



## ĀBĀNDOQT

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**ĀBĀNDOQT**, character in the prose romance *Dārābnāma* of Abū Ṭāher Moḥammad b. Ḥasan b. ‘Alī b. Mūsā al-Ṭarsūsī (q.v.), a storyteller of the Ghaznavid period. A lengthy tale, which includes a version of the Iranian Alexander romance, the *Dārābnāma* probably took its present written form in the 6th/12th century. It purports to recount the adventures of Dārāb and his son, likewise named Dārāb, the latter representing Darius III. Ābāndoqt is the wife of the younger Dārāb and the mother of Būrāndoqt.

Although Ābāndoqt’s role in this romance is small, she is one of three related female characters who together suggest a memory or survival of an Anāhitā cult. The first is Nāhīd (OIr. Anāhitā), daughter of Philip of Macedon, wife of Dārāb the elder, and mother of Alexander. The second is Ābāndoqt herself, whose name means “Daughter of the Waters;” and the third is her daughter, Būrāndoqt. Throughout the romance Būrāndoqt is associated with water and shows a number of iconographic characteristics of the ancient Iranian goddess Anāhitā.

Ṭarsūsī introduces Ābāndoqt into the story awkwardly by merely mentioning her name but not identifying her (I, p.493). Earlier Dārāb had captured Alexander and imprisoned him at Eṣṭaqr. At that time Ābāndoqt fell in love with Alexander and helped him to escape, thus setting in motion the series of events that led to her husband’s death. As Dārāb, murdered by his own soldiers, lies dying in the presence of Alexander, he asks Alexander to marry his daughter Būrāndoqt. After Dārāb’s death, Būrāndoqt refuses to marry Alexander and takes up the sword against him. She also swears vengeance on



her mother, Ābāndoqt, because of her traitorous relationship with Alexander (I, p. 521). After a battle with Alexander at Aleppo, Būrāndoqt flees to Eṣṭakr, where she deposes Ābāndoqt and takes the throne herself (I, p. 527). When Alexander arrives in pursuit, Būrāndoqt mutilates Ābāndoqt, displays her to her paramour (I, p. 529), and later kills her (I, p. 530). There is no further mention of Ābāndoqt in the *Dārābnāma*, and she appears in no other version of the Iranian Alexander romance.

See also [ANĀHĪD](#), [BŪRĀN](#).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Abū Ṭāher Moḥammad Ṭarsūsī, *Dārābnāma*, ed. Z. Şafā, 2 vols., Tehran, 1344-46 Š./1965-68.