



ĀZARMĪGDUXT

ĀZARMĪGDUXT (Pers. Āzarmīdoxt, Arzmīdoxt, Arzmīndokt, Āzarūmīddokt), Sasanian queen who according to Ṭabarī ruled for a few months in 630. She was the sister of Queen Pūrān (r. 630 or 631), daughter of King Ḳosrow II Parvēz. Her name, meaning “daughter of the respected one,” refers to her father (see Nöldeke, *Geschichte*, p. 393 n. 2). We know little about this figure, who belongs to the troubled period at the end of the Sasanian monarchy, but her existence is confirmed by the evidence of coins.

M. I. Moshiri discovered and published a coin of this queen (*Études* I, pp. 11-16); it was struck in the year 1 at a mint called WYHC, which has been thought to be Veh-az-Amīd-Kavād (= Arrajān). The piece bears the effigy of a man. Moshiri explains this anomaly by suggesting that it is the figure of Farroḳ-Hormozd, who supposedly wished to seize power, and who actually obtained it under the name Hormozd VI (cf. *Études* II, pp. 209-12). He was able to reign simultaneously with the queen for a little more than a year. There are no coins of Hormozd VI struck in the year 1, only examples dated in the years 2 and 3. Two other coins of the queen are in the Bibliothèque Nationale (Paris), and the late M. Foroughi also possessed one. Only the mint WYHC is attested.

The Islamic sources give the length of her reign variously as six months (Ṭabarī, I, p. 1065; Ya‘qūbī, I, p. 198; Bīrūnī, *Chronology*, p. 123; Ḥamza, p. 28; Ebn Meskawayh, *Tajāreb* I, p. 270), four months (Maqdesī, *Bad’* III, p. 173; Kasrawī, apud Ḥamza, p. 22 [cf. p. 28]), and sixteen months (Mas‘ūdī, *Morūj* [ed. Pellat] I, p. 322; Ḥamza, p. 16; *Mojmal*, p. 83).



Ṭabarī (I, pp. 1064-65) relates that Farroḳ-Hormozd, the military commander of Khorasan, asked for her in marriage. Not daring to refuse, the queen invited him to her private quarters, where she had him killed. To avenge him, his son Rostam apparently captured the capital Ctesiphon, then dethroned the queen and had her blinded and killed.

The Islamic sources describe the queen as a clever and very attractive woman. The *Ketāb ṣowar molūk Banī Sāsān* (The Sasanian picture book) depicted her as seated, wearing a red embroidered gown and sky-blue studded (*mowaššah*) trousers, grasping a battle-axe in her right hand and leaning on a sword held in her left hand (Ḥamza, p. 62). She is also credited with the foundation of a fire temple in Abḳāz and a castle at Asadābād (*Mojmal*, p. 83). Her title was “the Just.” The *Šāh-nāma*, which calls her Āzarmdoḳt and reports her reign briefly, relates her throne speech saying that her power was broken in the fifth month of her reign; it is not specific about the manner of her death (ed. Mohl, VII, p. 422). The Christian sources mentioned below also record her reign, distorting her name in various ways.

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