



DEŽ-E RŪYĪN

DEŽ-E RŪYĪN (or Rūyīn-dež, Brazen fortress), castle belonging to the Turanian king Arjāsb (see [ARJĀSP](#)) and conquered by [Esfandiār](#), son of the Kayanid king Goštāsb. It has also been called “brazen city” (*al-madīna al-šofrīya*; Ṭa‘ālebī, *Ġorar*, p. 522). In Goštāsb’s absence Arjāsb attacked Balk, killing Lohrāsb, Goštāsb’s father, and taking captive the king’s two daughters, Homāy and Behāfarīd (*Šāh-nāma*, Moscow, VI, pp. 142 vv. 102 ff., 202 vv. 641 ff.; Ṭabarī, I, p. 678: *Ḳomānī* and *Bāḡāfara*), whom he imprisoned in Dež-e Rūyīn. Goštāsb returned to Balk, but it was only when Esfandiār was released from [Dež-e Gonbadān](#) that Arjāsb was defeated and fled to Tūrān (*Šāh-nāma*, Moscow, pp. 141-52, 157-63; Ṭabarī, I, pp. 678-79; Ṭa‘ālebī, *Ġorar*, pp. 282-98). Then Esfandiār set out, accompanied by the captive Turanian Gorgsār, to whom he had promised command of Dež-e Rūyīn, in order to exact vengeance for Lohrāsb’s blood and to free his two sisters. After completing *haft k̄vān* “the seven labours,” Esfandiār arrived at the fortress, to which he gained entrance by disguising himself as a merchant. He killed Arjāsb, freed his two sisters, and set fire to the fortress (*Šāh-nāma*, Moscow, pp. 166-90, 192-204, 212; Ṭabarī, I, pp. 679-80; Ṭa‘ālebī, *Ġorar*, pp. 300-38), which was described as a single, fortified castle reaching to the heavens, in which there were fountains and all kinds of plants and trees, so that the inhabitants had no need for the outside world (*Šāh-nāma*, Moscow, pp. 169 vv. 54-59, 184 vv. 305-11; Ṭa‘ālebī, *Ġorar*, p. 304). This feat of Esfandiār was often alluded to by classical Persian poets (e.g., *Ḳāqānī*, pp. 243, 257, 412, 719, 787; *Qaṭrān*, p. 312).

Because the city of Bukhara was also designated as *madīnat al-šofrīya*



(Ta'ālebī, *Ġorar*, p. 522) and *šārestān-e rūīn* (Naršakī, pp. 26, 30, 61), Josef Markwart concluded that *dež-e rūīn* was an epithet for Paykand, a city 5 farsangs west of Bukhara (1938, pp. 160-61; idem, *Provincial Capitals*, p. 35). According to one account (*Nozhat al-qolūb*, ed. Le Strange, p. 81), **Dež-e Bahman** has also been called the “Brazen castle.”

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