

Abstracts of Articles in Persian

The Splendour of Iran

Kerdir's Naqsh-e Rajab Inscription

T. Daryaei

This is the first ever Persian translation and analysis of Kerdir's minor inscription at Naqsh-e Rajab. The essay begins in discussing the genre of journey to the netherworld in the Zoroastrian literature, where Zoroaster along with Wištāsp, Jāmāsp, and later Wirāz are able to make such a journey. It appears that this journey was done through the aid of various concoctions, which has an ancient root in the Indo-Iranian priestly world. These drinks include the *mang ī wištāsp* which Kerdir may have taken as well. This tradition has also survived in the Islamic tradition, especially in the Indo-Iranian world in such drinks as *duy ī wahdat* which certain groups of Muslim Sufis drink to give them visions.

This is followed by the transliteration, transcription, and Persian translation of the Naqsh-e Rajab inscription. The importance of this inscription is that Kerdir previews his religious accomplishments in this world and the netherworld. By traveling to the netherworld, he is following the tradition of Zoroaster which demonstrate the former's righteousness. Consequently, Kerdir is able to force his ideas upon all others, including the *ag-dēn*, those who are of non-Zoroastrian religions and also the *ahlāmoy*, the heretics.

On the Pahlavi Translation of a Quranic Statement

H. Reza'i Baghbidi

The subject of the article is a short Pahlavi inscription on a unique Arabo-Sassanian copper weight of the second half of the first century A.H. kept in the National Library of Paris. The inscription written in cursive Pahlavi is in fact a rendering of the famous Quranic statement *اعدلوا هو اقرب للتقوى*, i.e. Be equitable: that is nearer to piety.

After quoting the imperfect reading of R. Curiel and Ph. Gignoux, and rejecting the proposed reading of A. Hassuri, the author proposes the following reading and translation:

abar ahlā nazdīktar ōy warišn ī az dād.

"The deed (arising) from justice is nearer to the righteous man".

Kerdiz's Nadsh-e Rajab Inscription

The Development of Initial Consonant Clusters in Persian

A. A. Sadeghi

This is the first ever Persian translation and analysis of Kerdiz's inscription at Nadsh-e Rajab. The essay begins in discussing the genre of Specialists of ancient and middle Iranian languages unanimously agree that initial consonant clusters are quite normal in these languages. On the contrary, in New Persian these clusters have been split either by an anaptyctic or by a prothetic vowel. It is argued in the article that this development had already begun in the ancient period and continued this way until the Islamic times. Besides anaptyctixis and prothesis, examples of a third development, i.e. the deletion of the first consonant is also mentioned.

The Shāhnāma in "The New Comparative Literature" Studies

A. Khatibi

This article focuses on the latest studies on the *Shāhnāma*, specifically that of Olga Davidson's *Comparative Literature and Classical Persian Poetics*. The essay

reviews the discourse that has taken place between Davidson and her critics in the past several years. The article also previews in detail Davidson's evidence for the oral tradition/sources of the *Shāhnāma*. Based on new evidence supplied in this article, it is demonstrated that the idea that Ferdowsī used oral sources is basically unsound, which weakens Davidson's argumentation and her views on the oral tradition of the Persian epic in her books.

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