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# A Hypothesis of the True Origin of Achaemenids Based on Archaeological Excavations of Bardak-e Siāh Palace, Dashtestan, Doroudgah Village

Dariush kavousi<sup>1</sup> 

## Abstract

Bardak-e Siāh is one of the important archaeological sites in Bushehr province. Recently, archaeological researches about the Achaemenid site of Bardak-e Siāh in Bushehr, under the supervision of Ismail Yaghmai, have been published. This article reviews the book entitled *A Hypothesis of the True Origin of Achaemenids Based on Archaeological Excavations of Bardak-e Siāh Palace, Dashtestan, Doroudgah Village*.

**Keywords:** Achaemenid; Bardak-e Siāh Palace; Dashtestan.



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## Introduction

Esmail Yaghmai has done many excavations in Bushehr, such as the excavation of the Sang-i Siāh (2019) and Bardak-e Siāh (2018). 40 years after a survey of the Achaemenid site of “Bardak-e Siāh” in Bushehr headed by Esmail Yaghmai, a book on results of the assessments of this important historical site in Iran was published.

The first chapter of the book that deals with archeological explorations in Bardak-e Siāh site/Doroudgah-Dashtestan village started in the early months of winter 1977 and was completed in the spring of 1978. The second chapter on the exploration which began in the winter of 2004 was finished in the summer of 2005. The achievement of two chapters on exploration in Doroudgah-Dashtestan village was the discovery of the Achaemenid palace of Bardak-e Siāh which includes one columned hall and its passages.

There are remnants of three Achaemenid palaces called Charkhab Palace, Sang-e Siāh (Black Stone) Palace, and Bardak-e Siāh Palace in Borāzjān. Bardak-e Siāh Palace was built after Charkhab Palace and had no specific subtleties and combinations of black and white colors seen in the Borāzjān and Pasargadae Palaces. Two kinds of black and bright stones have been used in the construction of Bardak-e Siāh Palace the materials and colors of stones used in its construction are unique. Its central hall looks like the hall of Apadana having 36 columns and is one of the important historical buildings in Bushehr Province and Borāzjān County and is located among palm forests of Doroudgah village at the intersection of Shapur River and Dālaki River.

The information and findings of archeological exploration of this site have been published in the book “Bardak-e Siāh” and opened a new window toward the history of Achaemenids. This book includes the following chapters with colored and black and white images: “A Perspective of Dashtestan,” “Excavation,” “Terracotta,” “Chronology and First Assessments,” “Examining Site of the Shabankareh County,” and “Identifying and Testing Microscopy and Macroscopy of Ancient Mine of Puzeh Palangi.”

In the first chapter, the author examines the geographical location and then the historical geography of Dashtestan. In the next step, the background of archeological studies done in this area is reviewed. In this background, Ali Akbar Sarfaraz (1971) conducted an archeological exploration of the Charkhab site in Borāzjān and attributed the Achaemenid palace of Charkhab to 529 BC.

The second chapter of this book entitled Excavation begins with Yaghmai reviews of the details of the first season of archaeological excavation in the Bardak-e Siāh site, and describes the discovered pedestals, and then presents some precious images and designs of the columned hall. He then describes the second chapter of exploration. Four heavy pieces of gold with a total weight of 3kg and 150g were discovered in one of the last exploration phases in this Achaemenid Palace. The accurate use of these three pieces of gold is not obvious but some believe that they might be golden covers for wooden doors or the hall or the foundation stone of the palace. Among these pieces of gold, there is the one that can be the upper part of a golden cup of Achaemenid under its edge, a simple line is carved. The Achaemenid golden pieces of Bardak-e

Siāh palace are folded and discovered next to one of the pedestals of the central hall. It seems that these four pieces of gold were intentionally buried beneath one of the pedestals.

The most important findings in the second chapter includes the discovery of an inscription that Yaghmaei believes is an inscription from Darius the Great that is damaged. Moreover, it is an inscription in cuneiform and Neo-Babylonian language.

The title of the third chapter is “Terracotta” in which, earthenware obtained from two exploration phases is investigated. The fourth chapter includes a chronology of this site and the author assumes Dashtestan, Sar Mashhad Plain, and Bozpar Plain as the first lands where Persians settled and developed. Hence, the root of the Achaemenid Empire must be searched in these places. The notes of the fourth section are described at the end of this chapter. These notes that include tables, figures, and designs are useful but are too long and some of these notes do not have anything in connection with the book, and it would be better for the author to delete them.

The fifth chapter studies the site of the ancient village of Shabankareh County. This chapter has no relationship with the title, subject, and topics of previous chapters. It was better that the author could avoid putting these irrelevant topics in this book.

In the sixth chapter, the stones of Achaemenid’s Charkhab Palace are examined through microscopy and macroscopy. These experiments indicate that probably the ancient mine of Puzeh Palangi in Rahdar was used to provide stone for columns in Bardak-e Siāh. Also, the ancient mine of Tang-e Gir located in the east of Borāzjān was used to supply stones for Charkhab and Bardak-e Siāh palaces and other Achaemenid structures.

## Conclusion

The northern shores of the Persian Gulf are among the areas less considered in archaeological survey and excavation. Hence, limited information is available for ancient



**A Hypothesis of the True Origin of Achaemenids Based on Archaeological Excavations of Bardak-e Siāh Palace, Dashtestan, Doroudgah Village, Esmail Yaghmaei, Tehran, Ritch, 2018, 352 Pp, ISBN: 978-600-8412-52-6**

sites in this area. Several ancient sites from the Achaemenid era were discovered that indicated the importance of this area at that time; hence, more archeological studies needed in this area. Bardak-e Siāh is one of the Achaemenid sites that Esmaeil Yaghmaei has studied in this book. Although some topics of this book are not related to the title and topic of the book, nevertheless it provides good information about archeological excavations at the Bardak-e Siāh Palace.

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