



ḤARḤAR

ḤARḤAR, a land and a city at the western border of Media. It was taken several times by the Assyrian kings Shalmanaser III (r. 860-825 B.C.E.) and Adad-nerari III (r. 812-782 B.C.E.). At the beginning of the reign of Sargon II (r. 721-705 B.C.E.), the people of Ḥarḥar ceased to pay tribute to Assyria, expelled their governor, Ki-baba, and made a treaty with Dalta, the ruler of Ellipi, a land to the south of Ḥarḥar in the area of Piš-e Kuh (Medvedskaya, 1999, p. 63). In 716 B.C.E. Ḥarḥar was finally reconquered by the Assyrians and turned into an Assyrian province, the city of Ḥarḥar was renamed Kār-Šarrukēn, and Ḥarḥar was turned into a base for the conquest of Media. Several neighboring lands were added to this province. Under Sennacherib (r. 705-681 B.C.E.), the province was expanded at the expense of the conquered northern territories of Ellipi, including Bit-Barru (for sources see Parpola, p. 151). Under Esarhaddon (r. 681-668 B.C.E.), the province of Ḥarḥar was mentioned in connection with the threat to its cities of Kilman and Šiṣṣirtu at the time of the Median rebellion against Assyria (Starr, pp. 51, 77, 78). According to Louis Levine, Ḥarḥar was located in the central western Zagros not far from the Great Khorasan Road. Ernst Herzfeld (p. 50) identified it as “the old name of the Nihāwand region,” while Cuyler Young (pp. 14-15) suggested a mound in the Sanandaj area as the location of the town (Levine, 1974, pp. 116-17; idem, 1972, ll. 41-46, pp. 25, 30-33). The stele of Sargon II, discovered near the village Najafābād in the neighboring Asadābād valley, and some other evidence allow us to draw the border between Ḥarḥar and Media at the Asadābād pass (Medvedskaya, 1995, pp. 150 f.). In the west, Ḥarḥar apparently bordered on the northern territory of Ellipi (Vīt Barru), near Bisotun (Medvedskaya, 1999,



p. 56). It is not certain that Ḥarḥar is the same as Kar(a)har of the Ur III and the Old Babylonian periods (Goetze, pp. 118-19; but cf. D'yakonov, p. 117, n. 2).

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