



ARTAZOSTRE

ARTAZOSTRE, a daughter of Darius the Great. Herodotus (6.43) relates she had just married Mardonios, son of Gobryas (one of the seven conspirators against Gaumāta), when he took command of the military campaign to recover the Persian province of Thrace and Macedonia (492 B.C.). The name is analyzed by Benveniste as an Iranian compound **arta-zauštri* “who is in favor of Aša.” The first term is *arta-* “cosmic order,” and the second is *zauštri-*, feminine form of an agent noun (in *-tar-*) of the root *zuš* “to take delight in.” This Achaemenid dynastic name is thus related to a religious context, either the Old Indo-Iranian or Zoroastrian. It must also be noted that the initial of the second term is not regular in Old Persian where we would expect initial **d-*.

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(J. Kellens)