



BĀGAYĀDIŠ

BĀGAYĀDIŠ (*b-a-g-y-a-di-i-š*, attested only in gen. *ʾyādaiš/ʾy-a-d i-š*), name of the seventh month (September-October) of the Old Persian calendar, mentioned in Darius I's Behistun inscription 1.55 (see Kent, *Old Persian*, p. 161a). It is equivalent to Akkadian Tašrītu and Elamite Manšarki (several attestations only in the Persepolis tablets; see R. T. Hallock, *Persepolis Fortification Tablets*, Chicago, 1969, pp. 74, 724a). In the Persepolis tablets the Old Persian name is often rendered as Elamite Bakeyatiš (with numerous variants; see *ibid.*, p. 673b), which indicates an Old Persian byform *Bāgayādyā- (see W. Hinz, *Neue Wege im Altpersischen*, Wiesbaden, 1973, pp. 67f.). The etymological interpretation of the name Bāgayādiš is disputed: The form is best understood as "(month of) worship of the god" (perhaps Mithra), since *bāga-yādi-* "pertaining to **baga-yāda-* "worship of the god(s)" represents a common Indo-Iranian compound type (see J. Wackernagel and A. Debrunner, *Altindische Grammatik* II/2, Göttingen, 1954, p. 303, par. 190a). The interpretation of the name as "fertilizing the farmland" or "irrigation of the gardens" (thus W. B. Henning, *JRAS*, 1944, p. 134 = *Selected Papers* II, Acta Iranica 15, Tehran and Liège, 1977, p. 140), based only upon NPers. *bāg* "garden," seems less probable.

See also [baga](#).



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Given in the text. See also W. Brandenstein and M. Mayrhofer, *Handbuch des Altpersischen*, Wiesbaden, 1964, p. 110, s.v.

W. Eilers, *Der alte Name des persischen Neujahrsfestes*, Mainz and Wiesbaden, 1953, passim.

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