



## BALĀŠ IX. DYNASTS OF HATRA

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1. Walgaš (2nd cent.), son of Našrū, at first “lord” (*mr'*), then “king (*mlk'*) of ‘Arab(s) (of Hatra)” (inscriptions 140, 193, 286; A. Caquot, *Syria* 41, 1964, pp. 259-68; B. Aggoula, *Syria* 52, 1975, pp. 184-85 and 63, 1986, pp. 356, 363, nos. 348, 366). This is probably a dynast of Hatra and its dependent territory under Parthian suzerainty. The new evidence of Hatra inscription no. 348 proves that the Walgaš in question is son of Našrū: *šlm' dy Wlgš br Nšrw mry'* “statue of Walgaš the lord, son of Našrū” (Aggoula, 1986, p. 356). Thus Walgaš must have been the brother of Sanaṭrūq I. Našrū ruled in 137/8 and Sanaṭrūq I in 161/2, so Walgaš must have ruled between these two dates (Aggoula, *Mélanges de l'Université St. Joseph* 17, 1972, pp. 54, 60-61; 1986, p. 363) and was thus a contemporary of the Arsacid King Valagaš/Balāš IV (III). The new evidence disproves earlier attempts to place this Walgaš about 150 or 200, i.e., between Worōd and Našrū (J. T. Milik, *Recherches d'épigraphie proche-orientale*, 1972, p. 364) or before 138 (H. J. W. Drijvers, in *ANRW* 11/8, pp. 824-25).

2. A prince or king of Hatra, represented dressed in Parthian fashion on a great lintel discovered near the remains of a sanctuary at Hatra, with the inscription *nšr blgš* “victory of Walgaš” (Caquot, *Syria*, 1953, p. 238 no. 33). The identification of this Walgaš with the Arsacid Balāš I suggested by F. Safar (Caquot, p. 239) is based on too scanty evidence.

3. Walgaš son of Walgaš, known from inscription no. 366, engraved on a column commemorating the erection of a statue: *šlm' dy Wlgš br Wlgš* “statue of Walgaš, son of Walgaš” (Aggoula, 1986, p. 363). It is not certain that this is the son of King Walgaš above.