörüjarṣt (northeast).

In this scheme the Sāsānians had developed a certain geographical outlook which was rooted in the Younger Avestan tradition, i.e., the idea of Ērān, but the material had been reworked to fit the imperial ideology in Late Antiquity. This becomes evident when we remember that in the division of the earth into seven climes karšwars/kiswar, the central region, i.e., Xvanirādā/ Xwanirah was the tract where humans existed, and the other tracts were not inhabited. In this tract or continent Airyanem VaejōlĒrān-wēž was located in Central Asia, close to the river Vāhī Dāitiya/Weh Dāitiya (Oxus River) (Humbach 1991; 33-40). By the Sāsānian period, this geographic conception had gone through changes and now Airyanem VaejōlĒrān-wēž, i.e., Ērān was identified with the whole of Xwanirah (Christensen 1917; 117-118 : Dumézil 1971; 252-253). Consequently, other people who had inhabited Xwanirah were pushed onto the other tracts which had been uninhabited in the Avestan conception of the universe. One can see this conceptual evolution of the world by looking at the maps produced by the early Islamic authors who saw Ērān-šahr as the center tract and others surrounding it. This division is a constant feature of the ancient Persian geographical outlook and Persian Muslim authors such as Bērūnī and Yaqūt also divide the world into such a division. In al-Tafhim by Bērūnī a diagram of the seven Kishwars is given which complements the Šāhnāme-ye Abū Mansūrī:

This view is a late Sāsānian representation of Ērān which had not only successfully transposed Airyanem VaejōlĒrān-wēž onto its empire, but now included a territory which could only appear as a result of imperial ideology. The ŠĒ did not represent the traditional boundary of the
early Sasanian empire, but rather a region which had once been under the
domination of the Persians and from then on was believed to be Erān.
This region is vividly mentioned in the preface of the Šāhnāme-ye Abū
Maṣūrī to be from “Oxus to Nile,” which interestingly coincided with
the terminology used by the great historian Marshal G. Hodgson in his
book The Venture of Islam. His definition of the Islamic or the Middle
Eastern world was summed up as the “Nile to Oxus Region” (Hodgson
1977; 60). Ibn Rustah also gives a city by city enumeration of Erān-šahr
which demonstrates this imperial outlook (Wiet 1955; 115-120).

In the Islamic period many local and universal geographies began to
be written, some taking on or describing the ancient Persian geographical
concept of the world. These texts also recounted some of the important
and legendary features of each city or region. In the Middle Persian texts
such chapters in the Bundahišn recount the various regions, mountains
and bodies of water. The source for the Bundahišn appears to have been
a text called Ayādgār ī Šahrīhā (Memoire of Cities) which confirms the
existence of geographical texts in the Sasanian period (Tafazzoli 1376;
265). It is related that during the time of Kawād I, a book on geography
was written for him (Tavadia 1956; 204), which may have been the Ay-
ādgār ī Šahrīhā. A short Middle Persian text known as Abūl ud Sahīghī
ī Sistān (The Marvels and Worthiness of Sistān) is another example of a
local historical/geographical work which resembles the Tārīx-e Sistān in
approach, albeit in a more compact fashion. Thus there is a connection
between the Middle Persian and the early Islamic geographical works
from which the Islamic historians and geographers must have drawn
information.

Kusts and Administrative Divisions

While the latest redaction of the text was made in the Abbasī period (late
eighth century), other evidence within the text suggests that its source or
this text existed at the time of Kawād I/Husraw I in the sixth century CE.
This is because if one looks at the list of provincial capitals of Persis in
our text, four Šahrestāns are given: 1) Staxr; 2) Dārābghir; 3) Bēšābhuhr;
and 4) Gōr-Ardaxsīr-Xwarrah. This picture of the province of Persis is a
pre-reform state. This is because after Kawād I laid siege to the city of
Amida he deported its inhabitants to a new city built in the empire which
he named Weh-az-Amid-Kawād and made it the fifth division of the
province of Persis. The division of Persis into five Šahrestāns is a con-
stant feature in the Islamic geographical sources and has been attributed
to the administrative reforms of the sixth century CE. Since our text
mentions only four Šahrestāns, it may suggest that the source for the ŠĒ
existed at that time, and the latter scribes failed to add Weh-az-Amid Kawād to the text.

It is thought that during the reign of Husraw I, the empire was divided into four *kusts* “sides” or “regions,” (Christensen 1944; 371: Altheim & Stiehl 1954; 138: Frye 1983; 333: Morony 1984; 28: Frye; 1985; 154: Brunner 1985; 750: Morony 1995; 77), but the pioneering work of Ph. Gignoux, which has changed some of our basic assumptions regarding the administrative divisions of the empire has raised some serious doubts. Gignoux, in several studies has questioned the idea of quadripartition and has stated that the Sāsānian inscriptions, administrative seals and coins do not support the literary sources, and in fact there was never a quadripartition of the empire. He further believes that the contradictory sources available for this period which discuss the quadripartition should be put aside.

The traditional view that there was quadripartition was based solely on the literary sources. According to these sources, which Gignoux classifies as secondary and tertiary in his method of classifying sources, during the reign of Kawād I (488-531 CE) and his son, Husraw I (531-579 CE), the Sāsānian empire was divided into four quarters, where a *spāhbed* “General” was in charge of each *kust* “region.” In regard to the idea of quadripartition, he claims that the cause of this misconception is due to the adoption of the Mesopotamian quadripartite conception of the universe rather than the reality of the Sāsānian empire (Gignoux 1984; 25-27).

According to an Armenian source the empire was divided into the following kusts: 1) *kust ī xwarāsān* “quarter of the northeast;” 2) *kust ī xwarwarān* “quarter of the southwest;” 3) *kust ī nēmrōz* “quarter of the southeast;” and 4) *kust ī ʿādurbādagan* “quarter of the northwest” (Markwart 1901). Ibn Rustah also attests this matter (Wiet 1955; 115). The Middle Persian texts of the late Sāsānian and early Islamic period also confirm this quadripartition. In Šīr the order of the *kusts* are in the following manner:

\[
\text{pad kust ī xwarāsān} \ldots \text{[pad kust ī xwarbarān]} \ldots \\
\text{ad kust ī nēmrōz} \ldots \text{pad kust ī Ādūrbādagan} \ldots
\]

in the quarter of Xwarāsān ... [in the quarter of Xvarbārān]
in the quarter of Nēmrōz ... in the quarter of Ādūrbādagan

(Jamasp-Asana 1913; 18-14).

In the Middle Persian text of *Šīr Āfrīn*, libation is given to the members of the court beginning with the *šāhān šāh* “king of kings,” *wāspuhr ī*
śāhān “nobility connected with the king,” and wuzurg frāmādār “the grand minister.” Then a list of spāhbeds is given in the following manner:

- hamāg zōhr xwarāsān spāhbed
- hamāg zōhr xwarwarān spāhbed
- hamāg zōhr nēmrōz spāhbed

worthy of all offerings - the spāhbed of xwarāsān,
worthy of all offerings - the spāhbed of xwarwarān,
worthy of all offerings - the spāhbed of nēmrōz.

(Jamasp-Asana 1913; 157.9-12 : Tavadia 1935; 45).

In this passage the last spāhbed is not mentioned, but if we add the last spāhbed along with the ordering in the ŠE, this gives us the complete quadripartitioned areas. Islamic sources, such as Ṭabarī, Thaʿālibī, and Masʿūdī also corroborate this quadripartition, although there are inconsistencies regarding the place of each province among the four quarters (Ṭabarī 1963; I.894 : Thaʿālibī 1900; 393 : Masʿūdī 1969-1975; II.211.2). The literary sources state that before the reforms of Kawād I and Husraw I, an Ėrān-spāhbed controlled the military of the entire empire, but later this position was divided among four spāhbeds. Gnoli recently stated that all the secondary and tertiary sources in fact support the idea that there was a military quadripartition of the empire under Husraw I. According to him, this military reform was short lived because of the political upheaval of the late Sasanian period, but left its trace in the Arabic and Persian sources (Gnoli 1985; 270). While Gnoli’s suggestion is quite acceptable, it may be that this quadripartition went beyond the military reform. Although Gignoux has stated that the material evidence does not give any proof for such a reform in the late Sasanian period, there does now appear to be some evidence to the contrary.

Some numismatic evidence also points to the quadripartition of the Sasanian empire under Kawād I. The reverse side of Sasanian coins usually includes the date when the coin was struck and the place or mint signature. There are many Sasanian and Arab-Sasanian mint signatures with uncertain attributions, and it now appears that not all mint signatures may represent a city where coins were minted. One of the mint signatures mentioned by Paruck was that of DINAN which at times he also read correctly as DIVAN, but did not know that it was the same mint (Paruck 1943; 105). He also read four mints with the prefix DIN which were AN, AV, AS, and AT (Paruck 1943; 139 : Göbl 1971; Plate XVI). Recently, Gurnet has proposed to read the Sasanian mint signature
DYNAW which had been attributed to the city of Dinawar, as DYW-AO, with three other signatures, DYW-AT, DYW-AS, and DWY-KR (Gumet 1994; 140). This possibility is due to the confusing nature of the Middle Persian alphabet in which a letter can be read in several ways.

Gumet suggests that the first three letters, DYW, are the abbreviation for déwān (Perso-Arabic déwān) meaning “government office,” or “chancery” with the next two letters acting as suffixes for the region. Gumet suggests AO for the southwest; AT standing for the quarter of northwest, perhaps standing for Âdûrbâdagân; AS for the capital, perhaps for Āsûrestân; and KR for the southeast, standing for Kermân (Mochiri 1985; 109-122). By identifying AO with the southwest the scheme of the quadripartition becomes questionable, but what AO stands for is the real question. Gumet does not give a definitive answer to this anomaly, and indeed one can read the suffix as AN, thus DYW-AN. But another suggestion may be more suitable. AO can also be read as XW, and thus reading Xwarāsān. Then DYW-XW could stand for “Dēwān of Xwarāsān,” the northeast quarter, and DYW-AS can be understood as the quarter of the southwest. Thus we can suggest the following scheme according to the numismatic evidence: DYW-AT for Dēwān of Âdûrbâdagân; DYW-XW for Dēwān of Xwarāsān; DYW-AS for Dēwān of Āsûrestân; and DYW-KR for Dēwān of Kermân.

These coins were minted during the reign of Kâwâd I, which exactly corresponds with the beginning of the administrative reforms. Thus the literary sources can be complemented by the coins which both point to the fact that there was indeed a quadripartition. The quadripartition was a reaction to the military setbacks experienced by Kâwâd I and his father. The incursions from the east by the Hephthalites, as well as the Roman frontier wars in the west, and the Arab raids into the empire from the south made it crucial that the empire be able to deal with problems on several fronts. This may have been the cause behind the division of military power into the hands of four generals where they would be able to deal with the invasions and wars. These coins may have been struck for paying the military or used for the army of each kust which corroborates Gnoli’s contention.

We can also conclude that the impetus for the reforms was begun during the reign of Kâwâd I, and not his son Husraw I. The dates of these coins are from 32-40 year of Kâwâd’s reign (520-528 CE) (Paruck 1943; 105). Thus the date for the beginning of the quadripartition should be assigned to the early sixth century rather than later. Under Husraw I this reform may have become institutionalized, and so the Islamic sources would have attributed the reforms to him. Of course this is not surprising,
since Husraw I was an important monarch and many great acts and building of monuments were attributed to him.

**The Structure**

The schematical presentation of Erān-šahr is placed in four major quarters (kusts): 1) Xwarāsān, 2) Xwarwarān, 3) Nēmrōz, and 4) Ādurbādagān. This scheme which represents the administrative reforms of Kawād I and Husraw I is also important for another reason. When looking at the progression of the kusts one is faced with a diagonal presentation, meaning the text begins from northeast to southwest to southeast to northwest. This form of describing the kusts is a constant feature in the Middle Persian texts, that is a diagonal representation where only Ābāxtar is interchanged with Ādurbādagān. This exchange may be caused by the fact that Ābāxtar designates the north in the Zoroastrian cosmology which is associated with evil and its abode (Tafazzoli 1936; 333:1376; 266). This presentation of the kusts in a diagonal manner is an ancient trait when describing the borders or limits of the empire, since Darius I in the sixth century BCE describes the limits of the Achaemenid empire in a diagonal fashion: from northeast to southwest to southeast to northwest (Kent 1953; 136-137).

The structure and language of the ŠE is formulaic. This means that a structure dominates the progression and the narrative of the text in the following manner:

Šahrestān x was built by y.
Šahrestān x and x was built by y.
Šahrestān x was built by y (narrative of y’s feats).
Šahrestān x was built by y and z completed it.
Šahrestān x was built by y and Šahrestān x by y.

**The Study of ŠE**

Several translations of this text were done mainly in the late nineteenth and the early part of the twentieth century. The first scholar to deal with the text was E. Blochet (Blochet 1897; 165-176) who produced a French translation with useful notes. He was followed by J.J. Modi (Modi 1899) who supplied a Gujrati and English translation of the text, followed by J. Markwart’s (Markwart 1931) posthumous publication of an English translation which has been the standard work for the past seventy years. It should be noted that while Markwart ingeniously was able to
clear up many of the difficulties, he had not used Modi's work, especially his two articles which were published with his book at the turn of the century (Modi 1898; 129-163; 1899; 164-180). S. Hedäyat, who had studied Middle Persian in India with B.T. Anklesaria, prepared the first Persian translation of the text in the first half of the last century as well (Hedäyat 1344; 412-433). Since then S.H. Nyberg edited and published the text of ŠE in his Pahlavi manual which improved many readings of the text as is apparent from the notes and the glossary to his work (Nyberg 1964; 113-117, 203-204). More recently, two shorter works in Persian have dealt with this text, the first by S. Orian (Orian 1983; 593-619) and another by the late A. Tafazzoli who supplied a basic translation with few notes (Tafazzolī 1368; 332-349).

The Manuscript

The MK codex which contains the Šahrestānīhā-i Ėrān-šahr was edited by K.J. Jamasp-Asana. The text was edited based on two manuscripts, MK and JJ (Modi 1913; 18-24). The codex was copied by a Persian Zoroastrian priest named Mehrabān Kay-Khosrow in the fourteenth century, who traveled from Iran to India to assist the Parsi priests in their religious literature. The codex consisted of 163 folios where the ŠE was found in fol. 19b, 1.5 - fol. 26a, 1.6. The MK codex was copied from a manuscript written for a Parsi priest named Dēn-Panāh, son of Adūrbād who had written it for Šahzād ī Šādān-Farrokh-Ohrmazd who was at the fire-temple of Broach. The codex contains a variety of texts, some short and a few longer ones, such as the Ayādgār ī Zarērān, and Husraw ud Rēdag.

For the transcription, MacKenzie's system has been used and in the section of the translation, the Middle Persian forms of the names are used with some modifications. The following symbols have been used in the transcriptions: [ ] addition / <> omission. First, the transcription of the text is given, followed by the translation both in English and Persian followed by the commentary.
Transcription

pad nâmî dâdârî weh abzônîg
[šahrestânîhâ ı ėrân-sahr]

pad nâm <î> ud nêrög ud ahîyîhî dâdâr ohrmazd [ud] jadag înêk.

1) šahrestânîhâ ı andar zamîg î ėrân-sahr kard ėstêd jud jud rôz kû kadâm sar-xwadây kard pad gôkân abar ėn âyâdgâr nibišt ėstêd.

2) pad kust î xwarâsân samarkand šahrestân kâûs î kawâdân bun fragand siyâwaxzî kâûsân be frazâmênîd.

3) kay-husraw î siyâwaxzân ānôh zât u-š warzâwand âtâxâ wahrâm ānôh nişâst.


5) ud pas gizistag *skandar soxt ud andar ô drâyâb abgand.

6) sugûd î haft āsîyân u-š haft āsîyânag andar bûd ēd kû haft xwadâyân andar bûd. ēk ān î yam ud ēk [ān î] až-i dahâg ud ēk ān [î] frêđôn ud ēk ān î manûçîhr ud ēk ān î kâûs <ud ēk ān î kay-husraw> ud ēk ān î lohrâsp ud ēk ān î wiştâsp-sâh.

7) pas gizistag frâsiyâk î tûr har ēk nişêmag î dêwân [ud] uzdêstzâr <î> [ud] *başn pâdîş kard.

8) andar baxl î *bâmîg šahrestân [î] nôwâzag spandyâd î wiştâspân pûs kard.

9) u-š warzâwand âtâxâ wahrêm ānôh nişâst u-š nêzag î xwêš ānôh be zad u-š o yabûn xâgân ud sinjêbik xâgân ud çôl xâgân ud wuzurg xâ[ga]n ud gôhram ud tuzâb ud arzâspî xiyûnân-sâh paygâm frêstêd kû ô nêzag î man be nîgerêd har kê pad wazišn î ēn nêzag nigerêd câ andar ô ėrân-sahr dwârêd.

10) šahrestân î xwârazmî *narsêh î jahûdagân kard.

11) šahrestân î marw-rôd wahrâm î yazdgîrdân kard.

12) šahrestân î marw ud šahrestân [î] harê gizistag skandar î
hrōmāyīg kard.
13) šahrestān [t] *pōšang šābuhr ī ardaxšīrān kard, u-š pad pōšang
<婷> puhl-e wuzurg kard.
14) šahrestān [t] tūs, tūs ī nōdarān [kard] <婷> [ud] 900 sāl spāhbed
būd. pas az tūs spāhbedih ŏ zarēr ud az zarēr ŏ bastūr ud az
basṭūr ŏ karzam mad.
15) šahrestān ī nēwšābuhr šābuhr ī *ardaxšīrān kard pad ān gāh
kē-s pahlēzag [t] tūr özad u-š pad ham-gyāg šahrestān framūd
kardan.
16) šahrestān ī kāyēn kay-lohrāsp ī wištāsp pid kard.
17) andar gurgān šahrestān ī dahestān xwāndēd narsēh ī āskānān
kard.
18) šahrestān [t] kūmīs [t] panj-burg až-i dahāg pad šabestān
kard. mānīs [t] *pāršīgān ānoh būd. pad xwadāyīh [t] yazdgīrd ī
šābuhrān kard andar tāzišn ī čōl wērōy-pahr [t] ān ālag.
19) šahrestān panj husraw ī kawādān k[arda]: husraw<ud>-šād [ud]
husraw ī mūst-ābād ud wisp-šād-husraw ud hu-bōy-husraw [ud]
šād-farrox-husraw kard [ud] nām nihād.
20) u-š parisp-e kē 180 frasang drahmūy ud 20 + 5 sāh ārešn
bālāy 100 ud 80 dar kōsk [ud] dastgīrd andar framūd kardan.
21) pad kust [t] xwarwarān šahrestān ī tīsīfōn az frāmān ī
tūs ī *warāzāg ī ġewagān kard.
22) šahrestān [t] *nasībln *warazāg [t] ġewagān kard.
23) šahrestān ī ārōhāy narsēh ī āskānān kard.
24) šahrestān ī bābēl, bābēl pad xwadāyīh [t] jam kard.
 u-š tūr abāxtar ānoh be bast ud mārīg [i] haft [ud] dwāzdah
 ī axtarān ud abāxtarān [ud] haštom bahrag pad jādūgīh ŏ
mihr ud azērīg be nimūd.
25) šahrestān ī hērt šābuhr ī ardaxšīrān kard.
 u-š mihr-zād ī *hērt marzbān pad war ī tāzīgān be gumārd.
26) šahrestān ī hamadān *yazdgīrd ī šābuhrān kard kē-sān
*yazdgīrd ī dabr xwānēnd.
27) andar māh ud kust ī nihāwand ud war [t] wahrāmāwand
 šahrestān-ē wahrām ī *yazdgīrdān kard kē-sān wahrām [t] gōr
xwānd.
28) 21 šahrestān ī andar padišxwārgar kard āšēd az
armāyīl enyā az frāmān armāyīl awēšān kōfyārān
kard kē-sān az *až-i dahāg kōf pad šahryārīh windād
ēstād.
29) kōfyār 7 ēnd: dumbāwand <ud> wisēmagān ud āhagān
30) ین ان بود که-سان از *اژ-ی داهگ کوف پاد شاه‌ری‌هی ویناد استاد.
31) شاهستان [ی] میلس پر‌وزبی شاه‌ری‌ن کارد.
32) 9 شاهستان وناد زامیگ گازیرگ کارد استاد و امتیس کیسار بردار واد کارد.
46) شاهستان [ی] اهمنیزد-اردخسیران [ود]
47) شاهستان [ی] سوس ود پیستار شیندخت وسیع تانیزگوردی [ی]
ساهوریان کارد چیون دخت [ی] ریس-گالویداج جاه‌داغان ساه ماد-یز [ی]
واهرام [ی] گیر بود.
48) شاهستان [ی] واندای-ساهوری ود شاهستان [ی] اریان-کارد- <د>
ساحران حاضر ت ای آردخسیار کرد و-ش پیلاباد نام نهاد.
49) ساحران(ن) نهار تیراگ پاد دوّ-خواداییه(ی) *از-ی داهای
پاد سباستان کرد و زندان(ی) ای آران-ساهربد زندان
اسکان نام بود.
50) ساحران (ی) سیمران فردون(ی) ادوانان کرد. و-ش مسیرگ
سیران واحد(ی) سیمران(ی) ابّاز خوّشیه(ی) ایران-ساهربد وارد. و-ش
داشت (ی) تازیگ پاد خوّشیه(ی) ابّادیه(ی) بِی بّاخت-حسراو(ی) تازیگ-سیره
داد پَوّاند داریشن(ی) خوّش راه.
51) ساحران (ی) ارّهست سباعر(ی) ای آردخسیران کرد.
52) ساحران (ی) عسیر(ی) می سیرا(ی) ای آردخسیر(ی) ارداخسیر(ی)
سپانیادان کرد. و-ش اِل (ی) هاجر(ی) ای خوارزمان(ی) دوّ-سار(ی) پاد بر-گیل
پاد وار(ی) تازیگان(ی) بّعیمّارد.
53) ساحران (ی) یغّیزگ (ی) ایلکساندلر (ی) فلپنش(ی) کرد. مانیش(ی)
جاهمان(ی) انّر نام بّود. پاد خواذهی(ی) (ی) یازدگرد(ی) سبیعیّان نَّد از
خوّایش(ی) شیّانیخت(ی) سیسندخت(ی) و-ش زان بود.
54) ساحران (ی) ایران-اسان-کرد-کاوّاد (کاوّاد) پرّوزان(ی) کرد.
55) ساحران (ی) اّشکار(ی) وّراوّام(ی) یازدگردان(ی) کرد.
56) ساحران ایربادگان(ی) ایران-غوشاب(ی) ایربادگان(ی) سپاهباد
[کرد].
57) ساحران (ی) وان وان(ی) خوّایش(ی) کرد(ی) و پاد زانیه(ی) دی کاوّاد
کاوّاد(ی) می داد(ی) و پاد دروبرّشتیه(ی) ایاروّادی(ی) دیر(ی) براد-ریش(ی)
پاد جدّیگی(ی) کرد(ی) بانّگی(ی) یگان(ی) خوّش راه.
58) پاد خوّایش(ی) ود(ی) سیرا(ی) یازدگرد(ی) ایران-اسان(ی)
گِرّاک (ی) تیر(ی) کرد.
59) ساحران (ی) آموی زانگ(ی) پرّ-مار(ی) کرد.
زِاردُعّت(ی) سپتّامان(ی) انّ(ی) ساحران بّود.
60) ساحران (ی) بایدّاد(ی) ابّع-یافّر(ی) چیوّن-ساهربد-دوانّگ خوّان
کرد.
pاد پرّوژیه(ی) آّیشت.
فرّازاَت(ی) پاد درّد(ی) سادّیه(ی) رامیشن.
2

English Translation

In the name of the beneficent bountiful Creator
[The Provincial Capitals of Ėrān-šahr]

In the name and power and righteousness
of the Creator Ohrmazd and good omen.

1) The cities in the land of Ėrān-šahr which have been
   built in different days, where and which overlord
   made them is written in detail in this memoir.

2) In the Eastern direction, the foundation of the city
   of Samarkand was laid by Kāūs, the son of Kawād.
   Siyāwaxš, the son of Kāūs completed it.

3) Kay Husraw, the son of Siyāwaxš was born there, and
   he set the miraculous Wahrām fire there.

4) Then Zoroaster brought the Religion. By the order
   of king Wištāsp 1200 fragard (chapters) in the script of religious
   scripture were engraved on golden tablets and written and
   deposited in the treasury of that fire-(temple).

5) And then the accursed Alexander burnt and threw
   it into the sea.

6) Sogdiana (has) seven abodes, its having seven abodes
   in it means that there were seven Lords in it. One belonging
   to Jam and one to Aži Dahāg and one to Frēdōn
   and one to Manūčihr and one to Kāūs
   and one to Lohrāsp and one to king Wištāsp.

7) Then the accursed Frāsiyāk, the Tūrānian, made seats for
   each of the demons, and an idol temple and a heathen temple.

8) In the brilliant Balx, the city of Nawāzāg was built
   by Spandyād, the son of Wištāsp.

9) And he set the miraculous Wahrām fire there and struck
   his lance there and he sent a message to Yabbu Xāgān,
   Sinjēbik Xāgān, and Čōl Xāgān and the Great Xāgān and
   Gohram and Tuzāb and Arzāsp, the king of the Hayōns:
`“behold my lance, whoever beholds the movement of this lance is like they have rushed to Iran.”`

10) The city of Xwārazm was built by Narsēh, the son of the Jewess.

11) The city of Marv-rōd was built by Wahrām, the son of Yazdgird.

12) The city of Marv and the city of Herāt were built by the accursed Alexander the Roman.

13) The city of Pōšang was built by Šābuhr the son of Ardaxšīr, and he built a large bridge in Pōšang.

14) The city of Tūs was built by Tūs, the son of Nōdar, and (he) was the general for 900 years. After Tūs, the office of general came to Zarēr and from Zarēr to Bastūr and from Bastūr to Karzān.

15) The city of Newšābuhr was built by Šābuhr the son of Ardaxšīr. At that time when he killed the Tūrānian Pahlīzag, he ordered to build the city in the same place.

16) The city of Qiāyēn was built by Kay Lohrāsp, the father of Wištāsp.

17) In Gurgān, the city which they call Dahestān was built by Narseh, the Arsacid.

18) The city of Kūmīs of five towers Aži Dāhāg made it his own harem. The abode of the *Parthians was there. In the reign of Yazdgird, the son of Šābuhr made it during the invasion of the Čōl, at the boundary of the Gruznian Guard.

19) Five cities were built by Husraw, the son of Kawād: Husraw-šād, and Husraw ī Mūst-Ābād, and Wisp-šād-Husraw and Hū-bōy-Husraw, and Šād-farrox-Husraw and named them.

20) He ordered the establishment of a wall 180 farsang(s) long and 25 royal cubit(s) high, 180 palace gates and ordered in it the establishment of the an estate.

21) In the Western direction, the city of Ctesiphon was built by the order of Tūs, the son of Warāz the son of Gēw.

22) The city of Nisibis was built by Warāzag the son of Gēw.

23) The city of Edessa was built by Narseh, the Arsacid.

24) The city of Babylon, was built by Bābēl during the reign of Jam. And he bound the planet Mercury there and he showed the seven planets and the twelve constellations and the eighth portions by sorcery to the Sun and to those below (mankind).

25) The city of Hīrā was built by Šābuhr, the son of Ardaxšīr. And
he appointed Mihrzād the margrave of Hīra over the wall of the Arabs.
26) The city of Hamadān was built by Yazdgird, the son of Šābuhr whom they call Yazdgird the rough.
27) In Media and the district of Nīhāwand and the fortress of Wahrāmāwand, Wahrām the son of Yazdgird whom they call Wahrām Gōr, built a city.
28) 21 cities were built in Padišxwargar, either Armāyī or by the order of Armāyī were built by the mountaineers, who from Ažī Dāhāg acquired the dominion of the mountains.
29) There are seven mountaineers: Wisemagan of Damāwand, and Āhagān and Wispūhr and Sōbārān and Musragān and Barōzān and Marinzān.
30) These were those who from Ažī Dāhāg acquired the dominion of the mountains.
31) The city of Mosul was built by Pērōz, the son of Šābuhr.
32) 9 cities were built in the land of Jazīra, and Āmtūs, the nephew of Caesar built them.
33) The 24 cities which were built in the land of Syria and Yemen and Africa and Kufa and Mecca and Medina, some were built by the King of Kings and (some built) by the Caesar.
34) In the Southern direction, the city of Kābul was built by Ardaxšīr, the son of Spandyād.
35) The city of Raxvat was built by Rahām, the son of Gōdarz, at that time when he, Aspwarz killed the manly Tūr, and harassed Yabbū the Xāğān from there.
36) The city of Bust was built by Bastūr, the son of Zārēr, at that time when king Wištāsp worshipped the religion by the Frazdān (lake), and the abode of Wištāsp and other blood princes was established.
37) The city of Frāh and the city of Zābul were built by Rustam, the king of Sīstān.
38) The city of Zarang was first built by the accursed Frāsīyāk, the Tūranian, and established the miraculous Karkōy Fire there, and Manūčēhr was (surrounded) in Padišxwārgar, and (Frāsīyāk) asked Spandarmad as wife and Spandarmad mixed in the earth, (he) destroyed the city and he extinguished the fire, and then Kay Husraw, the son of Siyāwaxš again built the city. And he again founded the Karkōy Fire, and Ardaxšīr, the son of Pā-bag finished the city.
39) The city of Kermān was built by (*Kawād) the son Pērōz, the king of Kermān.
40) The city of Weh-Ardaxšīr was built by three lords and Ardaxšīr, the son of Pābag finished it.
41) The city of Staxr was built by Ardawān, king of the *Parthians.
42) The city of Dārābgird was built by Dārā, the son of Dārā.
43) The city of Bēšābuhr was built by Šābuhr, the son of Ardaxšīr.
44) The city of Gör-Ardaxšīr-Xwarrah was built by Ardaxšīr, the son of Pābag.
45) The city of Tūz was built by Humāy, the daughter of Čihr Āzād.
46) The city of Hormizd-Ardaxšīr and the city of Rām-Hormizd were built by Hormizd, the valiant, the son of Šābuhr.
47) The city of Susa and Šūstar were built by Šīšinduxt, the wife of Yazdgird, the son of Šābuhr, since she was the daughter of Reš Galut, the king of the Jews and also was the mother of Wahrām Gōr.
48) The city of Wandōy-Šābuhr and the city of Ėrān-kard-Šābuhr, Šābuhr, the son Ardaxšīr built, and he named it Pīlābād.
49) The city of Nahr-Tirag was built during the evil reign of Aži Dahāq as a harem, and was the prison of Ėrān-šahr, and it was called the prison of the Arsac.
50) The city of Hīmyār was built by Frēdōn, the son of Ādwēn. And he killed Masrugh, the king of Hīmyār, and he again brought the land of Hīmyār under the sovereignty of Ėrān-šahr. And he gave the plain of the Arabs to Baxt Husraw, the king of the Arabs as his very own feud, on the account of the connection which he himself made with him.
51) The city of Ārhēst was built by Šābuhr, the son of Ardaxšīr.
52) The city of Āsūr and the city of Weh-Ardaxšīr, were built by Ardaxšīr, the son of Spandyād. And he appointed Ōšag, of Hagar as the margrave (over the) Dō-sar and Bor-gil by the wall of the Arabs.
53) The city of Gay was built by the accursed Alexander, the son of Philip. The dwelling of the Jews was there. During the reign of Yazdgird, the son of Šābuhr, (the Jews) were led there by the request of Šīšinduxt who was his wife.
54) The city of Ėrān-āsān-kard-Kawād, was built by (*Kawād), the son of Pērōz.
55) The city of Aškar was built by Wahrām, the son of Yazdgird.
56) The city of Ādūrbādagān was (built) by Ėrān-Gušasp who was the general of Ādūrbādagān.
57) The city of Wan was built by Wan, the daughter of Gulaxšān and became married to Kay Kawād, and the fortification of Arwandāsp was built by Tür, the son Brātrēš the Karp by sorcery as a place of protection for his own life.

58) In the direction of Ādūrbādagān, the city of Ganzag was built by Frāsiyāk, the son of Tür.

59) The city of Āmol was built by the heretic who is full of death. Zoroaster, the son of Spitāmān was from that city.

60) The city of Baghdad was built by Abū Ja’far whom they call Abū Dawānīq.

Sealed with victory.
Finished with prosperity, happiness and peace.
به نام دادر نیک افزونی بخش
[شهرستان‌های ایرانشهر]

به نام و نبرو و باری دادر اورمزد و بخت نیک

1) شهرستان‌هایی که در زمین ایرانشهر ساخته شده اند، هر کدام در چه روزگاری، در چگونه به‌کار رفته کدام سردخانه‌ای ساخته شده است، به تفضیل در این زمینه نوشته شده است.

2) در کوست خراسان شهرستان قصرقند را کاواس پسر قیام ببینان گذاشت.

سیاوش پسر کاواس آن را به فرجام رسانید.

3) کیخسرو پسر سیاوش انجا راده شد و آناش پهراجام و رجاوند را انجا نشانید.

4) سیس زرتشت دین آورد، به فرمان شاه گشتناسب ۱۴۰۰ فرگرد (اوستا) به (نخ) دین دیبره بر روحی لوحه، های زرین گنده و نوشته و در خزانه ان تشنگنه نهاد.

5) سیس اسکندر ملون آن را سوخت و در دربا افکند.

6) زاغواه را که انجا است، هفت آنجا است و هفت آنجا است که هفت خدا در آن بود، یکی از آن جمشیدی، یکی از آن حکاک، یکی از آن فردوج، یکی از آن منچره، یکی از آن کاواس و یکی از آن لهراسب.

7) سیس افراسیاب توانای ملون در هر یک از آنها نشسته‌گاه نیا دیوان (و) ببکه و بخانه ساخت.

8) در بخت به‌کار نیا دیوان نوزه را استندان پسر گشتاسب ساخت.

9) و آناش پهراجام و رجاوند را انجا نشانید، و نیزه خوشش را انجا زد و به بی‌خواه خاقان و سنگبو خاقان و جول خاقان و خاقان بزرگ و کهر و تزاو و ارجاسب شاه خیونان پیام فرستاد که: "به دریه می‌بگرید، هر که به وزش انز نیزه ببگرد، همانند اینست که به ایرانشهر نزدیکه".

10) شهرستان خوارزم را پنجه پسر جهود ساخت.

11) شهرستان مرورود را پهراجام پسر پیدهگرد ساخت.

12) شهرستان مرورود و شهرستان هرات را اسکندر رومی ملون ساخت.

13) شهرستان پونهگ را شاپور پسر ارده شیر ساخت، و از پونهگ پل
کمک طلایی ساخت.
(۱۴) شهرستان توس را توس پسر نوزرا ساخت و به‌همصد سال سپاهپی بود. پس
از توس سیاه‌پویی به زرگر و از زرگر به سیاه‌پویی و از سیاه‌پویی به کرم‌ریزی
(۱۵) شهرستان نیشابور را نیشابور پسر ارشد ساخت. در آن زمان که به‌هیچ
تورانی را آکشت، در همانجا فرمانشهرستانی بسازند.
(۱۶) شهرستان گلیه را کی به‌عوام بدرد، گشنبه‌ساخت.
(۱۷) در گرگان شهرستانی آن را به نام خواندن نرسه اشکانی ساخت.
(۱۸) شهرستان پیشوا به پس را حفظ کن آن را برگشت خواندن.
(۱۹) یکم اشکانیان، انجا بود. در زمان فرمان‌روایی بزگره بزرگر پسر نیشابور
آنها ساخت، در زمان هجوم چند در جهت وروپا و پرینگ
(۲۰) پنجم شهرستان را خسرو پسر قیاد ساخت و آنها را خسرو-شاد،
و خسرو مسیت-اباد و ویسب-شاد-خسرو و هلوی-خسرو و
شاد-فرخ-خسرو نام نهاد.
(۲۱) (او) در کوست‌خوروران، شهرستان نیسفلون را وراثه گیگون به فرمان
توس ساخت.
(۲۲) شهرستان نصبین را وراثه گیگون ساخت.
(۲۳) شهرستان اورها را نرسه اشکانی ساخت.
(۲۴) شهرستان بابل را بابل در فرمان‌روایی جن ساخته، و سهیله نبرد را
در انجا سبست و نظم مربوط به هفته سپاره و دوازده برج و قسمت
هشت (آسمان) را با جاده‌گری زیر مهر (آفتان) و به مردم پرود.
(۲۵) شهرستان خسرو را حضر پسر اردشیر ساخت و او مهرزاد مرزبان
حبره را بر حصار نازران گماشت.
(۲۶) شهرستان همدان را بزرگره پسر نیشابور ساخت که او بر حصار
خش در خواند.
(۲۷) در ماه و ناحیه نهواند و حصار پهپارم آوند، به‌پارم پسر بزرگره که
او را بهرام، گوری خواندن شهرستان ساخت.
(۲۸) بیست و یک شهرستان که در پدشخوارگر ساخته شده است، یا
ارمامی بیا به فرمان ارامی بیا که در از
(دس) ضحاک که به‌پارم فرمان‌روایی در اختیار گرفتند.
(۲۹) کوه‌های هفت هستند؛ و هفت‌گون دماوند و آهنگن و وسیور
وسونران و مسیربان و بروزان و منزدان.
(۳۰) اینان به‌پارم که از (دس) ضحاک کوه به‌پارم فرمان‌روایی در اختیار
گرفتند.
(۳۱) شهرستان موجود را بپرز پسر نیشابور ساخت.
(۳۲) به‌عنوان که در جزیره ساخته شده است، آنها را امیتیوس
برادرزاده قیصر ساخت.
(٢٣) بیست و چهار شهرستانی که در زمین شام و بین و آفریقا و کوفه و مکه و مدینه ساخته شده است، بعضی را شاهنشاه و بعضی را قیصر ساخته است.
(٢٤) در کوست نیموروز، شهرستان کابل را اردشیر پسر استفاده ساخت.
(٢٥) شهرستان ویژه را بهمراه پسر گودرز ساخت، در آن زمان که اسد-وزر نتورانی را کشت و بیش خاقان را از انجا گریزان کرد.
(٢٦) شهرستان بست را به مرز پسر زیر ساخت، و در آن زمان که جنگ ایستاده هستند برای نیاپیش دین در کنار (دریاچه) فزردن بود و بینه گانتاسب و دیگر شاهزادگان را در آنجا مستقر کرد.
(٢٧) شهرستان فره و شهرستان زابلستان را رستم، شاه سیستان ساخت.
(٢٨) شهرستان زنجان را نخست افراسیاب نمونه ساخت و آتش ورجاوند کرکوی را در آنجا نشانید و منوچهر را بهبده خوارست (محافظه).
(٢٩) شهرستان شیرعی (افراسیاب) اسپندارد را به زنی خواست و اسپندارد در زمین آمیخت. اما (افراسیاب) آن شهرستان را ویران و آن آتش را خاموش کرد و سپس کیخورس و پرسپاش آن شهرستان را بایرام ساخت و آتش کرکوی را بار نشانید، و اردشیر بابکان آن شهرستان را به فرحجان رسید.
(٣٠) شهرستان کرمان را قبیله پیروزان شاه کرمان ساخت.
(٣١) شهرستان به اردشیر را همه فرمانروا ساختند، و اردشیر بابکان آنرا به فرحجان رسید.
(٣٢) شهرستان استخر را ادوان شاه فاریاب، ساخت.
(٣٣) شهرستان دارابگرد را دارا پسر دارا ساخت.
(٣٤) شهرستان قاجاریه را شاهور پسر اردشیر ساخت.
(٣٥) شهرستان گور-اردشیر خووه را اردشیر بابکان ساخت.
(٣٦) شهرستان تاره هما چهرزاد ساخت.
(٣٧) شهرستان هرمز-اردشیر و شهرستان یزد-هرمز را همز دلیبر.
(٣٨) شهرستان شوش و شوشتار را سنگین دخت زن پدرگرد پسر شاهور ساخت که دخت را از بالاتش شاه که دختر به لواش و مادر به پدر مورد گذشت.
(٣٩) شهرستان خوی-شهرستان ایران-کرک-شاهرور پسر اردشیر ساخت و آنرا بیل آباد نام نهاد.
(٤٠) شهرستان نهر نیر را پهاک در دوران فرمانروایی (خوشی) آنجا را شیشک خود کرد، و زندان ایرانشهر بود و زندان اشکان نام نهاد.
(٤١) شهرستان هماوران را فریدون پسر آشین ساخت، و مسترخانه هماوران را کشت، و زیر هماوران را پاژ به تنها ایرانشهر در آورد، و او دشت نزدیان را به ملکیت به پخت خسرو شاه نازی داد
به خاطر پيوندي که با او داشت.
51 شهرستان آستراخان را شابور پسر اردشیر ساخت.
52 شهرستان آس و شهرستان به‌اردشیر پسر اسفندر ساخت و آشکه‌هگر را به عنوان مرزبان (بر سیاه) دوست و بورغل بر حصار تازیان یگمارد.
53 شهرستان جی را است(ph)ندر ملیون پسر فلیپوس ساخت، افتتاحگاه جهودان آنجا بود. در دوران فرمانروایی یزدگرد پسر شابور بر او خواهد زن خوشش شیشین دخت (جهودان را) به آنجا وارد شد.
54 شهرستان ایران-آسای-کرد-قپاد را یاده پسر پیروز ساخت.
55 شهرستان اشکر را بهرام پسر یزدگرد ساخت.
56 شهرستان آذربایجان را ایران-گشاسب که سیاه‌پوش آذربایجان بود (ساخت).
57 شهرستان ون را ون دختر گلخانه ساخت که به زنی کیفیتی در آمد، و تور برادرش کرب با لادوگری آنجا را بصورت دز ازوند.
58 در کوست آذربایجان شهرستان گنگرک را افراسیاب تورانی ساخت.
59 شهرستان آمل را زندیق پر مارگ ساخت، زرتشت پسر اسپیشمک از آن شهر بود.
60 شهرستان بنداد را ابوجعفر که ار دوازده خواند ساخت.
به پیروزی پایان یافت. فرجام یافت به درد و شادی و رامش.
Commentary

-pad nām ī dādār: “in the name of the Creator”
This is one of the two common formulas for the beginning of the Zoroastrian Middle Persian texts which usually accompanies Ohrmazd; see Kārnāmag ī Ardaxšīr ī Pābagān (Nyberg 1964; 1); Ayādgār ī Zarērān (Nyberg 1964; 18); and the Indian Bundahiṣṭn (Behzādī 1368; 1). The other form being pad nām ī yazdān “in the name of the gods,” which is more common and found in the fourth century at the inscription of Meškūnšahr (Frye & Skjaervo 1996; 54). The formula is also found in the Middle Persian Zoroastrian texts of the eighth and ninth centuries. The Zoroastrian pad nām ī yazdān may have been the model for the salutary slogan bism allāh in the Islamic period (Gignoux 1979; 159-163; 1986; 172). In the early Islamic period, allāh was equated with yazd as is apparent from an Umayyad coinage struck in the name of ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz b. ʿAbdallāh b. ʿĀmīr in 691/692 CE (Mochiri 1981; 170).

-weh abzōnūg: “beneficent bountiful”
This formula rarely appears in the beginning and so this part of the salutary introduction is almost unique which may be a claque on al-Rahmān al-Rahīm. Abzōnūg refers to Ohrmazd’s epithet. In the Zoroastrian tradition he is the bestower of everlasting/increasing blessing and health, equivalent to Avestan spānīṣṭa-; Pazand awazūnī; Sanskrit guru, brhat (Nyberg 1974; 26).

-jadāg ī nēk: “good omen”
jadag is from (Avestan) yam- “to hold, to sustain;” South Western form *ẓdg; found in Parthian as part of hwydag “good form” (Nyberg 1974; 225).

1) Šahrestānīhā: “cities”
Šahrestān with the plural suffix īhā. Šahrestān goes back to Old Iranian *xšaṭra-stāna-; Thus Old Persian xšaça- > Middle Persian šahr/Middle Persian inscription štr > New Persian šahr. In Avesta the form is xšaṭra, Parthian xšahr/Parthian inscription hštr; Greek inscriptions have πολις/πολεις (Back 1978; 263). The general meaning for šahrestān is
"province," "capital," or "city," but it also meant a city with its surrounding region. For further comments especially in regard to its meaning on the administrative seals see (Gyselen 1989; 42). Province in the third century inscriptions appear as šahr, while the districts were also known as šahr and a capital city was known as šahrestān. The šahr was administered by the šahrādār, who was probably a local king in the third century and later appointed by the King of Kings (Lukonin 1985; 701). The districts or šahrs were under the command of various officials such as the šahrāb and a mowbed. The mowbed "priest," dealt with property rights and other legal affairs. There was also an āmārgar "accountant," who dealt with the financial aspects of one or several districts. For the ŠE, šahrestān stands for capital city and its surrounding area.

-zamīg: "earth/land"
Zamīg is the North Western form which is used interchangeably with the South Western form damīg. Thus (Avestan) zam-; (Manichaean Parthian) zmyg > (New Persian) zamīn.

-Ērān-šahr: "Land/Empire/Domain of the Iran"
E. Herzfeld believed that Ērān-šahr was a creation in the Achaemenid times which stood for the official name of the their empire *aryānām xšaça (Herzfeld 1947; 699-700). Gnoli has shown that the concept of Iran/Ērān-šahr is a third century idea which was the outcome of a religio-political propaganda during the time of Ardaxšīr I (224-240 CE) (Gnoli 1989; 177-178). Zamīg ē Ērān-šahr is significant in that the religio-political concept is tied to a set territory, i.e., the list of cities enumerated in the text. What is noteworthy is that the area proclaimed as being the land of Iran is much larger than the area in which the Sāsānians ruled. This may indicate an ideal (political) view of what the land or empire should entail. The other important point is that this text was redacted in the eighth century, when the Arab Muslims had conquered and put an end to the Sāsānian empire. While the empire is no more, the Zoroastrian scribes still imagined a set territory as the domain of the Iranians which echoes the sentiments of Šahnāme-ye Abū Mansūrī and Ibn Rusta where the land of Iran is from Egypt to Central Asia (Wiet 1955; 115).

-jud jud rōz: “different days”
The manuscript has ywm “day” which indicates different times or eras. It is also possible to emend the word to būm “land” or “region,” since the text is discussing the different regions of Ērān-šahr. The meaning of būm has been preserved by Persian writers and poets such as SanaT: kīswar-ē
"A country that in it no justice has been seen, none of its regions has seen a roof," (Borhān-e Qate’ī 1320).

-sar-xwaday: “independent ruler”

Sar “Chief,” (Avestan) sara-; (Manichaean Parthian) sr; (Pazand) sar; (New Persian) sar. Xwaday/MRWHY “suzerain or lord in a political sense.” God in the Judeo-Christian sense; (Aramaic) mārā; (Syriac) moār; (Mandean) mara; (Akadian) marū; (Parthian inscription) hwīty; (Middle Persian inscription) xwday; (Pazand) xwaday; and in (New Persian) xudā, standing for “God” (Shayegan 1998; 31-54). See Molé for dēr-xwaday in the Đenkard 5.2.9 and Đenkard 7.4.83 instead of sar-xwaday (Molé 1967; 58 & 108), where Āmouzegār & Tafazzolī read both passages correctly as sar-xwaday (Āmouzegār & Tafazzolī 1372; 104 & 115). The general meaning of the compound is clear that it stands for “independent Lords” equivalent to the Arabic Mulūk al-Tāwāf. This is confirmed by several passages from the Kārmāmag Ī Ardaxšīr Ī Pābāgān as well. According to the Kārmāmag (Ch. 11 ed. Farahwāsi 1354; 110-112) Ardaxšīr I (224-240 CE) in his campaign to unify Ėrān-šahr under his rule continuously fought battles: pas as ān ardaxšīr ō kustag kustag šud ud was kārēzār ud āzanīn abāg sar-xwadayān ī Ėrān-šahr kard “Then after, Ardaxšīr went to each region and made much battle and killing with the independent rulers (sar-xwadayān) of Ėrān-šahr.” The story continues that while he moved from one region to another, there were uprisings and he was worried and dismayed that he could not unify Ėrān-šahr under his rule (Ch. 11; 112-113). At the end of the story unification is attained (Ch. 13; 134-135): pas az ān ka ohrmazd ō xwadayāh rasiid hamōyēn Ėrān-šahr abāz ō ēw-xwadayāh tuwānīst āwurdan ud sar-xwadayān ī kustag kustag ohrmazd ō framān burdārīh āwurd “After then when Hormizd came to rulership, all of Ėrān-šahr again was brought under a single-ruler (ēw-xwaday) and the independent rulers (sar-xwadayān) of each region brought obedience to Hormizd” (Daryaee 1995; 151).

-gokān: “detail”

Markwart and Nyberg read the word as dōgān “doubly,” because they thought that the name of the cities were mentioned twice, once in the beginning, in a summary enumeration, and then a second time, in the special exposition. Since many cities are listed, it makes better sense to read the word as gokān “detail.” Blochet had read the word as dōgān
earlier (Blochet 1895; 165), while others suggested gōkān (Oriān 1983; 602; and Tafazzolī 1983; 334).

-ayādgār: “memoir”
(Pazand) ayādagār; (New Persian) yāde gār. The word can be translated as “testament” or “memoir.” Other examples as part of titles in the Middle Persian texts are Ayādgār i Zarērān “the Memoir of Zarēr,” and Ay-ādgār i Jāmāspīg “the Memoir of Jamasp.”

2) Kust: “side/district/direction/region”
(Parthian) kws; (Armenian loanword) kois “side,” kuşt “the waist, the belly.” The Sāsānian Empire was quadripartitioned into four major kusts in the sixth century as a result of Kawād I and Husraw I’s administrative and military reforms (see Introduction). According to Middle Persian sources the following kusts existed: 1) kust i xwarāsān “quarter of the northeast;” 2) kust i xwarwarān “quarter of the southwest;” 3) kust i nēm-rōz “quarter of the southeast;” and 4) kust i ādūrbādagān “quarter of the northwest.” Kust was also used in the sense of direction as in this part of the text.

-Kāūs i kawādān: “Kāūs, the son of Kawād”
Kāūs is the third Kayānīd king, the son of Kay Abīoeh, the grandson of Kay Kawād (Justi 1895; 334), but in the ŠE he is made the son of Kawād. According to the Avesta, Yašt XIII and XIX which supplies a complete list of the Kayānīd kings the list is given in the following order:

a) kauui kauuātā; b) kauui aipi.vohu; c) kauui usaēan; 
d) kauui aršan; e) kauui pisinah; f) kauui biiaršan; 
g) kauui siāuuaršan; h) kauui haosruuah; i) kauui wīštāspa (Kellens 1976; 48-49).

Many stories are connected with Kāūs where he figures quite prominently in the Indo-Iranian tradition, but their historical veracity has been questioned (Dumézil 1969; Kellens 1976; 37-49), contra see (Christensen 1931). Kāūs appears in many passages in the Middle Persian and Persian epic texts where for a summary of his feats and function see (Afīfī 1374; 582-585). However, there is no mention of him building Samarkand and so it is a unique piece of information from the ŠE. His misdeeds are infamous in the Šāhmāne-ye Ferdowsī and supported by the Middle Persian texts. For example in the Bundahīšn (XXXIII.8); andar xwadāyīh i kāūs andar ham hazārag dēwān stahmag būd hēnd
During the rulership of Kāūs, in the same millennium the demons became strong, (and) Oṣnar was killed and his (Kāūs) thought was led astray, so he went to battle the sky and fell head-down, his glory was taken away, then by horse and men they destroyed the material world; they were bound at the summit of Hamāwarān by deception along with the notables of Kayānids.

-Siyāwaxš: “Siyāwaxš”
(Avestan) Siūnauxšan “having black stallions.” He is the son of Kāūs who is killed at the hands of Frasiyāk. The story of his innocence and death had become a tragic story and the subject of mourning ceremonies (Yarshater 1979; 88-95: Meskūb 1370). He is also connected with the Kangdiz which is also called Siyāwaxškārd. In the Avesta (Yašt V.54) Tūsa makes sacrifices to Anahīd so that he would become victorious over Kanja. In the Bundahišn the location of Kangdiz is: pad kust i xwarāsān “in the northeastern direction,” and to the north of the Frāx-wkard ocean (XXIX.10). In the Mēnōg i Xrad (64.13) Kangdiz is in the eastern direction, close to the Sadwēs lake, at the border of Ėrān-Wēż (Tafazzolfi 1364; 80). The full story is contained in The Pahlavi Rivāyat Accompanying the Dādestān ī Dēnīg (49) where Kangdiz is said to be located in Tūrān (Bērūnī 1367; 235; Naršaxī 1363; 32-33). Other sources give the location of Kangdiz in Xwārazm and the later source gives ample information about Siyāwaxš’s death and the mourning rituals of the Sogdians. In the Tarīḫ ī Buwertā, the form Ghahndiz appears which is a place east of the Jaxartes river (Naršaxī 1363; 32). This seems to be the most plausible location of Kangdiz and as Tavadia had mentioned a long time ago Khang is the Chinese form for Samarkand (Tavadia 1926; 883). As for the etymology of the word it is possible to posit an Iranian *kanha- attested in Khotanese kāhyndrī “of brass;” Sanskrit kamṣa “white copper.” Thus with diz giving “brass fortress,” (Bailey 1935; 768), i.e., diz iṟoyēn.

-fragand / fraзамēnid: “Laid/Completed”
These verbs are used in the sense of “laying” and “completing” someone else’s work. In the inscription from Meškinšahr it was also used in the sense of building and completion: ZNE dzy ZY plhw dhwh x wdy plhdny “this castle that *Farrox-D. laid the foundations of - I completed” (Frye & Skjærvø 1996; 54).
3) **Kay-husraw:** “Kay Husraw”  
(Avestan) *kauui husraua*, (New Persian) *Xosro*. Kay-husraw is the son of Siyawaxš and according to Avestan, Middle Persian and Persian texts is the smiter of Siyawaxš’s murderer, i.e., Frāsiyāk. He is the most prominent Kayānid figure and is the beholder of *xwarrah* “glory” or the symbol of rightful rule in the Iranian world. In Yašt XIX he is noted for his “victoriousness” *vəroʰraynahe*, his “conquering superiority” *vənaintiiɑsca paiti uparatātō*, and also his “immediate victory over enemies” *hədrəwataheca paiti haməroʰanam* (Daryaei 1997; 45-46). He is also connected with the province of Xwarāšan and the building of Kangdiz. According to the Pahlavi Rivāyat: be zamīg əməd andar tūran ə kust [i] xwarāšan rön gyāŋ kā siyəwaxskard be kard “(The Spirit of Khang) It came to earth in Turān in the kust of Xwarāšan, in the place where, Siyawaxškird stood” (Pahlavi Rivāyat Accompanying the Dādestān i Dēnīg, Afifi 1374; 46 : Williams 1990; 89).

-**Ātaxš wahram:** “Victorious Fire”  
Ātaxš wahramš were also established by the early Sāsānian monarchs and the high priest Kerdīr, See ŠKZ 22 (Back 1978; 329-330) and for KKZ 2/ KNRM5/ KSM 3; and KKZ 5/ KNRM 12/ KSM 6 (Gignoux 1991; 54-56). This fire is one of the three types of fires: Ātaxš Wahram, Ātaxš Ādūran, and Ādurōg-i Dādgāh where the Victorious Fire was the highest grade that had to have two priests who were qualified to constantly attend to it (Yamamoto 1981; 89). According to the Pahlavi commentary of the Wīdēwdaḏ (VIII.79), the Wahrām fire could “kill a thousand dews and men and sorcerers and fairies” (Anklesaria 1949; 219). According to many texts, after the defeat of an adversary it was the custom to establish a wahram fire as Ardaxšīr did in the Kārnīmag i Ardaxšīr i Pābagān (VI.9) (Farahwāšt 1354; 47). Thus in the ŠE the establishment of the wahram fire may be due to the killing of Frāsiyāk by Kay Husraw.

4) **taxtag i zarren:** “Golden tablets”  
We have a unique story here where it is reported that the sacred scripture was written on taxtag i zarren “golden tablets.” Further the verb used is *kandan* “engrave,” while according to other Middle Persian texts, the Avesta was nibišt “written” on gāw pōstīhā “cow hides,” and with āb i zar “gold water.” We can not be sure as to the original version of the story, whether the legend had it that it was written on golden tablets or with gold-water, but both convey the same idea.
The passage is referring to the treasury of the Wahrām fire-temple in Samarkand which was established by Kay Husraw. Again this is unlike the other reports in the Middle Persian texts in regard to the location of the Avestan corpus. In the third book of the *Dēnkard*, the *Avesta* is placed in the *ganj i šāhīgān* “royal treasury,” and also a copy of it kept in *diz i nibišt* “fortress of writings” (de Menasce 1973; 379 : Humbach 1991; 50-51). The *Ardā Wirāz Nāmag* (1.15) also mentions *diz i nibišt*. Henning equated this with the Ka‘ba-tī Zardušt (Henning 1957; preface) but recently this notion has been questioned and two rectangular buildings a few meters southwest of the Ka‘ba have been suggested to be the location of the fortress of archives (Huysse 1998; 115-116). For a discussion on the ideogram *KLYT* *diz* see (Vahman 1986; 225-226). In the fifth book of the *Dēnkard*, it is indicated that the *Avesta* was written *pad gāw pōstihā ud zōr* “on cow hides and with gold,” and placed in the *ganj i xiwadāyīn* “the treasury of the Lords” (Humbach 1991; 51). Thus there are inconsistencies in regard to the story of the location (usually placed in Fārs) and the manner in which the *Avesta* was written. We should mention, however, that the *Fārsnāme* mentions *kūh i nīfišt* “Mountain archive” which was located in Staxr, in Persis/Fārs and when Wištasp had accepted the religion, a copy of the *Avesta*, which was written on 12000 cow hides, was deposited there (*Fārsnāme* 1921; 49). Later tradition such as the 14th century *Sūr al-Aghālim*, otherwise known as *Haft Kiśwar* state “and there is another mountain where there are many drawings and figures made and there is a shaved rock and they call it *kūh i nīfišt* (i.e., *kūh i nibišt*), meaning on it things have been written.” (*Sūr al-Aghālim* 1353; 58).

-dēn dibīrīh: “Script of the religious scripture”
The “script of the religious scripture” means the Avestan script which was invented in the Sāsānian period (Bailey 1971; 193). Ibn al-Nadim reports on the different scripts used by the Persians and states that one of them was used for writing on religion and the Persians called it *dēn dafirīya* (Al-fihrist 1350; 16).

5) gizistag skandar: “Accursed Alexander”
Gizistag *accursed* is a usual epithet of Alexander the Great along with a few other mortals as well as the epithet for Ahreman. For Alexander see *Ardā Wirāz Nāmag* (I.3); *Abdīh ud Sahīghīh ī Sīstān* (13); and *Bundahīn* (XXXIII.14). Of what little the Sāsānians knew about the Achaemenids, it was clear to them that at the time of a certain Darius, *dārā ī dārāyīn*
“Dārā the son of Dārā,” probably Darius III, Alexander was able to defeat him and destroy the empire and the religion. Muslim historians also have related the story for which see (Nāme-ye Tansar 1345; 140-141).

-drayāb abgand: “Threw in the sea”  
Drayāb abgand is unique to the ŠE in regard to the fate of the Avestan corpus. It is usually reported that Alexander burnt the Avesta (Ardā Wi-rān Nāmag I.6) and in another version a copy was sent to Rome (Greece) (Dēnkard III B 316.18-21). Bundahišn XXXIII.14: pas andar xwadāyīn ī dārā ī dārāyān aleksandar kēsar az hrōm dawārist ŏ ērān-šahr āmad dārā sāh ozad ud hamāg dūdag ī xwadāyān moy-mardān paydāg ŏ ērān-šahr ābāxšānēd ud was marag ātāxš afsārd ud dēn ī māzdešnān ud zand stād ŏ hrōm āmad ud abestāg suxt ud ērān-šahr pad nawad xwadāy bxt. “Then during the rulership of Dārā, the son of Dārā, Alexander the Caesar of Rome rushed to Iran, killed king Dārā and destroyed all the family of the rulers (and) Magi who were visible in Iran, and extinguished countless fires, and took the religion of the Mazdā worshipping religion and the commentary (of Avesta) and sent it to Rome and burnt the Avesta and divided Iran into ninety king( doms).” We know that Alexander actually destroyed Samarkand in 329 BCE and Markward conjectured that a copy of the Avesta was preserved there which must have been destroyed. Subsequently, the sea here was taken as the Zarafšān river (Markwart 1932; 30). The existence of the Avestan corpus at this time in written form is unlikely and can not be substantiated, although it has been suggested that by the Achaemenid period the Avesta was widely spread (orally) all over the empire, based on the heterogeneous dialectal traces, one in Arachosia and another in Persis (Hintze 1998; 158). There is still another possibility and that is to read the first word as *girdāb “whirlpool,” according to the orthography in the manuscript. Thus, girdāb abgand “threw in the whirlpool.” This is contingent upon finding such a geographical name and S. Adhami informed me that in fact such a place exists in Ahmad Dānēs’s Nawādir al-Waqēye’ where girdāb ī Iskandar “Alexander’s whirlpool” is mentioned. The reference, however, belongs to the nineteenth century and one needs to find an older reference.

6) -Sugud ī haft āşyān: “The seven abode Sogdiana”  
Nyberg was the first to identify the word as sugud. Markwart read āşyān as xwadāyān, although both manuscripts appear to have had āşyān. Jamasp-Asana emended the word to xwadāyān and may have emended it the second time where āşyān occurs in the passage as xwadāyān as well.
Nyberg read the word as HY'k'n’/ *jānakān “soul-place” (Nyberg 1974; 106-107). In the eleventh century text, the Zayn al-Axbār, the medieval Muslim historian, Gardīzī states that when 500 years elapsed from the reign of Farīdūn, Manučehr came out in revenge of Iraj and he died in the village of Bam from the region of Kermān. And he established an Aywān, and they call it Sogdiana, the seven abodes (āšyān), where seven kings established it: “one Jam and the other Bēwarāsb and thirdly Frēdūn and fourth Manučehr and fifth Kay Us and sixth Lohrasp and seventh Guštāsp” (Zayn al-Axbār 1968; 6). S. Kīyā was the first person to notice this and suggest the reading haft āshyān. Based on Gardīzī’s account one can suggest that the eighth person to be omitted from the passage is not Až-i Dahāg as Markwart believed, but Kay Husraw (Kīyā 1954; 48-49; 1975; 472-473). This may mean that each of the kings had a separate residence.

7) -Frāsiyāk: “Frāsiyāk”
(Avestan) Frāfasian; written several ways in Middle Persian (as well as in this text): Frāsiyāb; Frāsiyāk; (Pazand) Frāsiyā; and (New Persian) Afrāsiyāb. He is the king of Tūrān and the killer of Siyawaxš and Aghrærath. His battles begin with the Iranians during the rulership of Manučehr and as an enemy of Iran (Aryans). He also functions as the withholder of waters (Bundahišn XXXII.6): ka manučehr uzīd būd did frāsiyāk āmad ērān-šahr abāz dāšt tā was wišōbišn ud an-ērānīh padīš kard wārān az ērān-šahr abāz dāšt “When Manučehr was dead, again Frāsiyāk came, he held Ērān-šahr till much destruction and non-Iranians came to it, (and) withheld rain from Ērān-šahr.” He is ultimatley killed at the hands of Kay Husraw.

-nišemag īdēwān: “Residence of the demons”
Markwart read the word baγn “gods” because he interchanged the position of baγn with dēwān (Markwart 1931; 10) which was also accepted by Nyberg (Nyberg 1964; 113). Tavadia had suggested to read the passage as “ihre (der Dēw) Götzentempel” (Tavadia 1926; 884).

-uzdēstzar [ud] bašn: “Idol temple and a heathen temple”
Markwart read the last word as baγn. Utas suggested šāman (Utas 1979; 120), while Tafazzolī had suggested that the word should be read as bašn which occurs in Sogdian as the first element in the word baγnpat- and in Manichaean Middle Persian bšnbyd “master of an idol temple” or “heathen priest” which also appears with uzdēsān (Tafazzolī 1990; 48).
8) Baxlī bāmīg: “Brilliant Balx”

The manuscript reads nāmīg “famous,” and Markward, Modi, Nyberg and Utas agreed with this reading. Blochet, however, was the first to read it correctly as bāmīg (Blochet 1897; 171). This epithet for Baxl, Avestan Bāxtrī; Persian Balx is found in a variety of texts, for example a medieval text on Balx states: “and some say that Balx is called bālx ū bāmī,” i.e., brilliant or beautiful Balx (Fazā’īl Balx 1970; 28), while Moqaddasī states that in the ancient books, Balx was called brilliant (Moqaddasi 1361; 439). In Persian literature in general, Balx has the epitheth of bāmī “brilliant,” (Farhang Anandrāj 1335). This may be an error by the scribe in our text, where he mistakenly wrote the initial letter bēt as nūn (Zarshenas 1376; 7).

-Nawāzag: “Nawāzag”

This is a town in Balx which appears to have been the border between Iran and Tūrān. The next section (9) demonstrates why Spandyād’s lance made the mark for the boundary. The Wizādagīhā i Zādspram (4.10) relates that a hērbed lived in this town who took care of a cow whose function was to show the boundary between Iran and Tūrān sāmān ū ērān andar tūrān with its hoof (Gignoux & Tafazzoli 1993; 58-59). Kāūs who wants part of the Tūrānian territory plans to have the cow killed which he succeeds in doing so (4.20), causing a war between the two sides.

-Spandyād iwištāspān: “Spandyād, the son of Wištāsp”

(Avestan) spēntōdāta-, (New Persian) Isfandiyār, (Arabic) Isfanyād is the name of one of the sons of Kay Wištāsp and has the Avestan epithet “brave.” In the Avesta this name is also used for a mountain in the Zamyād Yašt which in the Bundahišn is said to be in Xwarāsān. In the Ayādgār i Zarērān, Spandyād is the brother of Zarēr who after Zarēr’s death along with Bastūr and Grāmīg-kard attack the enemy and are able to capture the Tūrānian Arjāsp (Ayādgār i Zarērān 112-114).

9) nēzag: “Lance”

(Avestan) naēza-, (Parthian) nizag, (Pazand) nēzhā; (Persian) neizak; (Arabic loanword) naizak-. The placing of the lance in the ground has been suggested to be one of the ways in which a border between two states was decided (Oriān 1983; 604). The sense of the passage is clear and that is that who ever gets close to this lance, it is as if he has invaded Persia. Note the demonic verb used here, dvārēd. Spandyād’s reestablishment of the border by this lance is due to the fact that Kāūs had killed the cow whose function was to show the border between Iran and Tūrān.
-Yabbu xāgān: “Yabbu Xāgān”

*Yabbu* is a Turkish royal title. Yabghu Xāgān, is the Xāgān of the Western Turks which may refer to T'ung for whom coins were also minted in his memory because of the conquest and the defeat of the Hephthalites in 625 CE (Harmatta & Litvinsky 1996; 370). According to Chinese sources, after Shekui Xāgān, Ton-yabghu came to the throne of the Grand Xāgān in 615 CE. He is also reported to have fought against the Sāsānians and was able to annex some of the eastern territories of the Persians (Shōshin 1988; 21). According to the section on Persia in the Jiǔ Tang shū, Ton-yabghu constantly attacked the Sāsānians and was able to defeat them. He is said to have killed Kusahuo (Husraw II) and brought his son, Shili (Šēro) to the throne. Šēro is said to have been given the title of (Turkish) iltābār and an agent of his, (Turkish) tudun to watch over him. Although the accuracy of this account is very doubtful, especially in regard to the dates supplied by the author of the Chinese account, we can place Ton-yabghu to the early seventh century. The date of his death is known to have been 628 CE (Shōshin 1988; 31-32).

-Sinjēbik xāgān: “Sinjēbik Xāgān”

Markwart identified him as Istāmī Xāgān, (Chinese) sik-tiem-mit, (Arabic) sinjibū (Markwart & Monchi-Zadeh 1990; 167). He was the Xāgān of the Western Turks, contemporary of Husraw I (Nyberg 1974; 176: Utas 1979; 117).

-Čol xāgān: “Čol Xāgān”

Refers to Ch'u-lo Xāgān who was killed by the Sāsānian general, Wahram Čobīn in routing the Turkic army (Harmatta & Litvinsky 1996; 368). Sui shū states that a Chu'u-lo of the Western Turks preceded Ton-yabghu. Under his rule in the late sixth century was the town of Shi (Ṣāš, modern Taškent) where Iranians lived (Shōshin 1988; 21).

-Wuzurg xā[gā]n: “Great Xāgān”

In the sixth century the area under Turkic rule was quadripartitioned and governed by four rulers and the ruler of the Central Region was the Great Xāgān (Chinese) chung mien ta ko-han (Sinor 1990; 298) which would render the Middle Persian wuzurg xā[gā]n.

-Xiyōnān šāh: “King of the Huns”

(Avestan) *hiicōna-.* Turkish people in Eastern Iran, (New Persian) hayīn, Chinese *Hiung-nu* (Nyberg 1974; 218). In Persian mythology *xiyōn* was the name of a Tūrānian tribe which was led by Arjāsp in battle against
Kay Wištāsp. In the Zamyād Yāst Kay Wištāsp achieves victory over Arzāsp and other xiyoṅs. Later this name was equated with the Hephtalites in the east who were a menace to the Sāsānians. Bailey has discussed the etymology of xiyoṅ in detail (Bailey 1930-32; 945-953: 1972; 18-28; also Cereti 1995; 191).

10) Narsēh i yahūdagān: “Narseh, the son of a Jewess”
(Avestan) nairyo. sanha, (Manichaen Parthian) nrysf, (Manichaen Middle Persian) nrysh; (Armenian) narsey. This is a reference to Narseh, the brother of Wahrām Gōr (421-439 CE). Muslim historians tell us that Wahrām Gōr had appointed his brother as the governor of Xwarāsān (Ṭabarī 1999; 99). Yahūdagān “son of a Jewess.”

11) Marv-rōd: “Marv-rōd / Marv on the river”
This city was 160 miles north of the great city of Marv on the Morghab river. Since the city stood on the river it was called marv-rōd or bālā marghāb. In the Islamic sources it is also known as marv-ar-rūdh “Marv on the River” or “little Marv” (Le Strange 1966; 404-405). In this text the foundation of the city is attributed to Wahrām Gōr who fought and defeated the Xiyōns/Chionites at Marv and is said to have established a tower to demarcate the border of the Sasanian empire (Ṭabarī 1999; 96). We also come across this toponym in Husraw ud Redag (57), where it is mentioned as having famous grape wine, may i marv-rūdīg “Wine of Marv-rōd.”

12) Marv: “Marv”
(Avestan) marv-, (Old Persian) margu-, (Persian) marv. The foundation of the city is attributed to Alexander which is supported by Classical historians such as Pliny (Natural History vi.46). Ṭabarī states that Wahrām appointed Narseh as the governor of Xwarāsān and at that time Marv was probably the limits of the Sasanian empire in the northeast (Ṭabarī 1999; 98).

-Hare: “Herāt”
(Avestan) harōīnua-, (Old Persian) haraiva-, (Greek) Ἀράια. Pliny also tells us that indeed Alexander did build Herāt as well (Natural History vi.46), which the ŠE confirms, and most of the Islamic source follow the same account (Modi 1898; 144).
13) **Pošang:** “Pošang”  
According to the Muslim geographers, this city was located in Xwarāsān and was fortified and was a day travel (10 farsāx) from Herāt (Jāḥiḍ al-‘alam 1983; 192). Frye suggests that this is the town of Zindajān, 36 kilometers west of Herāt and with many ruins (Frye prv. corr.).

**-Šābuhr ɪ ardaxšīrān:** “Šābuhr, the son of Ardaxšīr.”  
This is Šābuhr I (240-270 CE), the son of the founder of the Sāsānian dynasty who in this text is said to have built the city of Pošang as well as a large bridge there.

14) **Tūs:** “Tūs”  
(Avestan) Tusa-. In the Ābān Yašt (V.53) he is mentioned as a valiant warrior who asked Anāhīd to overcome the sons of Vaēšaka. He is the son of Naotara and a warrior during the time of Kay Hūsraw in the Šāhnāme-ye Ferdowsī.

-Nōdarān: “Of the clan of Nōdar”  
(Avestan) Naotara- or Naotairia-. In the Ābān Yašt (V.76), Vistauru- is identified as a son of Naotairia who asks Anāhīd for dry passage. Vistauru is the brother of Tusa- and in Rām Yašt (XV.35) Hutaosa is their sister and is mentioned as having “many brothers” pouru-brāēra from the “house” vīs- of Naotairia. Vistauru was identified as Gustahm of the Šāhnāme (Darmesteter 1882; 71). Nōdar is the son of Manūčīhr who according to the Bundahišn was killed along with his brother Freh (XXXIII.5): pas frāsiyāk āmed manučīhr abāg ērāṇagān ē padišxwar-gar spōxt pād sēj ud niyāz ud wās marīgh abesihēnd freh ud nōdar manučīhr pus ʿozad tā pād any paywand ērāṇ-šahr āz frāsiyāk stad: “Then Frāsiyāk came, Manūčīhr along with the Iranians were delayed at Padišxwargar, by trouble and misery and much death (they) were destroyed. Freh and Nōdar, the sons of Manūčīhr were killed, till other offsprings took Iran from Frāsiyāk.”

-Zarēr: “Zarēr”  
(Avestan) zairiunuari, (Middle Persian) Zarēr is the elder brother of Kay Wištāsp and the father of (Avestan) Bastauuari-, (Middle Persian) Bastūr. According to the Ayādgār ī Zarērān he was killed by Widrafs ī Jādūg (Ayādgār ī Zarērān 75-76).

-Bastūr: “Bastūr”  
(Avestan) Bastauuari, (Middle Persian) Bastūr. His friwašī is worshiped
in *Yašt* (XIII.103). In the Middle Persian texts, he is the young son of Zarēr who after his father’s death in battle attempts to take revenge on Widrafs. Kay Wištasp cautions him not to engage in battle with Widrafs because Bastūr is still young and does not know the art of warfare (*Ay-adgār ē Zarērān* 80), but ultimately he kills Widrafs.

-Karzam: “Karzam”
(Avestan) *Kauuiirasman-* whose frawāşi is worshiped in *Yašt* (XIII.103) and who in later Islamic tradition is known as Gorzam, the jealous brother of Isfandiyār. Islamic sources report that he was close to Kay Wištasp and that he was killed when the city of Balx was captured by Arzāsp (Tha’alibī 1368; p. 202).

15) Nēwšābuhr: “Nēwšābuhr”
Nēwšābuhr “Brave Šābuhr” is the name of the city of (Persian) Neišāpūr in the province of Xwarāsān. Hamza al-Isfahanī who has the most complete list of cities built by Šābuhr I, mentions the city of Nēwšābuhr being built by him (*Tārikh* 1367; 46).

16) Kāyēn: “Qāyēn”
This city is located in Xwarāsān and its foundation is attributed to Kay Lohrāsp in this text. Kay Lohrāsp (Avestan) *Auruuataspa-* is mentioned in *Abān Yašt* (V.105) as the father of Kay Wištasp. Markwart believed that this identification is based on a popular etymology (Markwart 1932; 53).

17) Gurgān: “Gurgān”
(Avestan) *vhrkāna,* (Old Persian) *Vrkāna,* (Greek) *Hyrcania* (Persian) *Gurgān* “land of the wolves,” which is placed as part of *dahestān* “The Country of the Dahae.” Dahae was the name of the nomads who conquered Parthia and established the Arsacid dynasty. In the Islamic sources two Narseh are mentioned for the Arsacid period, one *Narsē ē nēw* “Narseh the Brave” and *Narsē ē šēkārī* “Narseh the Hunter” (*Kiyā* 1344; 15). Markwart has suggested that this Narseh may be the brother of Wahram Gar (Markwart 1932; 55). Since we do not know of a Parthian ruler by this name it is also possible to emend the name to *wyrwēd* “Orodes II” who ruled in 57/58 BCE. Among the confederation of Dahae the most important tribe was the Pami. They gave their name to the eastern shores of the Caspian (Dahestān).

18) Kūmīs: “Kūmīs”
Arabic *Qiimis,* of which the capital city is *Dāmghān.* This place included
the Parthian capital of Hecatompyle (city of hundred gates) which is to be identified with Dāmghān and it may be for this reason that the ŠĒ assigns the foundation of this place to the Parthians. Classical sources report on this capital of the Parthians which was built by Seleucus Nicator (Curtius VI.2.15 : Bosworth 1986: 377).

-Panj burg: “Five towers”
Nyberg read it as “Having five grey (horses).” The reading is based on the modern rendition of bōr which stands for the color red and bay, but also grey (Nyberg 1974; 150). The text, however, can be read as pnchbwlg “five towers,” where its location was not known (Markwart 1932; 12).

-māniš ī pārsīgān: “Abode of the *Parthians”
The author mistakenly has assigned the Parthian homeland to the Persians and so the text must be emended to māniš ī *pahlavīgān (Markwart 1932; 12).

-Yazdgird ī šābuhrān: “Yazdgird II”
According to Markwart Yazdgird I and Yazdgird II are confused in this passage. Since we know that in the fifth century CE, Yazdgird II fought against the white Huns (Markwart 1932; 57), and the leader of the Huns according to Perso-Arabic sources was Tšōl it is more probable to identify this Yazdgird as Yazdgird II.

-Wērōy-pahr: “The Gruzinian Guard”
The old name of the fortress at Darband; (Syriac) Wīrōpahr; (Armenian) Irwroy Parhak; (Greek) Ἰβηρίες: (Parthian) (SKZ 2.2.3) wyršr; (Greek inscription SKZ 2.2.3); IBHPIAN which stands for Georgia (Iberia). Henning suggested that two different countries, one Iberia and the other somewhere near Bālx were mentioned by this name (Henning 1945; pp. 88-89; 1947; 49). Utas remarked that this is a confusion between the people Cōl (Cōl) and the place name located west of the Caspian. This confusion effects the next two paragraphs 19-20 where the mentioned cities should be placed in the west (Utas 1979; 122).

19) husraw-<ud>šād, husraw ī must-ābād, wisp-šād-husraw, hubōy-husraw, šād-farrox-husraw
The location of some of the five cities mentioned which were built by Husraw is unclear (Gyselen 1988; 198), but Šād-husraw is similar to the name of Husraw-šād-hormizd, i.e., Ctesiphon. Some numismatists have read the mint-mark VSP for the city of Wisp-šād-Husraw located in Iraq.
Isfahani mentions another city by the name of *Husraw-šābuhr* which was one of the seven cities of Madāʾin which was built by Husraw I. *Hu-bōy-husraw* is similar to *Hanbū-šābuhr* which was situated close to Madāʾin as well (Tafazzoli 1983; 340).

20) **180 dar:** “180 gates”
Markwart omits the number 180 (Markwart 1932; 13) which stands for 180 gates. The text is probably stating the great size of this fortification.

**-dastgird:** “Estate”
Markwart simply translates it as “lodge,” but in his notes takes *dastgird* as a proper name (Markwart 1931; 13). It is also the name of a well known place where Husraw II had a palace with amazing riches which was raided by Heraclius in 628 CE during his invasion of the Sāsānian empire (Frye 1984; 337). Ito made an unlikely emendation in regard to this term and came up with the city of “Gēhān-farrox-kard-Husrōy,” which is not in the text and identifies it as *Dastgird*. While this may be referring to the famous Dastgird of Husraw II, the meaning of the word has been noted to be “estate,” or “fortificatio” which came to mean camp or landed property (Skalmowski 1993; 161), which is meant in this passage.

21) **Tūs i warāzag i gēwāgan:** “Tūs, the son of Warāz, the son of Gēw” (Avestan) *Tusa-* mentioned in *Yasta* (V.53) as a valiant warrior who is aided by the goddess Anāhitā in defeating his enemies. Markwart believed that the reason for assigning the building of Ctesiphon (*Tisfin*) to Tūs is due to “childish etymology” (Markwart 1932; 62), and he may be right. A Warāz is mentioned in the inscription of Šābuhr I and that of Nārseh as one of the important royal clans of the Arsacids (Shahbazi 1993; 155). In the *Šāhnāme* (300-103-5) *Warāz i Gēwagān* was alive at the time of Kay Husraw who was active as late as the time of Lohrāsp.

22) **Nasibīn:** “Nisibis”
The text has *syn-* which Markwart emended to *nsybyn* (Markwart 1932; 62). Nisibis was located in the province of Arbāyistān in Mesopotamia, where it was an important trade center and some Persians apparently inhabited the city. The Perso-Roman silk trade was centered around this city (Brunner 1983; 761-762).
23) Örhāy: “Edessa”
(Syriac) _ORIGIN_; (Armenian) _ORIGIN_; (Arabic) _ORIGIN_. The foundation of which is assigned to a Narseh. The Sasanians from the third century laid siege to this city in upper Mesopotamia. Markwart suggested that this Narseh was the contemporary of the first Christian king of Edessa in the third century CE (Markwart 1932; 66). Šābuhr was able to capture the Roman emperor Valerian close to Edessa in 260 CE. During the rule of Husraw II (590-628 CE), the Roman general, who controlled Edessa was named Narseh and became subordinate to the Sasanian king (Bajraktašević 1993; 995) and this may be why in our text we have the name of Narsh as the founder of the city.

24) Bābēl: “Babylon”
Bloch had connected Babylon with the center of the study of astrology but considered the passage as obscure (Bloch 1897; 173). Markwart also stated that Babylon was thought to be the center of astrology (Markwart 1932; 66), but did not give any other information. This reference emphasizes the Babylonian origin of astrology, but the influence of Greek astrology has been demonstrated in this passage as well (MacKenzie 1964; 65n; Panaino 1998; 76).

-Tīr: “Planet Mercury”
The reference is to the planet Mercury whose sign is thought to have influence over the region of Babylon (MacKenzie 1964; 65n), and it was considered a very negative luminary and it was to have a demonic function (Panaino 1998; 76). I would like to thank A. Panaino for the reference.

-haštom bahrāg: “eighth firmament”
Probably means the eighth firmament or heavenly sphere which according to the ancients was the sphere of the immobile stars (Tafazzolī 1983; 341).

25) Hērt: “Hira”
(Aramaic)  Ḥērtta “camp;” (Arabic)  al-Hīra. This town is located in Iraq. The text assigns the building of the city to Šābuhr I, which probably refers to his rebuilding of the city. We have evidence of Šābuhr destroying the city of Hatra (Ṭabarī 1999; 36) whose name is similar to Middle Persian  Ḥērāt and Hērt. No evidence, however, exists to connect Šābuhr I to Hira. Modi suggested that Šābuhr I attacked Hira and rebuilt it and appointed Mihrzād as its margrave (Modi 1898; 151). During the late
Sasanian period the western and southern direction of Ḥira was protected by a defensive system which included a canal system which supplied water and was a barrier. The wall system was reinforced again during the reign of Husraw II (Morony 1982; 28).

-War ī tāzīgān: “Wall / Fortress of the Arabs”
Markwart translates it as the “lake of the Arabs” (Markwart 1932; 14) which he thought stood for the Persian Gulf. From the early Islamic period the name of this gulf was known as (Arabic) Bahr Fāris or Xalīj Fāris and by the later Europeans of the sixteenth century as Sīn Persico or Sinus Persicus (Bosworth 1997; 84-89). Thus it is surprising that such a well known name for this boundary of water would be the “Arab Gulf” (During the end of the Qajar Period and the time of Reza Shah the British for the first time called this body of water the Arabian Gulf, and it became a term used from the 1960’s as part of Arab nationalist activities). Nyberg had seen this discrepancy and stated that war stood for “wall,” “enclosure,” or “fortress” (Nyberg 1959; 316-326). One can suggest that war was part of the Sasanian wall defense system (Frye 1979; III 11: Azarnoush 1374; 3-15), here standing for the Khandoq i Šēbuhr (Morony 1982; 28). This meaning for war can also be found in Vedic valā, Avestan var-; Khotanese vara-, Wakhā wīrg (Bailey 1954; 26-28). In the Sasanian period (Avestan) Pūtika / (Middle Persian) Pūdīg which is mentioned in the Wīdewḍād (V.19) was equated with the Persian Gulf (Bahār 1375; 142-143: Behzādī 1368; 244).

26) Yazdgird dabr: “Yazdgird the rough”
Markwart translates Yazdgird’s epithet as “the sinner,” which is also attested in Tabarī as al-Athīm (Tabarī 1999; 70). Nöldeke had already interpreted the term correctly as dabz “rough, harsh” in his translation of Tabarī. Tabarī in discussing Wahrām V’s reign calls his father (Arabic) al-Khasišn (Tabarī 1999; 82). Persian zebr “rough” is found in many of the Perso-Arabic texts (Kīyā 1965; 16; Tāfāzolī 1972; 270-273), as the epithet of Yazdgird I due to his religious tolerance toward all religions.

27) War ī whārāmāwand: “Wall / Fortress of Whārāmāwand”
Name of a fortress in māh “Media” which Modi suggested to be either the late city of Rāman, close to Nihāvand, or Rāvandeh (Modi 1898; 152).
28) **Padišxwārgar**: “Padišxwārgar”  
(Old Persian) pāṭišhvārīš, (Parthian) pryšzwār. In the *Letter of Tansar*, Gušnasp has the title of “Prince and King of Tabarestān and Baršawādgān, of Gilān and Deylamān and Rōyān and Dumbāwand” (*Nāme-ye Tansar* 1354; 49 : Boyce 1961; 12). For a comprehensive review of this toponym which is the mountain region in northern Iran see (*Alam 1991-1992* 6-34).

**Armāyīl**: “Armāyīl”  
According to the *Šāhnāme-ye Ferdowsī*, when Zahhāk came to the throne and two snakes had grown from his shoulders, the brain of two young men were prepared for him each night. Two righteous men who were from the lineage of kings by the name of Armāyīl and Karmāyīl decided to pose as cooks, so that they would be able to save one youth each day. From these saved people, it is said that the Kurdish people originated. Dīnāwarī, however, gives us some other information and that is that Zahhāk made a man by the name of Armāyīl as his Wazīr. He was from the family of *Arfaxād*, “Jamšīd,” and every day he would release two people out of four men (obviously numbers here differ), and would instead give the tyrant sheep brain. The ones who would escape death would flee to the mountains and they say that they are the Kurds (Safā 448; 1374). Rather than taking their domain from Ažī Dahāg, the sentence means that from the fear of Ažī Dahāg they fled to the mountains.

-Kōfyārān: “Mountineers”  
Bailey believed that kōfyār was the title of the sovereigns of Armāyīl (Bailey 1930-1932; 947).

29) **Dumbāwand <ud> Wisēmagān**: “Wisēmagān of Damāwand”  
This is the name of a family in northern Iran; (Armenian) *Vsemakan* (Nyberg 1974; 214). The *Wisēmagān* are mentioned as a tribe / family as early as the fourth century CE, as the *Apakān Vsemakān* (Markwart 1932; 70). The manuscripts supply 7 and 8 for the number of the families. If one takes *Dumbāwand* and *Wisēmagān* separately, then 8 should be the correct number. Otherwise 7 is the preferred number.

-Āhagān: “Āhagān”  
Markwart emends the word to *Nihāvand* (Markwart 1932; 15), while there is a village by the name of Āh close to Damāwand (Oriān 1983; 609) and there is a famous family in northern Iran known by the name of Āhī who were from Āh close to Rödhan (Sotoodeh 1976; 61).
Commentary

-Wispūhr: “Wispūhr”
Markwart reads the word as Vesutūn (Markwart 1932; 15), but this is an emendation by him, while Nyberg read the world as wspwtr’, who are probably another family from Northern Iran.

-Sōbārān: “Sōbārān”
Markwart reads the word as Dēnāhbarān (Markwart 1932; 15), while Nyberg reads the word as Sōbārān (Nyberg 1964; 176). There is also a famous family of Sarbār who live today by Darāsal in the villages of Ozrodnūr in northern Iran (Sotoodeh 1976; 67), which may be identified with this name.

-Barōzān: “Barōzān”
Markwart read the word as Balōčān which is not close to Padišxwārīgar, and again Nyberg’s suggestion to read the word as bārzān or better Barōzān is more sensible, where he connects it to Bārjān, a village of Xānlanjān (Nyberg 1964; 44), which may be identified with this name.

31) Mūsel: “Mosul”
The city of Mosul, (Arabic) al-Mawsil “the confluence” was located on the west bank of the Tigris river. The Sāsānian governor of Mosul was known as Būdh-Ardashīr and thus it was thought that the official name of the city was Būdh-Ardashīr and others state that the name of the city was Bih-Hormoz-Kowādhi (Le Strange 1966; 87).

32) Gazīrag: “Gazīra / Island / Peninsula”
The Arabs named upper Mesopotamia al-Jazīrah. The three districts of al-Jazīrah, are taken from the names of the three Arabian tribes settled there under Sāsānian rule. This term is used for the region of the northern part of the area between the Tigris and the Euphrates. In Persian the region is called Arvastān and Bēth Arabāyā by the Aramaean population of the region. During the Arab Muslim conquest, the area was under Roman control and this may be the reason why the ŠE assigns its foundation to Caesar, i.e., the Byzantine emperor (Canard 1965; 523).

-Āmtūs kēsar brādar: “Āmtūs the brother of Cesaer”
Probably should be identified with Aurelius Verus, the brother of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius Antoninus who fought against the Arsacids (164-166 A.D.). We know both co-regents (Aurelius Antoninus Aurelius & Verus) built a number of cities and invaded Parthia in 162 CE and
took over Mesopotamia and Armenia as part of the Roman Empire (Wolski 1993; 185).

33) Șâm: “Syria”
In the fifth century CE, the Ghassānids ruled this region, where they had adopted Christianity and were under Byzantine control. This region was an area which the Sāsānians often attacked and was the scene of bitter wars with the Romans. By 613 CE the Sāsānian army had taken Antioch and later Damascus and beyond, Șahrwarāz taking Jerusalem and Șahīn conquering Anatolia (Frye 1983; 168).

-Yaman: “Yemen”
Located in the southwest of the Arabian peninsula and was conquered by Husraw I in 575/575 CE. His governor in Yemen was Bādhān who ruled from Șan’ā’ and at the order of the King of Kings had sent envoys to Yathrib to inquire about the region (Lings 1983; 260). Husraw I sent a force of 800 cavalrymen to Yemen under the leadership of Wahrīz who controlled the region in the late sixth century (Bosworth 1983; 607).

-Frīgā: “Africa”
Ifrīkiya was the name given by the Arabs to the eastern part of Barbary, while the west was called Maghrib (Lybia). The word is derived from (Latin) Africa given by the Romans. What is meant here probably is what later came to be known as Maghrib, or Egypt and the adjoining areas (Northern Africa) (Modi 1898; 130). This would fit the picture of Ērān-šahr reaching to Egypt in the preface to the Șāhmāne-ye Abu Mansūrī, where its limits are from rūd i amā to rūd i misr (Oxus to Nile river) (Qazvīnī 1332; 49). Monchi-Zadeh had read rūd i furāt (Euphrates) (Monchi-Zadeh 1975; 8) which is also possible, giving the third century CE conception of Ērān-šahr. I still would keep Qazvīnī’s reading whose suggestion is based on two manuscripts. We know that Egypt, Lybia and northern Nubia came under Sāsānian control (Altheim-Stiehl 1992; 92). In fact Țabarī based on the isnad of Hišām b. Muḥammad that “This Kısra Abarwīz had accumulated more wealth than any other monarch. His riders reached as far as Constantinople and Ifrīqiya (Africa) (Țabarī 1999; 376).

-Kufah: “Kufah”
A city established as an encampment by the Arab Muslim conquerors in Iraq after the battle of al-Qadisīya by the order of the Caliph ‘Umar in
638 CE. In the Persian tradition, the city was built by Hōšang which may be the source of the ṢE, albeit a later tradition (Hurat 1993; 1105).

-Makkah: “Mecca”
Mecca is located in the Hijaz in the Arabian Peninsula and in the pre-Islamic period, in the sixth century was the scene of rivalries between the Romans and the Sasanians. The city appears to have remained neutral during the Perso-Roman wars, but Persian activity in the region is not unknown (Watt 1986; 145). We have information that indeed Persians were present or had an influence on people of Mecca, where stories of ancient Persian kings were told in the streets at the time of the Prophet Muhammad (Lings 1983; 89). While Markwart denies Sasanian influence in Mecca and Medina (Markwart 1932; 83), there is evidence to the contrary. Arabic sources state that the Sasanians attempted to control Mecca and Medina in the late sixth century and had influence in this region (Bosworth 1983; 600 : Kister 1968; 144-147).

-Madinag: “Medina”
(Arabic) al-Madīna “the City.” The inclusion of the Arabian city of Medina in the Hijaz in this text suggests that the ṢE was redacted after the early seventh century, since the name of the city in pre-Islamic times was (Arabic) Yatraḥ, (Minaean inscriptions) Yatraḥ, and (Greek) Iathrippa (Watt 1986; 994).

34) Kābul: “Kābul”
Muslim historians provide other names for this city in the ninth and the tenth centuries such as Jurrās and Tābān, but Kābul was the name for the district where the city by the same name was located (Le Strange 1966; 349).

-Ardaxšīr ī Spandyād: “Ardaxšīr, the son of Spandyād”
In the Zoroastrian tradition Ardaxšīr ī Kay is also known as Ardaxšīr, the son of Spandyād (Cereti 1996; 152). Here in our text he is credited with the building of the city of Kābul. Usually this Ardaxšīr is identified with Artaxerxes I (Bahār 1369; 197), but he should be identified with Artaxerxes II (Boyce 1991; 385: Amir Arjomand 1998; 246).

35) Raxwat: “Raxvat”
(Arabic) Raṣūd is located in the Xvarāsān region (Ḥudūd ʾal-ʿAmm 103) which was identified by Markwart as (Avestan) Harsaunāciū (Markwart 1931; 84). Again here we have a unique piece of information which is
not found anywhere else as to the builder of the city. Rahām is present in the Šāhnāme during the reign of Kāūs/Kay Us (I 366; 666). In the absence of any other source, the connection between the city of Raxwat and Rahām according to Markwart maybe due to a popular etymology (Markwart 1932; 85).

36) Bāst: “Bust”

Būst was the second largest city in Sīstān in the medieval period and was known to have been the location where Wištāsp made the religion current. According to a short Middle Persian text, the Aḥād ud Sāhagīh ī Sīstān, it was the scene of Zoroaster’s ministry and one of his important disciples, Sēn ī Aḥūmūstūdān, was from Būst. Sēn’s fravaštē is worshiped in Yašt XIII.97, who according to the Zoroastrian tradition was the first disciple and trained others in the religion of Zoroaster (Gnoli 1967; 79: 1980; 138-139: Mayrhofer 1977; 73: Boyce 1989; 273: Daryaei 1996; 536-537). Thus, the location has immense importance for Sasanian Zoroastriansim.

-Bastūr ī zarērān “Bastūr, the son of Zarēr”

Bastūr plays a prominent role in the epic of Ayādgār ī Zarērān, where as a young boy he is able to defeat the Turanian forces and take revenge for the death of his father. Once Zarēr is killed, king Wištāsp exclaims whoever takes revenge of Zarēr’s death, he will marry his daughter Humāy ī mān ud kadam ī zarēr of the fallen hero (Gheybi 1999; 7).

37) Frāh / Zāwalestān: “Frāh / Zābul.”

The city of Frāh / (Persian) Farah is close to the Helmand River. The highlands of the Qandahār country, along the upper waters of Helmand were known as Zāwalestān (Persian) Zābulistān. In the Persian tradition Sīstān and Zāwalestān were famous as the home of Rustam (Le Strange 1966; 334-335).

-Rōdstahm: “Rustam”

The cities mentioned to have been built by Rustam are in the area which he ruled and was conferred upon Rustam’s family in the Persian epic, and this area appears to be the Indo-Scythian kingdom of Maues of the early first century CE and the later Indo-Parthian kingdom of Gondophares who appears to have influenced Rustam’s character in the Persian epic (Shahbazi 1993; 157-158 : Sarkarati 1378; 28-32). In the epic tradi-
tion Zāwalestān is the domain of Rustam and consequently he is given the title of king of Sistān.

38) Zarang: “Zarang”
In the Islamic sources the capital of the province of Sistān was known as Zaranj/Zarang. In the Sāsānian period it was a great fortified city (Le Strange 1966; 335).

-Karkōy: “Karkoy”
In the Tārīx-e Sistān another version of the foundation of this fire-temple is mentioned which does not give Frāsiyāk any part in its establishment. The text relates that Kay Husraw prayed at the Karkōy fire-temple which had originally been a sanctuary of Kay Wištāsp and by this act he was able to establish the fire once again. As a result the fortification which Frāsiyāk had built and concealed in the dark through sorcery was made manifest and destroyed (Bahār 1314; 35-37). In regard to the request of Frāsiyāk from Spandarmad, one can also find the story in the Wizādatāhā i Zādsprām (Chapter 4.4-7) with some variation and elaboration (Gignoux & Tafazzolī 1989; 189-202). Theodore bar Konaī also relates this story, but states that Spandarmad became the wife of Frāsiyāk (Markwart 1368; 19-20).

39) *Kawād i Pērōzān Kermānšāh: “Kawād, the son of Pērōz, king of Kermān”
Bailey in his review of Markwart’s translation of the ŠE had suggested that pērōzān is a patronymic before which a name has been dropped out (Bailey 1931; 782), and Modi (1898; 154) and Markwart (1932; 40) suggested that the figure should be Wahrām IV (388-399 CE) who was known as Kermānšāh according to Ṭabarī (Ṭabarī 1999; 69). The problem is that Wahrām IV ruled in the fourth century CE and that his father was not Pērōz, but rather Šābuhr II. It is more probable that the missing name should be Kawād who was the son of Pērōz who came to power in the fifth century CE.

40) Weh-ardaxṣīr: “Weh-Ardaxṣīr”
Markwart assigns the city to Kermān, but Gyselen places the city in Iraq (Gyselen 1989; 62). The problem here is that in the progression of naming the areas, we are still in the east and the cities close to Fārs await to be mentioned. Gyselen, however, has pointed out that this city which was part of Ctesiphon was placed erroneously in the Southern kust in the ŠE (Gyselen 1988; 199). In the Fārsnāme of Ibn Balḵī it is also related that
Ardaxšīr I called several cities by his own name including Bih Ardašīr which was in Kermān (Fārsnāme 1363; 60). But there was also a Bih Ardašīr on the west side of Madā’in in Iraq (Ṭabarī 1999; 16).

41) Stāxr: “Stāxr”
Stāxr was the center of Sāsānian power in the beginning of the third century CE. The Anāhīd fire-temple which Pābag, Ardaxšīr’s father, was custodian of was at Stāxr and the Achaemenid monuments were also located close by. Thus the assigning of the building of Stāxr to Ardavān seems to be a mistake, even though he is given the title of pārsīgān-šāh. Another possibility is to emend the name to Ardaxšīr, assigning it to an Artaxerxes (of the Achaemenid period) or probably Ardaxšīr I as its builder.

-Pārsīgān šāh: “king of *Parthians”
The text assigns this important center as being built by Ardawān, the Parthian ruler (miswritten as pārsīgān for pahlavīgān), which is also attested in the Kārmaŋag i Ardašīr i Pābagān (I.2-4), where Ardawān resided at Stāxr when Pābag was alive. Stāxr was an administrative and religious center in the Achaemenid period and then became the center of Sāsānian activity in the Third Century CE when Ardaxšīr I established the Sāsānian empire.

42) Dārāb-gird: “Dārābgird”
(Arabic) Dārābjird. The building of the city is assigned to Darius III in our text. Its early importance is that Ardaxšīr I as a child was sent to this place to become the foster child of Tirā who was the eunuch of Gozihr who was the local ruler at Stāxr (Ṭabarī 1999; 5-6). According to Ṭabarī after Tirā died Ardaxšīr took his position as the argbed (Casstellan) and began his career as a conquerer (Ṭabarī 1999; 6).

43) Weh-sābuhr: “Bēšābuhr”
In the Persian tradition the building of Bēšābuhr is first assigned to the legendary Pēšdâdīd kings. Then it was believed to have been destroyed by Alexander the Great and Šābuhr I had rebuilt the city (Fārsnāme 1363; 63).

44) Gōr-ardaxšīr-xwarrah: “Gōr-Ardaxšīr-Xwarrah”
Gōr was build by Ardaxšīr at the place where Artabanus IV was defeated in 224 CE. Gōr in later tradition came to be known as Fērōzābād. Ardaxšīr-xwarrah means “Ardaxšīr’s Glory.”
45) **Humay i čihr āzādān:** “Humay, the daughter of Čihr Āzād”

Blochet, Markwart and Oriān all have the same reading, Humā the daughter of Čihr Āzād, while Tafazzolī reads Hormizd for Humāy (Tafazzoli 1983; 336). In the *Bundahišn* (XXXIII.13) she is said to be the daughter of Wahman i Spandiyād: andar ham hazārag ka xwadāyih ő wahman i spandiyādān mad ud awērān būd ērānagān xweš pad xweš absist hēnd ud az tohmag i xwadāyih kas nē mand kē xwadāyih kard hūd ušān humāy i wahman doxt pad xwadāyih nišāst. “In the same millennium, when rulership came to Wahman, the son of Spandyād, and there was ruin, the Iranians destroyed one another and there was no one from the seed of the rulers left who would rule. Then they brought Humāy, the daughter of Wahman, to rulership.”

46) **Hormizd-Ardaxšīr / Rām-Hormizd:** “Hormizd-Ardaxšīr / Rām-Hormizd”

The cities of Hormizd-Ardaxšīr and Rām-Hormizd are two cities in the province of Xūzestān. Hormizd-Ardaxšīr was a Christian diocese and administrative seals exist for this city as well (Gyselen 1989; 74-75). Hormizd-Ardaxšīr was known in Islamic times as al-Ahwaz, the capital city of Xūzestān (Le Strang 1966; 233).

-Hormizd new šābuhrān: “The Valiant Hormizd, son of Šābuhr”

This is Hormizd I (272-273 CE) who in the Zoroastrian and Islamic texts has the epithet of “valiant” (Kīyā 1965; 15).

47) **Šūs / Šūstar:** “Susa and Šūstar”

Susa, (Persian) Šūs is located in the province of Xūzestān and was the ancient Elamite capital. In the Islamic tradition it was identified as the place of “the Palace of Šūšān” found in the *Book of Daniel* (Le Strange 1966; 246). The tomb of Daniel is also thought to be at this city. It is quite possible that because of this Biblical connection, the name of the daughter of the Reš Galut, Šīšinduxt was given as the builder of this city. Šūstar/Šūstar is 60 miles north of Hormizd-Ardaxšīr (Le Strange 1966; 235).

-Šīšinduxt: “Šīšinduxt”

The name of the queen would have been Šīšān in Hebrew, meaning “lily,” Arabic and Persian Šīšān (Modi 1898; 142). She was the wife of Yazdgerd I (399-420 CE) and her father was the Jewish leader in 407 CE. Because of the king’s religious tolerance, the Exilarch must have been close to him and in contact which makes the story more likley. It
has been suggested that any of the following Exilarchs could have been the father of Ššinduxt; Mar Kahana, Mar Yemar, or Mar Zutra I, while Huna B. Nathan was suggested by Modi to have been the father of Ššinduxt (Modi 1898; 141). Gray, however, had ruled out all of them as a likely candidate (Gray 1916; 465).

- **Rēš-galūdag**: “Leader of the Exile”
  (Hebrew) *Rosh Golah*, where the Middle Persian form may have been taken from the Aramaic form *Resh Galutha*. Ššinduxt may have been the daughter of Mar Kahana I (400-415 CE).

48) **Pīlābād**: “Pīlābād”
This is the Syriac name for the city of *Wandōy-šābuhr*, (Persian) *Jundīšāpūr, Guavīšāpūr*, i.e., *bet lāpāt* in Xūzestān. A famous medical center was located in this city. Ţabarī states that Šābuhr II had Indian physicians brought to the city which established the center. Greek and Nestorian presence was even stronger which makes the location a meeting ground for Greek and Indian medicine (Ţabarī 1999; 66).

49) **Nahr-Ṭīrag**: “Nahr-Ṭīrag”
The city was located in Iraq, situated on a canal (Arabic) *nahr* (Modi 1898; 159).

- **Zendān ī Ėrān-šahr**: “the Prison of Ėrān-šahr”
  According to Markwart the author has made a mistake in identifying the “Castle of Oblivion” which was located at Dizful with this location (Markwart 1931; 99).

50) **Simrān**: “Himyār”
This is the old name for Southern Arabia (Nyberg 1974; 176) and in the Islamic period was used to designate Yemen and in Persian mythology was known as *Hāmāwarān* (Modi 1898; 159: Markwart 1932; 99-102: Monchi-Zadeh 1975; 347). The Sāsānians took over the region in about 570 CE, during the reign of Hūsraw I.

- **Maswar**: “Masrugh”
  Markwart read the name as *Mansūr*, the Abbāsīd caliph, while Nyberg reads it as *Mēi-var* and suggests to be a mocking translation of the name Qais born by the kings of Kinda (Nyberg 1974; 132: Bosworth 1983; 607). However, the last ruler of the Ela-Abraha dynasty was *Masrūgh* (Mordtmann 1936; 311) who was defeated by the Sāsānians. From then
on the region was under Persian governors who resided in San‘ā‘ and Persians resided in the region when the Prophet Muhammad sent his envoys to Yemen. The proper name of the king of Himyar in the text may be emended to Masrūgh who was the last of the autonomous kings.

-Baxt husraw: “Baxt-Husraw”
This is a distorted version of the name of the Babylonian king Nabû-kudurri-usur / Nebuchadnezzar (Nyberg 1974; 45 : Bosworth 1991; 22). In the Fārsnāme, Boxt al-Nasr is known as the Spāhbed of Iraq (Fārsnāme 1363; 51).

51) Ārhēst: “Ārhēst”
Nyberg has made the suggestion that the name of the city should be read as Arhēst which is a village and a market place on the banks of Lake Van (Nyberg 1974; 29). We should note, however, that this city must be in the Mesopotamian region because it is mentioned between S. Arabia and Mesopotamia (Gyselen 1988; 201). There are no sources that indicate that Šābuhr I built this city. Modi identified the city as Xarāyist / Sābur Xwāst of the Islamic sources, located between Kūhistān and Isfāhān, some 22 farsakhs from Nīhāwand (Modi 1898 159). Markwart conjectured that this is the location of ārān-šād-šābuhr (Šād-šābuhr) around Kaškar (Markwart 1931; 102), which appears to be correct. Tabarī states that Šābuhr I built a city in Maysān called Šād-Šābuhr (Ṭabarī 1999; 377). This city was the center of an administrative district (Morony 1984; 155).

52) Āsūr: “Āsūr”
Nyberg reads it as Ardebil (Nyberg 1974; 9), while Markwart’s suggestion to read the word as Āsūr is more plausible. Āsūr stands for Āsūres-tān, the Sāsānian province of Babylonia. By the end of the sixth century CE the Banū Lakhm, the Arab vassals of the Sāsānians at Hira ruled over Āsūr. With the fall of Banū Lakhm at the beginning of the seventh century CE, the Sāsānians stationed a marzbān at Hira to rule over this region (Morony 1982; 22).

-Weh-Ardaxšīr: “Weh-Ardaxšīr”
Weh-Ardaxšīr was on the western side of al-Madā‘īn, i.e., Ctesiphon and its foundation is also attributed to Ardaxšīr. Ṭabarī states that Ardaxšīr I left Adūrbādān for Sūrestān (Āsūr in our text) and on the banks of Ti-gris, opposite of Ctesiphon he built Bih-Ardaxšīr (Ṭabarī 1999; 14-15). Markwart believed that the builder, i.e., Ardaxšīr Wahman was to be
identified with Cyrus with whom Ardaxšīr I wanted to connect his genealogy with (Markwart 1931; 103). If fact the Achaemenid king, Artaxerxes II is the point of reference which Ardaxšīr I pointed to as his descendant (see passage 34 under Ardaxšīr ی Spandyād).

-Őšag: “Őšag”
This appears to be the name of a margrave, although there are no reference found to him. Nyberg reads the name as ődāk as the name of a river which was an affluent of the Euphrates river (Nyberg 1974; 143), where an Ōšag was in charge of the city.

-Hagar: “Hagar”
(Syriac) hagar, Arabic (hajar), also known as Bahrain (Tabarī 1999; 54-55). Markwart suggests that this city should be located in Bahrain where there was a Sāsānian margrave present (Markwart 1931; 103) and Nyberg takes Hagar as the name of an Arab tribe in the Syrian desert (Nyberg 1974; 89). Ardaxšīr I invaded Bahrain from the province of Fārs (Gōr) and defeated its king, Sanāṭruq who may have been a Parthian noble who was ruling that area (Parthian Sinatrices) (Tabarī 1999; 16).

-Marzbān: “Margrave”
This title can be translated as “margrave,” or “guardian of frontiers,” which suits the text, either for Syria or Bahrain. Gignoux, however, is doubtful of the literary sources suggesting a quadripartition of the empire and the existence of four marzbāns in the bordering regions of the Sāsānian empire (Gignoux 1984; 256). There seems to have been more than four marzbāns in various parts of the late Sāsānian Empire.

-dō-sar: “Dō-sar”
Markwart read the word as gonid-sar “army commander,” (Markwart 1931; 105), while Nyberg suggested dō-sar as the name of one of the two armies commanded by the kings of al-Ḥīra (Nyberg 1974; 65). Nyberg appears to be correct, because Ṭabarī informs us that the Persian cavalry was sent to al-Ḥīra (1000 men) each year to support the Lakhmids. The name of the troops were Dausar and Šahbā’ during the time of Nuʾmān I. Rothstein was the first to suggest that the Dausar and Šahbā’ were garrison troops of al-Ḥīra (Rothstein 1899; 134-138). Kister in describing the situation of al-Ḥīra during the fifth century stated that three divisions existed in the city; the Dausar who were the elite warriors; al-Šahbā’ and al-Malkā’, the former being called this because of the color of the Iron (their coat-of-mail) (Kister 1968; 167). Dausar “having
two heads” was suggested by Nyberg to mean that there was an infantry and a cavalry component to this army (Nyberg 1974; 65). This is, however, unlikely since all of our sources state that they were a cavalry force and it is possible that there were two regiments, or component detachments each with its own commander (Ṭabarî 1999; 80n).

-bor-gil: “Bor-gil”
Markwart does not give any concrete suggestion and only Nyberg’s argument seems plausible to read the word as bor-gil, as the name of one of the two armies commanded by the kings of Ḥira (Nyberg 1974; 48). Tabarî and other Arab sources states that one group of the Persian forces were known as al-Šahbā‘ which means “the brightly gleaming ones,” or “white mingled with grey.” The reason they were called this was because of the glint of their breast plates and weapons or coats of mail (Kister 1968; 167). Nyberg derives bor-gil “the grey troops” from gil < *grda- “troop” (Nyberg 1974; 48).

53) Gay: “Gay”
The city of Isfahan in the medieval times had two settled areas, one was located east of Jay (Gay) called Šahrestān, and the other was two miles to the west, al-Yahūdiyyah “the Jewish town,” which was much larger than Šahrestān. Muqaddasî reports that the city had 12 gates and the buildings were built from unbaked brick (Le Strange 1966 2-3-204).

-Aleksander i fîpus: “Alexander, the son of Philip”
Markwart states that after fîp, the MK manuscript has been eaten away by worms and based on West’s conjecture, he emends the text to fîpān (Markwart 1931; 23). But according to Modi the Tehran manuscript (JJ) was copied from the original which was in good condition and supplied fîpus, i.e., Philiphous (Modi 1898; 143).

54) Ėrān-āsān-kard-kawād: “Ėrān-āsān-kard-kawād”
Meaning “Kawād has made Ėrān Peaceful.” Markwart identified the city as found in Armenian sources in the Western kust between Garmakān (Bēth Garmē) and Adiabene (Markwart 1931; 105). The city was created by Kawād I (488-531 CE) in the Holwān region (Gyselen 1989; 536).
55) Aškar: “Aškar”
Blochret identified the city as Askar, a city which Muslim geographers assign to Xüzestân (Blochret 1897; 176: Modi 1898; 159: Markwart 1931; 106).

56) Ādürbādagān: “Ādürbādagān”
The capital Ādürbādagān has the same name for the province. It is possible that here we have a reference to Atropates who was the satrap of Media during the time of Darius III and Alexander the Great, whose family ruled the region during the Seleucid period as related by Diodorus Siculus 18.3.3 and Strabo’s Geography 11.13.1 (Chaumont 1987; 17-18).

-Ērān-gušasp: “Ērān-Gušasp”
This may be a reference to the sacred fire-temple of Ādür-Gušasp in Ādürbādagān. Since in the Middle Persian texts Ādürbādagān is also identified with Ērān, it is quite possible that the name Ērān-Gušasp came about. In the Islamic period the name of the province was derived from an Adharbadh b. Ērān (Markwart 1931; 106).

57) Wan: “Wan”
The Armenian city of Van by the lake with the same name. Wan i gu-laxšān: “Wan, the daughter of Walāxš” (Nyberg 1964; 202). Gulaxšān is a late development from Walāxš > Balāxš > Gulaxš (Périkhanian 1996-1997; 115), which is Parthian Vologeses. Markwart conjectured that gulaxš is a corruption of the name vidargā/vidirsā and his daughter Frānag. Kay Kawād is also known in the Islamic sources to be the son of Frānag (Markwart 1931; 106-107).

-Karb: “Karp”
(Avestan) karapar is not usually an epithet of the Tūrānian Brātreš and this is the only text that makes Tūr a karp. Karb were a group of Indo-Iranian priests / pagan singers / poets who were hostile to Zoroaster and his teachings.

58) Ganzag: “Ganzag”
(Arabic) Janzah, also known as Šiz. The building of the city is assigned to Frāsiyāk, where legend has it that it was the place where Frāsiyāk had died, by Lake Urumia. This place became a pilgrimage site based on a fabricated story that this town was Zoroaster’s birth place (Boyce 1992; 9). In this legend the building of the city of Ganzag which had a fortifica-
tion is assigned to Frāsiyāk, no doubt this is a transposition of eastern legends to the west by the Sāsānians.

59) Āmōy: "Āmol"
The city of Āmol, the capital of Tabarestān. Āmol appears to have been a large city in the late Sāsānian period and during the Abbāsid period in the 9th century CE it was one of the largest cities in the north (Le Strange 1966: 370).

-Zandī purr-marg: "The heretic who is full of death"
According to Markwart this refers to Mazdak (Markwart 1932; 110-112). In the History of Tabarestān there is a long passage about Mazdak and Kāūs, the brother of Husrāw I who was favored by the Mazdakites, and that he resided in the north (Tārīx-e Tabarestān 1984; 01-201). The following passage omits the city which may be the city of Ray which according to legend was Zoroaster’s birth place (Markwart 1931; 112: Tafazzolī 1983; 349).

60) Baydād: "Baghdad"
(Old Persian) baga; (Middle Persian) bay “God,” “Lord,” with the verb dād “to create,” thus “Created by God.” The Caliph al-Manṣūr founded Madīnat al-Salām at the site of the already existing market-town of Baghdad. Baghdad in the eighth century was expanded as a round city which became the capital of the Abbāsīs (Le Strange 1966: 30).

-Abū jafar: “Abū Ja‘far”
Refers to the Caliph al-Manṣūr (754-775 CE).

Postscript to ŠKZ
R. Frye informed me that in the mentioned section of Šābuhr’s inscription, Kāš went with Sugd and Čācheštān, rather than the “up to” referring to both Paškābūr and Kāš as Huyse has suggested. If this is so, then Kāš is Kāš/Kēš, today Šahrī Sabz on the Kaška Daryā.

Postscript to Quadripartition
As this work was going to press I received R. Gyeslen’s very important book, The Four Generals of the Sasanian Empire: Some Sigillographic Evidence, Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente, Roma, 2001 which corroborates that there was a quadripartition of the late Sāsānian empire.
1 MK लगत्रि, 2 MK अवस्थित. 3 Both स्थानिक. 4 JJ वहन. 5 Thus both for जैसे? 6 Both स्वस्त्य and अस्त्य. 7 Both अनु. 8 Both insert by mistake.
14

این جمله‌ها در کتاب مورد بررسی قرار گرفته‌اند.

15

در پاک‌کردن محیط زیست نقش مهمی دارد.

16

به‌عنوان یکی از موثرترین فعالیت‌های محیطی، پاک‌کردن محیط زیست به‌عنوان یکی از موثرترین فعالیت‌های محیطی، پاک‌کردن محیط زیست به‌عنوان یکی از موثرترین

14. JJ י"הו. 15 Both ה"כ. 16 JJ י"הו. 17 The space after וַהֲנַר אֲמֻנָּה ייִשָּׂאֵת by worms in MK; West conjectures יִשָּׂאֵת; JJ יִשָּׂאֵת.
The space after אס eaten away by worms in MK; JJ ḫ, for אס. 19 MK שָׁה. 20 JJ אֶתְּבְּדֶהוּ. 21—22 Written in both by mistake before 24—25, but struck off afterwards.
29 י.ס"ת, י.ב"ת; ראה נ1. 30 י.ס"ת, י.ב"ת. 31 י.ס"ת עלה את זה. 32 בר י.ס"ת, י.ב"ת. 33 י.ס"ת, י.ב"ת. 34 י.ס"ת עלה את זה. 35 י.ס"ת, י.ב"ת.
36 Both repeat it.
Glossary* †

A

abar [QDM] prep. “up, on,” : 1
abārīg [’p’ryk] pron. “other”: 36
abāxtar [’p’hīl] n. “planet”: 24; abāxtarān pl.: 24
abāz [LAWHL] adv./preverb “again”: 38, 50
abgand [LMYTWN] vb. “threw”: 5
abū-dawānīg [’bwdw’nyg] p.n. “Abū Dawaḥīq”: 60
abū-jafar [’bwjfr] p.n. “Abū Jafar”: 60
abzōnīg [’pzwnyg] adj. “bountiful”: 0
afsārd [’ps’lt] vb. “extinguished”: 38

* Abbreviations used in the glossary are:
  adj. adjective
  adv. adverb
  conj. conjunction
  demo demonstrative
  interrog interrogative
  n. noun
  p.n. proper noun
  pl.n. place name
  prep. preposition
  pron. pronoun
  ptn. patronymic
  vb. verb
  vbl. verbal

† Numerals used are:
N. P.
3 40
7 29
9 32
25 20
180 20
900 14
1200 4
Glossary

ahlāyīḥ ['hl’dyh] n. “righteousness” : 0


andar [BYN] prep. “among, in” : 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 17, 18, 20, 27, 28, 32, 33, 36, 38

ardawān ['ltw’n] p.n. “Ardawān” : 41


ārešn ['lšn] “cubit” : 20

arhēst ['lhyst] pl.n. “Ārhēst” : 51

armāyīl ['lm’yl] p.n. “Armāyīl” : 28


arzāsp ['lc’sp] p.n. “Arzāsp” : 9


ast [AYT] vb. “is” : 33

aškar ['škl] pl.n. “Aškar” : 55

aškān ['šk’n] p.n. “Arsac” : 49; aškānān pl. 17, 23

awērān ['pyλ’n] adj. “destroyed” : 38

axtarān ['htl’n] n. “constellations” : 24

ayādgār ['byd’tk’l] n. “memoir, testament” : 1


azērīg [hcdylk'] prep. “under” : 24

až-i dahāg ['c-y dh’k] p.n. “Aži Dahāg” : 6, 18, 28, 30, 49

ābādīh ['p’tyh] n. “feud” : 50

ādūrbādāgān ['twp’tk’n] p.n. “Ādūrbādāgān” : 56, 58

ādwēnān ['dwyn’n] ptm. “son of Ādwēn” : 50

āhagān ['hg’n] p.n. “Āhagān” : 28

ālag [STLA] n. “Side, boundary” : 18

āmōy ['mwy] pl.n. “Āmol” : 59

āmtūs ['mtws] p.n. “Āmtūs” : 32

ān [ZK] dem. pron. “that” : 4, 6, 15, 18, 30, 35, 36, 59

ānōh [TME] adv. “there” : 3, 9, 18, 35, 38, 53

āsūr ['swl] pl.n. “Assyria” : 51


ātāxš ['thš] n. “fire” : 3, 4, 9, 38

āvēšān [OLEš’n] vb. “they, those” : 28

āvišt [HTYMWN-t] vb. “sealed” : 60

āwurd YHYTYWN-t] vb. “brought” : 4, 50
Glossary

Baydād [bqd’d] pl.n. “Baydād” : 60
bahrag [b’hlg] n. “portion” : 24
bast [ASLWN-t] vb. “bound, tied” : 24
bast [bst] pl.n. “Bast” : 36
baxl [bhl] pl.n. “Bax” : 8
baxt-husraw [bht-hwslb’] p.n. “Baxt Husraw” : 50
bālāy [b’il’d] n. “high” : 20
bāmīg [b’myk’] adj. “brilliant” : 8
be [BRA] particle with verbs. : 2, 9, 24, 25, 35, 38, 50, 51
bor-gil [bwlgyl] p.n. “Bor-gil” : 51
brādar zād [bl’tl z’t] n. “nephew” : 32
bun [bwn] n. “foundation” : 2
bunag [bwnk’] n. “abode” : 36
būd [YHWWN-t, bwt] vb. “was” : 6, 14, 18, 30, 36, 47, 49, 53, 59

C

če [ME] interrog. pron. “which, because, for, since” : 9
čihr-āzādān [cyhl’c’d’n] p.n. “Čihr Āzād” : 45
čiyōn [cygwn] conj. “since, as, like, when” : 47
čiyōn-sān [cygwn-s’n] conj. with vb. “whom they” : 60
čōl [cwl] p.n. “Čōl” : 9, 18

dabr [dpl] adj. “rough” : 26
daheštān [dhst’n] pl.n. “Dahestan” : 17
dar [BBA] n. “gate, door” : 20
dašt [dšt] n. “plain” : 50
dād [YHBWN-t] vb. “gave” : 50
dādār [d’t’l] n. ag. “Creator” : 0
Glossary

dārab-gird [d’l’bgylt’] pl.n. “Dārabgird” : 42


dārāyân [d’l’y’n] ptn. “son of Dārā” : 42

dārīšn [YHSNNśn] vb.n. “connection, preservation” : 50

dibīrīh [dpyryh] n. with dēn “religious script” : 4

dēn [dyn] n. “religion” : 4, 36

dēwān [ŚDYA’n] n. pl. “demons” : 7


drahnāy [dlhn’d] n. “length” : 20

droōd [ŠRM] n. “prosperity, peace” : 60

drubuštīh [dlwpwšt(y)h] n. “fortification” : 57


duš-xwadāyīh [dwšhw’t(y)yh] n. “evil reign, evil rule” : 49

duxt [dwht] n. “daughter” : 47

dwārēd [dwb’lyt] vb. “rushed, crept” : 9

dwāzdah [dw’cdh] num. “twelve” : 24

E

enyā [’yny’] conj. “or, otherwise” : 28


ēk [’ywk] num. “one” : 6, 7

ēn [ZNE] dem. pron. “this” : 1, 9, 30

erān-āsān-kard-kawād [’yl’n’s’nkltkw’t] pl.n. “Erān-āsān-kard-Kawād” : 54


erān-šahr [’yl’n̄štl] pl.n. “Erān-Šahr” : 1, 9, 49, 50

ēstēd [YKOYMNW-t] aux. vb. “stand, to be” : 1, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34

F

flīpus [flypws] ptn. “son of Philip” : 53

fragand [plknd] vb. “laid, founded” : 2, 4

framān [plm’n] n. “order, command” : 4, 21, 28

framād [plmwτ] vb. “ordered, commanded” : 15, 20

frasang [plsng] n. “farsang” : 20

frazāft [plc’pt] vb. “finished, completed” 60

frazāmēnīd [plc’mynyd] vb. “ended” : 2, 38, 40

frazdān [plcd’n] pl.n. “Frazdān” : 36
Glossary

frāh [pl’h] pl.n. “Frāh” : 37
frāsiyāk [pl’sy’k, pl’sy’b] p.n. “Frāsiyāk” : 7, 38, 58
frēdōn [plytw’n’] p.n. “Frēdōn” 6, 50
frēstēd [ŚDRWN-yt’] vb. “sent” : 9
frīgā [plyg’] pl.n. “Africa” : 33

G

gazīrag [gcylg] pl.n. “Jazīra” : 32
ganj [gnc] n. “treasury” : 4
ganzag [gncg] pl.n. “Ganzag” : 58
gay [g’d] pl.n. “Gay” : 53
gāh [g’s] n. “place” : 15, 33, 35, 36
gizistag [gcstk] adj. “accursed” : 5, 7, 12, 38, 53
gōhram [gwhlm] p.n. “Gōhram” : 9
gōkān [gwk’n’] n. “detail” : 1
gōr [gwl] n. “Onger, the epithet of Wahrām V” : 27, 47
gulāxšān [gwlhs’n] ptn. “son of Gulaxš” : 57
gumārd [gwm’lt] vb. “appointed, entrusted” : 25, 51
gumēxt [gwmyht] vb. “mixed” : 38
gurgān [gwlg’n] pl.n. “Gurgān” : 17
gyān [HYA] n. “soul” : 57

H

haft [hpt] num. “seven” : 6, 24
hagar [hgl] pl.n. “Hagar” : 52
hamādān [hmd’n] pl.n. “Hamadān” : 26
ham-gyāg [hmgyw’g] n. “same place” : 15
har [KRA] adj. “every, each” : 7, 9
harē [hly] pl.n. “Herāt” : 12
haštom [hštwm] num. “eighth” : 24
hēnd [HWE-nd] aux. vb. “to be, are” : 29
hērt [hylt] pl.n. “Hīra” : 25
hrōmāyīg [hlwm’dyg] adj. “Roman” : 12
hu-bōy-husraw [hwbdhwslwb’] pl.n. “Hu-bōy-Husraw” : 19
humāy [hwm’d] p.n. “Humāy” : 45
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