

Not Every Desert Is Empty

By Sa'idi

I have heard that a royal prince of short stature and mean presence, whose brothers were tall and good-looking, once saw his father glancing at him with aversion and contempt but he had the shrewdness to guess the meaning and said: "O father, a puny intelligent fellow is better than a tall ignorant man, neither is everything bigger in stature higher in price. A sheep is nice to eat and an elephant is carrion."

*The smallest mountain on earth is Jur; nevertheless, It is great with Allah in dignity and station. Hast thou not heard that a lean scholar One day said to a fat fool:*

*"Although an Arab horse may be weak, It is more worth than a stable full of asses."*

The father laughed at this sally, the pillars of the state approved of it, but the brothers felt much aggrieved.

*While a man says not a word*

*His fault and virtue are concealed.*

*Think not that every desert is empty.*

*Possibly it may contain a sleeping tiger.*

I heard that on the said occasion, the king was menaced by a powerful enemy and that when the two armies were about to encounter each other, the first who entered the battlefield was the little fellow who said:

*"I am not one whose back thou wilt see on the day of battle*

*But he whom thou shalt behold in dust and blood.*

*Who himself fights, stakes his own life*

*In battle but he who flees, the blood of his army."*

After uttering these words, he rushed toward the enemy troops, slew several warriors and, returning to his father, made humble obeisance and said:

*"O thou, to whom my person appeared contemptible,*

*Did not believe in the impetuosity of my valor.*

*A horse with slender girth is of use*

*On the day of battle, not a fattened ox."*

It is related that the troops of the enemy were numerous, and that the king's, being few, were about to flee, but that the puny youth raised a shout, saying: "O men, take care not to put on the garments of women."

These words inflamed the rage of the troopers so that they made a unanimous attack and I heard that they gained the victory on the said occasion. The king kissed the head and eyes of his son, took him in his arms and showed his affection till he appointed him to succeed him on the throne. His brothers became envious and placed poison in his food but were perceived by his sister from her house, whereupon she closed the window violently and the short youth, shrewdly guessing the significance of the act, restrained his hands from touching the food, and said: "It is impossible that men of honor should die, and those who possess none should take their place."

*No one goes under the shadow of an owl*

*Even if Homa (bird of paradise) should disappear from the world.*

This state of affairs having been brought to the notice of the father, he severely reproved the brothers and assigned to each of them a different, but pleasant, district as a place of exile till the confusion was quelled and the quarrel appeased. It has been said that ten dervishes may sleep under the same blanket but one country cannot hold two kings

*When a pious man eats half a loaf of bread*

*He bestows the other half upon dervishes.*

*If a king were to conquer the seven climates*

*He would still covet another.*



# Achaemenid Archeology

## Patterns of Discovery



While outside Iran, the Bible, Histories of Herodotus and a host of other early sources served to preserve a knowledge of the conquests of Cyrus the Great and Darius the Great, in Iran itself all accurate memory of Achaemenid achievement was lost for many centuries.

From 1474 onward, early travelers to Iran reported (and on occasion took leave to doubt) the popular belief that the still-intact fabric of Cyrus's tomb represented the "tomb of the mother of Solomon".

There matters largely stood until 1802, when G. F. Grotefend, working from the first accurate copies of the cuneiform inscriptions at Persepolis, was able to identify them as records left by the Achaemenid kings Cais-soas, com reported.

Similarly, as late as 1818, R. Ker Porter found the relief of Cyrus the Great at Bisotoun to depict a "king of Assyria and the Medes" before captive "representatives of the Ten Tribes".

**> Earliest Translation**

H. C. Rawlinson was the first to reach the relief and to begin to copy its adjacent trilingual inscriptions something only accomplished with the aid of ropes in 1835.

But from this moment onward, progress was rapid: Barely ten years were to pass before Rawlinson had completed his translation of most of the Old Persian version of Darius the Great's inscription.

The earliest photographic record of the major sites in Persia is owed to F. Stolze and F. C. Andreas, whose journeys in the region began in 1874.

**> First Major Excavation**

Ten years later, M. Dieulafoy, the first in a long line

of French excavators, initiated the first major excavations at Susa. In three successive seasons, he explored the Achaemenid city wall and uncovered much of the Apadana. This last work was also rewarded by the discovery of the famous glazed-brick frieze of the "royal archers" of Cyrus the Great.

The last 19th-century traveler of interest was Lord Curzon, whose still-standard work, Persia and the Persian Question, includes a meticulous description of the early sites he visited.

The arguments he marshaled to support the now-accepted identity of both the site of Pasargad and its principal monument, the tomb of Cyrus the Great, still command respect, as do his summaries of prior scholarship.

E. Herzfeld made his first visit to Pasargad in 1905 and published his dissertation on the site three years later.

**> Subsequent Excavations**

In his subsequent excavations at Cyrus the Great capital, Herzfeld opened trenches at three of the main structures: Gate R, Palace S, and Palace P. In so doing, he provided a new starting point for the study of monumental construction in the Achaemenid period.

In 1931, Herzfeld was called upon to direct the Oriental Institute of Chicago's excavations at Persepolis. Over the next four years, these brought to light the reliefs on the north side of the Apadana, the gold and silver foundation plaques from the same great audience hall, and

the great body of Elamite cuneiform tablets now known as the Persepolis fortification texts.

E. Schmidt, Herzfeld's successor at Persepolis from 1935 to 1939, conducted painstaking excavations in the Treasury and revealed the impressive audience reliefs that had formerly formed part of the relief facade of the Apadana, a further collection of clay tablets (the great bulk of which were again written in Elamite), and a wealth of other objects, including bronzes, glassware, and stone tableware.

Schmidt also unearthed the floor plan of the severely burnt throne hall, exposed the entire height of the tower-like Ka'ba-ye Zardosht at Naqsh-e Rostam, and secured, through his pioneering use of aerial photography, a memorable record of the monuments of the Persepolis region as seen from the air.

When the French Archeological Mission began its work under J. de Morgan in 1897, new attention was at once given to Susa's earlier levels. A major find proved, nevertheless, to be that of a rich Achaemenid coffin burial containing jewelry of great quality.

More recently, the German Archeological Institute, founded in 1960, was occupied for several years with the study and documentation of Darius the Great's relief at Bisotoun, not to mention the excavation of a small Achaemenid settlement at Takht-e Soleyman.

The British Institute of Persian Studies, founded one year later, also turned to a major site, Pasargad.

Iranian Recipe

Kookoo Sibzamini (Potato Souffle)



- Serves 4
- > Ingredients**
- Potatoes, 1 kg
- Eggs, 4
- Turmeric powder, 1 teaspoon
- Baking powder, 1 teaspoon
- Cooking oil
- Salt and black pepper as per taste

**> Method**

Cook potatoes, then peel and grate them. Let cool completely. Beat eggs well until they become foamy. Add salt, turmeric powder, black pepper, baking powder and potatoes, and mix well.

Heat oil in a non-stick pan until it is hot. Pour the mix on the pan, flatten it with the back of a spoon and place the lid on. Reduce heat and fry for about 10 minutes, until kookoo is cooked. Cut radially into 4 equal pieces, turn over, and fry for another 10 minutes. It can also be shaped on the palm of the hand and fried as separate pieces.

Kookoo Sibzamini is usually served at dinnertime with bread and tomato ketchup.

**> Benefits of Potato and Turmeric**

Boiled potato, as a rich source of carbohydrate, can help you lose weight. Potatoes also contain a variety of phytonutrients that have antioxidant activity.

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A baked potato is an exceptionally healthful low calorie, high fiber food that offers significant protection against cardiovascular disease and cancer. Long known for its anti-inflammatory properties, recent research has revealed that turmeric is a natural wonder, proving beneficial in the treatment of many different health conditions from cancer to Alzheimer's disease.

## 75 Artisans Participate In Foreign Fairs

Iranica Desk

Iranian artisans have taken part in 18 fairs and cultural weeks held overseas in the past two years, said caretaker of Handicrafts Department of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization.

Esfandiar Heidaripour also told CHTN that the department has sent 75 artisans from various handicraft fields to these exhibitions in cooperation with the respective organizations, offices and bodies.

He explained that the above-mentioned fairs were held in Italy, Germany, China, Japan, Turkey, Greece, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Iraq, Tajikistan, India, Brazil, Algeria, Austria and Belarus.

The official said the goal of taking part in overseas fairs is to prepare the ground for marketing and selling products, making collaboration and finding preferences of customers.

Heidaripour pointed out that Handicrafts Department has borne a huge portion of the cost for the participation of artists in these exhibitions, including hiring the area, launching the pavilion, transportation of products, clearance of goods from customs departments and hosting artisans.

Stating that the best products are offered at these exhibitions, he said these products include paintings, traditional ornaments, leather products, inlaid works, engraving on silverware and enamelwork.

The official pointed out that artisans from Isfahan, East Azarbaijan, Tehran,

Ardebil, Khorasan Razavi, Qazvin, Fars, Hamedan, Golestan, Gilan, Lorestan and Yazd have participated in overseas fairs.

The exhibitions revolved around specialized issues concerning handicrafts and Islamic arts, commemoration of Iranian Youth Culture and Friendship Week, Irani-



an potentials, Seminar on Dialogue Among Civilizations, relation between handicrafts and souvenirs, Mosque Cultural-Artistic Festival, and the 35th anniversary of the establishment of OPEC fund.

Heidaripour noted that an Isfahani artisan, involved in filigree work and hand-painted textiles, attended a tourism exhibition held in China during Oct. 27-30.

"Italy will be holding the Gifts and Handicrafts Fair in cooperation with Azadi International Tourism Organization during Dec. 3-10," he said, adding that about 11 craftsmen and a representative of Handicrafts Department will take part in the event.

Sudoku

No. 11

Sudoku was inspired by the table devised by Iranian mathematician Al-Kharazmi. Fill 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 sub-grids that compose the grid, contains all of the digits from 1 to 9.

							3	8
	5	1	6					
2				5		7		
3			9			2		
	4		5		3		1	
		8			4			3
		4		9				5
					1	3	8	
9	8							

7	2	1	5	9	8	6	3	4
6	8	5	1	7	2	9	5	3
5	2	9	7	6	8	4	1	3
8	5	6	4	1	8	7	9	2
9	1	8	3	2	5	6	4	7
2	7	2	9	8	6	5	1	3
1	9	2	8	5	7	3	6	4
7	6	4	2	9	1	5	8	3
8	3	5	6	1	2	9	7	4