



DEŽ-E GONBADĀN

DEŽ-E GONBADĀN (Fortress of Gonbadān), a fortress where the Iranian hero *Esfandiār*, son of the Kayānian king Goštāsb, was imprisoned. At the instigation of Gorazm (Ṭabarī, I, p. 677: Qorazm) Goštāsb began to mistrust Esfandiār and finally accused him of laying claim to the throne of Iran; he ordered Esfandiār put in chains and sent to Dež-e Gonbadān, while he himself left Balk for Sīstān. When Arjāsb, king of Tūrān and Goštāsb's adversary, learned of Goštāsb's absence and Esfandiār's captivity he attacked Balk, capturing Goštāsb's two daughters and killing his father, Lohrāsb. Goštāsb returned to Balk, but Arjāsb repelled his attacks. Finally, Goštāsb's vizier, Jāmāsb, released Esfandiār, who defeated Arjāsb and sent him fleeing to Tūrān (*Šāh-nāma*, ed. Moscow, VI, pp. 124-32, 141-52, 157-63; Ṭabarī, I, pp. 678-79; Ta'ālebī, *Ġorar*, pp. 282-98).

Because Ṭabarī (I, p. 680) and Meskawayh (*Tajāreb*, p. 55) both translated the name of this fortress as "Women's fortress" and Ta'ālebī (*Ġorar*, p. 280) recorded it as *kamīdān* (a misspelling of *kamaṇdān*), Reinhold von Stackelberg (pp. 103-04) concluded that Gonbadān is a misspelling of *kanbadān*, an abbreviation of **kanbandān* (< **kanibandān* < *kanī*, Av. *kainī*- "woman" + *band*- "to fasten"). This view was accepted by Josef Markwart (p. 156 n. 3). In geographical sources of the Islamic period Dež-e Gonbadān was identified with Gerdkūh, which is approximately 3 farsangs west of Dāmḡān (*Mojmal*, ed. Bahār, p. 52; *Nozhat al-qolūb*, ed. Le Strange, p. 161; *Tārīk-e gozīda*, ed. Browne, p. 97; Bondārī, I, p. 335). On the other hand, Qewām-al-Dīn Faḥ Bondārī recorded the name of the fortress as Šabdez, according to Dāwūd Monchi-



Zadeh a misrepresentation of **sepaddez* < **spand-dez*, which he equates with Sepadkōh (*Šāh-nāma*, ed. Moscow, IV, pp. 72 v. 1002, 88 v. 1235, etc.) in the region of Kalāt(-e nāderī) or Kabūd Gonbad; he compares the latter with Pahlavi Spandādkōh (*Bundahišn*, TD2, p. 79 ll. 9-10; Monchi-Zadeh, pp. 191-92). This identification requires further evidence, however.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Ebn al-Balkī, p. 51 (with mistaken identification of the fortress as Eṣṭakr). Gardīzī, ed. Ḥabībī, p. 14.

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