



## ASFĀD JOŠNAS

---

**ASFĀD JOŠNAS** (Arabicized form of Middle Persian \*Aspād-gušnasp), a native of Ardašīr-koṛra (Gūr, Fīrūzābād) who commanded the supporters of Šērōya (Šērōē; r. ca. 628 A.D.), whom he helped remove his father Ƙosrow II Parvēz from the throne (Ṭabarī, I, p.1046; Nöldeke, *Geschichte der Perser*, pp. 362ff.). After the imprisonment of the deposed king in the house of a certain Mehr Sepand (Nöldeke: Māraspand), Asfād Jošnas was commanded by Šērōya to go to the king and set forth the accusations against him; but Ƙosrow rejected them all, one by one. He is probably identical with the commander who, according to Theophanes, was a foster brother of Šērōya and who led the peace negotiations with the emperor Heraclius (Christensen, *Iran Sass.*, p. 493).

The name and title of Asfād Jošnas is variously recorded: Ṭabarī has Asfād Jošnas, *ra'īs al-kaṭība* (the head of an army division); in Ebn al-Aṭīr (repr., I, pp. 494, 497) the name is given as Astād Ƙošnaš; Dīnavarī (p. 112) has Yazdān Jošnas, *ra'īs kottāb al-rasā'el* (chief of secretaries); Baḷ'amī (*Tārīk*, p. 1160) has Asfād Jošnas (unpointed Ḥosnas), one of the *mehtarān-e dabīrān* (chief secretaries); and Ṭa'ālebī (*Gōrar*, p. 719) has Asfād Gošnasb. In the Greek sources he is called Gousdanaspa (or Gourdanaspa), Goundabounas, and similar (Justi, *Namenbuch*, pp. 45, 120). His title is given variously as leader (*exarchos*) or chiliarch of the Persian army (Nöldeke, op. cit., p. 363 n.), which agrees with that given by Ṭabarī. The etymology of Asfād/Aspād is not known. It is not likely to be from Parthian *aspād* "army" (Pers. *s(e)pāh*). Cf. perhaps Elamite ha-ši-ba-da (M. Mayrhofer, *Onomastica Persepolitana*, Vienna, 1973, p. 157; W. Hinz, *Altiranisches Sprachgut der Nebenüberlieferungen*, Wiesbaden,



1975, p. 118)?

*Search terms:*

□□□□ □□□□	asfad joshan
-----------	--------------