



KAYĀNIĀN

KAYĀNIĀN (Kayanids), in the early Persian epic tradition a dynasty that ruled Iran before the Achaemenids, all of whom bore names prefixed by Kay from Avestan *kauui* (see below, i). They are preceded by the dynasty of the Pišdādiān (Pishdadids), which begins with Kayumart̄ (see [GAYŌMART](#), [HŌŠANG](#), [JAMŠID](#)).

The Kayanids are included by all the early Muslim historians, from [Abu Ḥanifa Dinavari](#) (d. between 281 and 290/ 894-903), [Ṭabari](#) (224-310/ 839-923), [Abu 'Ali Amirak Bal'ami](#) (d. between 382 and 387/ 992-97), and others down to [Mirḳvānd](#) (836-903/ 1433-98; see [IRAN iii. TRADITIONAL HISTORY](#)).

The principal modern descriptions of the Kayanids are those of [Ḍabiḥ-Allāh Ṣafā](#) (pp. 484-544) and [Ehsan Yarshater](#). On the Persian epic in general, see [Theodor Nöldeke](#), 1904, 1920; [Arthur Christensen](#), 1936; [Ḍabiḥ- Allāh Ṣafā](#); see also [EPICS](#). On the Kayanids in modern storytelling, see [Enjavi Širāzi](#). For the Avestan names, see [Mayrhofer](#), s.vv., as well as [Schmitt](#) (see indexes). (For source references, see bibliography at end of [KAYĀNIĀN XIV. THE KAYANIDS IN WESTERN HISTORIOGRAPHY](#).)

[Note: A proper name that begins with the element “Kay,” when cited here in the context of a specific source, is hyphenated if it is written as a single word in the source.]



- i. *Kavi: Avestan kauui, Pahlavi and Persian kay.*
- ii. *The Kayanids as a group.*
- iii. *Kauui Kauuāta, Kay Kawād, Kay Kobād (Qobād).*
- iv. *“Minor” Kayanids.*
- v. *Kauui Usan, Kay Us, Kay Kāvus.*
- vi. *Siiāuuaršan, Siyāwaxš, Siāvaš.*
- vii. *Kauui Haosrauuah, Kay Husrōy, Kay Ƙosrow.*
- viii. *Kay Luhrāsp, Kay Lohrāsb.*
- ix. *Kauui Vištāspa, Kay Wištāsp, Kay Beštāsb/Goštāsb.*
- x. *The end of the Kayanids.*
- xi. *The Kayanids and the Kang-dez.*
- xii. *The Kavian x^varənah.*
- xiii. *Synchronism of the Kayanids and Near Eastern history.*
- xiv. *The Kayanids in Western historiography.*