

The Authoritative Guide to NAQSH-E ROSTAM

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Introduction

After passing a vast plain, in the northernmost part of which, Rahmat Mountain is located, Hussain Kuh (Hussain Mountain) is situated with about four kilometers distance to Persepolis. In the southern part of Hussian Kuh, the wall of a mountain is normally shown as a jim irtant natural landmark in Marvdasht Plain.

Achaemenians and Sassanids have left valuable monuments comprising very important messages for the future generation on the right side of this Elamites monument. These valuable massages and remains contain glorious sculptures and royal tombs care dire mountains and also there are inscriptions from Islamic period. Which reveal the continuation of this area during this period. These remains were attributed to Jamshid and Kianid Kings and the conference of battles and victories of Iranian mythological peroc, paraicularly Rostame Zal, since these stonemasonries show the very of Iranian heroes over the enemies, such sculptures were strill uted. Toostame Zal and called this place as Nagshe Rostam.

Foreign researchers, specially G. eks, have called this place "Necro-Polis", which means the city of deed and the reason of it, was the tombs of some Achaemenian X. e., particularly Darius the Great, in this

mountain.

One should revember that Naqsh-e Rostam was not only used for various ceren or it, and feasts, but this area should be known as a very important or I valuable historical remain which reflects the most

important hi torical events.

Now, Th. World Parse-Pasargad Heritage Site has printed the second edition. Commentary and universal Guide Book of this ancient area in collaboration with Safiran Publication. In this book, not only the trustworthiness to the author's text has been considered, new editing with new pictures, Naqsh-e Rostam Universal Organizing Plan have been printed, in case of execution of this plan, enterring into this valuable and ancient area will be on its original track, which will be based on the historical understanding and change of this complex.

PREFACE

The monuments which will be described in this book are the evidences of the reports and rites of our ancestors during two glorious historical periods, the Achaemenian period, which began from the times of Cyrus the Great success in 559 B.C. and ended by the pillage of Alex nder in 330 B. C. and the other is the Sassanid Period which st. rtea by Ardeshir Papakan rise and his dominance on Parthians in 224 A. L. and terminated by Arabs invasion into Iran and capturing L... Crown and Throne in 650 A. D.. The ancient Iranians preserved these nonuments and respected them in a particular manner that they were clean and respected during 1200 years of their prosperity vinile to averestored them continusely. Their message and goal and usage were theat they have described were common among public. The stories of heroes of such events were known and distinguishe among Iranians as sacreds.

The glorious period was terminated by Sa sanid fall and the report of ancestors was left without a vartention and the characters of real heroes were ignored, while the naments and their life evidences, rites and thoughts were hurt and their reality, goal and use were forgot from memoirs and tended in to legand and their spiritual and holiness became dejected. After a solution, them, all around these monuments became a refuge of rooks, lites and caravans and apparently, bandits and the sculptures were destructed, it was in such a manner that riflemen settled near Naqshe Ros and took and bet on aiming at the eyes of defendless ancestors so lipted during the late period of Qajar Dynesty and got happy when destroying these monuments. These cultural monuments were a dismand d by everybody that it was very difficult to revive and recognize them.

Eventually, the time of awareness about national and cultural heritage of Iran began and the ancient culture of this homeland was reknown and various Iran heritages were recognized and restored continuously with new spirituality and holiness. They have been preserved and the art and elegance of such heritages became pleasant and attractive and caused praise to this extend that Persepolis, Naqsh-e Rostam, Pasargadae, Bistun and Firoozabad and other cultural and historical sites of our ancestors have found their ancient glory. They have found holiness with antiquity

peace and glory essence.

The eager hearts with homeland, culture and national arts love supported them and have begun preserving, recognizing and introducing them.

This book should be considered as the following of "Pictorial Description of Persepolis" printed in 1976, since the description is derived from the same source (Achaemenian) Tombs" and will describe the history of Achaemenian Parse and Estakhr cities until the mid of Sassanid period.

The same method of "combination of study with simple writing was used as the previous works. The goal was to avoid to refer to undo undo tary text and based upon quess and irreasonable theory and use allold and new resources with discussion on new points, but, nevertheless, or a pary reader will be able to find out the subject and does not be possed by long speech and difficult discussion. Colored pictures, notice and tablets are added in this book for learning simplicity of archaechogical, art and historical difficult texts and provide enough and test and elearning from these monuments for visitors. It is to note "Lat the bosts of any study about Nagshe Rostam and Nagshe Rajab shout", uncoubtedly, be upon scientific and valuable researches of Process at Ethen F. Schmidt as this study is so, and it is admissible to send to also obtain lover, smart, honest and active and dedicate to present took to him.

Professor P. Calmeyer, Profes. 3000. Boyce and Professor G. Tilia have represented many useful ideas and references about various subjects in this book and the writer is indeleted to them. Also, the writer would like to appreciate his wife and the Christensen-Shahbazi and his venerable friend Mr. Javad Anjon. So, his very kind cooperation.

Alireza Shapur Shahbazi Persepolis 1978