



DŪRĀSRAW

DŪRĀSRAW, according to the Pahlavi tradition the name of two legendary personages in the history of Zoroastrianism. The Pahlavi spelling *dwl'* or *dwlyd-slwb'* is ambiguous (despite Pazand Durāsro) and points to an Avestan original, either *Dūrā- or, more likely, *Dūraēsrauuh-, literally “far-famed” (cf. Av. Dūraēs-rūta-).

1. One of the three sons of Mānuščihr (Av. Manuščiθra-), king of Ērān. In the *Bundahišn* (TD2, pp. 230-37; tr. Anklesaria, chaps. 35.15, 35.37, 35.52, 35A.3-4, pp. 294-303) his brothers are named as *Fraš and Nōdar (Av. *Naotara-). Through his son Rajan and his grandson Ayazim, he was the ancestor of Spitāma and thus in the thirteenth generation of Zoroaster; through his grandson *Frašn of *Frānag (Av. *Frēni-), who married Kay Kawād, he was the begetter of the Kayanian dynasty and of Waxš, ancestor of the family of *mobeds* including Ādurbād ī Māraspandān (see [ĀDURBĀD Ī MAHRSPANDĀN](#)). In Ṭabarī (I, p. 533) the name appears as Dwrsrw b. Manūšihhr but is also corrupted as Xwr'srw (I, p. 681; tr., IV, p. 77), probably via *Jūrāsraw, based on a misreading of the Pahlavi form as *ywl-. In Bīrūnī (*Āṭār*, p. 104) it is reduced to Dwrsr and in Mas'ūdī (*Morūj* II, p. 124) augmented to Dwrrswrwr. In some redactions of the *Šāh-nama* (e.g., ed. Mohl, I, p. 178; ed. Vullers, I, pp. 141, 215) his place as son of Manūšihhr is taken by Zarā/āsp.

2. According to the Zoroaster legend in Book 7 of the *Dēnkard* (ed. Madan, pp. 614-22; ed. Dresden, pp. 345-37; Molé, pp. 26-37), the name of an evil *karb* priest (Av. *karapan-*) famed as a sorcerer and *dēw* worshiper, consulted by Zoroaster's father, Pōrušasp, about the miracles occurring at his son's birth.



Dūrāsraw conceived a bitter hatred for the future prophet and persuaded Pōrušasp to kill the baby, first by cremating him, then by having him trampled by oxen and afterward by horses, and finally by having him thrown into the lair of a she-wolf whose cubs had been killed. Each time Zoroaster was miraculously saved. When the boy was seven years old Dūrāsraw came to his home, with another *karb* named Brādrōrēš, intending to damage the mind of the lad but was again foiled. When about to render sacrifice to the *dēws*, Dūrāsraw was three times stupefied by the prophet. He then fled, but, after covering some leagues, died, apparently as a result of his semen's bursting through his skin and his side's breaking open and becoming detached from his thighs. In the late, apocryphal *Wizīrkard ī dēnīg* (31-40; Molé, pp. 124-31) this legend is corrupted.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(For cited works not found in this bibliography and abbreviations found here, see “Short References.”)

Ferdawsī, *Šāh-nāma*, ed. J. A. Vullers as *Firdusii Liber Regum...*, 3 vols., Leiden, 1877-84.

Justi, *Namenbuch*, p. 87.

M. Molé, *La légende de Zoroastre*, Paris, 1967.