



DARĪGBED

DARĪGBED (Mid. Pers. **dlykpt'*, *darīgbed* [cf. Arm. *darik'pet*; see Chaumont, p. 157], variant *dlyk'n srd'r*, *darigān sālār* [Arm. *dranikan-salar*; Chaumont, p. 157] attested in the inscription of Šāpūr I on the Ka'ba of Zoroaster at Naqš-e Rostam, Mid. Pers. l. 33, Parth. l. 27: *drykn s'rr*, Gk. l. 65: *toû epì tôn driganôn*, rather than *drigaiôn*), title of a low-ranking official at the Sasanian court. Although it is rarely attested in Middle Persian, its occurrence as the title of Abursām-Šāpūr, the last name in the list of dignitaries at Šāpūr's court in the inscription at Naqš-e Rostam, is clear evidence that its holder did not have an exalted rank. His actual function is unclear. He was head neither of the courtiers (Sprengling, p. 19) nor of the court servants (Back, p. 363; Hinz, p. 64; Gignoux, p. 22), for those offices were filled by the *paristagbed* Wardbed, whose name appears earlier in the same list (Mid. Pers. l. 33: *plstkpt*; Parth. l. 27: *prstkpt*; Gk. l. 64: *toû epì tês hypēresías*). In the 7th-century Byzantine history of Theophylact Simocatta (3.18.12) the title is given as *darigbedoûm* (Lagarde, p. 188) and is said to have been the equivalent of the Roman (Byzantine) *kouropalâtēs*, originally a kind of palace superintendent but by the 6th century simply a commander of the palace guard. In Šāpūr's inscription the *darigān sālār* is named well below the [chiliarch](#) and probably was a palace superintendent.



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