



ARJĀSP

ARJĀSP (Av. Arəjaṣ.aspa), a chief of the Iranian tribe of the Xyōns (Av. Hyaona-), and an enemy of Kay Goštāsp (Kavi Vištāspa), patron of Zoroaster (*Yašt* 9.30, 5.109). In the later tradition he is represented as a king of Tūrān and the son of Šavāsp, brother of Afrāsīāb (Ṭabarī, II, pp. 617, 677), or according to *Moʿjmal* (p. 51) as Afrāsīāb's grandson, or according to Baḷ'amī (*Tārīk*, p. 657) as his brother. War between the Iranians and Turanians broke out when Goštāsp accepted the religion of Zoroaster, while Arjāsp retained the ancient faith. Some of Goštāsp's family were killed but finally Esfandiār, Goštāsp's son, repelled the enemy. In the Mid. Pers. text *Ayādgār ī Zarērān* (66, 67, 112, 113) Arjāsp is captured, mutilated, and then released; in the *Šāh-nāma* he manages to flee ([Moscow] VI, pp. 93, 117). The defeat of Arjāsp is said to have taken place in the mountain Mad-Frayād between Padešxwārgar and Kumiš (i.e., Qūmeš; *Bundahišn*, p. 80).

Some years later, when Goštāsp was in Sīstān and had imprisoned Esfandiār on suspicion, a second war broke out. Arjāsp besieged Balk, killed Lohrāsp, Goštāsp's father, and captured Homāy and Behāfrīd, his daughters. Through the mediation of Jāmāsp, Goštāsp's minister and counselor, Esfandiār was released. He immediately set out to battle against the Turanians. Arjāsp, put to flight, took refuge at his dwelling place Rōyēn Diž "the Brazen Castle," later identified as Paykand near Bokhara (J. Markwart, *Wehrot und Arang*, Leiden, 1938, pp. 160ff.). Esfandiār penetrated the castle by a stratagem, killed Arjāsp and his brothers, Gohram and Andarīmān, and set free his own sisters.

In most Arabic and Persian sources the name is recorded as Arjāsp. Ṭabarī,



Baḷ'amī, and the, *Fārs-nāma* of Ebn al-Balk (p.51) call him Ƙarzāsp, while Ebn Ƙordādbeh (apud Ṭa'ālebī, *Ġorar*, p. 263) refers to him as Hazārasf (corrupt form of *Harzāsf). The two latter forms are misreadings of the Pahlavi word.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also Justi, *Namenbuch*, pp. 21-22.

Ayādgār ī Zarērān in Pahlavi Texts I, pp. 1-17.

Dēnkard, p. 640.16ff.

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