



ḲUŠNAWĀR/ḲUŠNAWĀZ

ḲUŠNAWĀR/ḲUŠNAWĀZ (MPers. *Xašnawāz*; Sogd. *axšōndār*), the Hephthalite king who defeated the Sasanian king Pērōz (r. 459-84 CE; see [Fīrūz](#)) in Bactria at the end of 483/484 (see Justi under “Axšunwār,” p. 13a).

In the *Bundahišn*, the Hephthalite king is called *xašnawāz ī Hiftārān xwadāy* (TD1. Fol. 91v; TD2. Fol. 109v, chap. 32.23), and Aḳšunwār in Ṭabari (I, p. 874, 19; tr. vol. V, p. 113), while Ferdowsi and other Persian sources used the form *Ḳušnawāz*, ‘the beautiful player, musician,’ (*Šāh-nāma*, ed. Khaleghi, vol. 7, lines 58-59, p. 20).

Th. Nöldeke (tr. 123, n.4) connected the name Aḳšunwār with King Kunkhas (Κούχσας), ruler of the [Kidarites](#) in about 485 CE, mentioned by the Byzantine chronicler Priscus (see on this Greek rendering, Moravcsik, pp. 165-66), and this was adopted by R. Ghirshman, who mentioned a coin of Pērōz which bears the name of a ruler called Akūn in which he proposed to see king Kunkhas of Priscus (1948, pp. 87-88, Fig. 10 and Pl. II, 4). For W.B. Henning (p. 17, n.2), the name was a title which should be read *ʾxšʾwndʾr* (*axšōndār*), ‘king’, properly ‘ruler.’ G. Widengren, however, saw no need to amend the *w* of the ending of the name, and suggested that it represents Sogdian *ʾxšʾwnwʾr*, ‘power bearer’ (p. 75, n.1).

See also [AḲŠONVĀR](#).



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