



ANUŠAWAN

ANUŠAWAN, grandson of [Ara](#), legendary king of Armenia, called *sawsanuēr* “devoted to the plane tree” (Arm. *saws-i*; for a derivation from Iranian, see H. W. Bailey, *Dictionary of Khotan Saka*, Cambridge, 1979, p. 428, s.v. *sūṣṭa*) because of his divination from the sougning of the leaves of the tree in a sacred grove at the Armenian Royal capital of Armavir (Movsēs Xorenac’i, *Patmuṭ’iwn Hayoc’*, tr. R. W. Thomson, *History of the Armenians*, Cambridge, Mass., 1978, I.20). The name contains the Middle Iranian loanword *anoyš* “immortal” (H. Hübschmann, *Armen. Grammatik*, pp. 19, 99-100); the ending of the name may be the Iranian possessive suffix *-van*. Since Ara was believed to have been resurrected from the dead, the name of his grandson may be related to the myth. Adontz suggested that the name is a corruption of Anušarvan “of immortal soul,” with Iranian *urvan* “soul” (N. Adonc’, *Hayastani patmuṭ’yun*, Erevan, 1972, p. 375 and n. 1). Divination by trees seems to have been practiced by the Urartians, and the *saws* was planted in Armenian churchyards until the 10th-13th centuries. At about the same time Mxiṭ’ar Goš composed a fable against the tree, perhaps because the Church wished to discredit the pre-Christian beliefs that still surrounded it.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Given in the text.

(J. R. Russell)