



DARIUS I. THE NAME

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i. The Name

Dārīus (or Dārēus) is the common Latin form of Greek Dareĩos, itself a shortened rendering of Old Persian five-syllable Dārayavauš (spelled *d-a-r-y-v-u-š*), the throne name of Darius the Great and two other kings of the Achaemenid dynasty (see iii-v, below), which thus enjoyed considerable popularity among noblemen in later periods (see vi-viii, below). The original Old Persian form was also reflected in Elamite Da-ri-(y)a-ma-u-iš (cf. Hinz and Koch, pp. 289, 291), Babylonian Da-(a-)ri-ia-(a-)muš and so on, Aramaic dryhwš and archaizingdrywhwš, and perhaps the longer Greek form Dareiaĩos (attested only in Ctesias, Jacoby, *Fragmente* IIIC, pp. 462, 464 frags. 13-14 pars. 24, 33-34; and Xenophon, *Hellenica* 2.1.8-9). On the other hand, the shorter forms Elamite Da-ri-ya-(h)u-(ú-)iš (cf. Hinz and Koch, pp. 290-91), Babylonian Da-(a-)ri-muš and so on, Aramaic drwš, drywš (cf. Schmitt, 1987, pp. 150-51), Egyptian tr(w)š, trjwš, intr(w)š, intrjwš (cf. Posener, pp. 161-63), Lycian Ńtarijeus-, Greek Dareĩos (the standard form from Aeschylus onward), and Latin Dārīus, Dārēus are renderings of a haplologically shortened allegro form Old Persian *Dārayauš (replacing normal Dārayavauš), for which further indirect evidence may be found (Schmitt, 1990, pp. 197-98) in *Dariaus, the basis of the toponym Dariāsa (Ptolemy, *Geography* 6.2.12). The proposal by Chlodwig Werba (p. 148) that Greek Dareĩos reflects a two-stem hypocoristic form *Dāraya-v-a- does not take into account the other forms mentioned. Old Persian Dāraya-vauš, which is composed of the present stem *dāraya-* “hold”



and the adjective *vau-* “good,” must be translated as “holding firm the good” (cf. analogous expressions in Vedic texts) or the like. All attempts to explain it as shortened from a three-part compound name like **Dārāya-vau-manah-*, **Dārāya-vau-xšaça-*, or **Dārāya-vau-dāta-* (cf. Werba, pp. 149-50) are erroneous, however. The ancient etymologies given by both Greek and Persian “authorities” may be passed over in silence.

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