**LACTOR 16, *The Persian Empire from Cyrus II to Artaxerxes I* (ISBN-13: 978-0903625288)**

* Naqs-e Rustam inscription No.1 and 2 (No. 48 and 103)
* Xerxes’ inscription (No. 63)

**Naqs-e Rustam inscription No.1 (No.48)**

Darius the King says: ‘When Ahura Mazda saw this earth in commotion, he thereafter bestowed it upon me, he made me king. I am King. By the favour of Ahura Mazda I subdued it; they did what I said, as was my desire. If now you should think “How many are the countries which Darius the king held?”, look at the sculptures of those who bear the throne, then you will know. Then it will become known to you: the spear of a Persian man has gone far. Then shall it become known to you: a Persian man has given battle far indeed from Persia.’

Darius the king says: ‘That which has been done, all that I did by the will of Ahura Mazda. Ahura Mazda brought me aid, until I had done the work. May Ahura Mazda protect me from harm, and my royal house, and this land. This I pray of Ahura Mazda, this may Ahura Mazda give me.

‘O man, that which is the command of Ahura Mazda, let it not seem repugnant to you. Do not leave the right path, do not rise in rebellion!’

**Naqs-e Rustam inscription No.2 (No.103)**

Ahura Mazda is a great god, who created this excellent work which is seen, who created happiness for man, who bestowed wisdom and courage upon Darius the King.

Darius the king says: ‘By the favour of Ahura Mazda I am of such a kind that I am a friend of the Right, and not a friend of the Wrong; it is not my desire that the weak man should suffer injustice at the hands of the strong, it is not my desire that the strong man should suffer injustice from the weak.

I desire what is Right. I am not a friend of the man who follows the Lie. I am not jot-tempered; the things that develop in me during a dispute I hold firmly under control though my mind. I am firmly in control of myself.

I reward the man who seeks to contribute according to his efforts; I punish him who does harm, according to the harm done; I do not wish that a man should do harm; nor do I wish that, if he should do harm, he should not be punished.

What a man says against a man, does not convince me, until I hear the testimony of both.

I am content with what a man does or brings (as tribute) (for me) according to his abilities, my pleasure is great, and I am well disposed towards him.

Of such a kind is my understanding and my judgement: when you shall see or hear of what I have done in the palace and on the battle-field, this is the will power which I possess over my mind and my understanding.

This indeed is my courage as far as my body possesses the strength; as a commander I am a good commander; immediately, the right decision is taken according to my understanding when I meet a rebel, and when I meet (someone who is) not a rebel, at this moment, due to my understanding and judgement, I know that I am above panic when I see a rebel as well as when I see (someone who is) not a rebel.

I am trained in my hands and in my feet; as a horseman, I am a good horseman; as a bowman, I am a good bowman; as a spearman, I am a good spearman, both on foot and on horseback.

These are the skills which Ahura Mazda has bestowed upon me.

O man, proclaim loud and clear of what kind you are, and of what sort your abilities are, and of what kind your loyalty is. Let that which has been heard by your ears not seem false to you; hear that which has been said to you!

O man, let that which I have done not seem to you to be false; observe what the weak man has done. O man, see what I have done […] not to overstep […] and do not be ill disposed towards happiness.

**Xerxes’ inscription (No. 63)**

Ahura Mazda is a great god, who created this earth, who created that sky, who created man, who created happiness for man, who made Xerxes King, one king of many, one lord of many.

I am Xerxes, the Great King, king of kings, king of lands, containing many men, king of this great earth far and wide, son of Darius the king, an Achaemenid.

Xerxes the king says: ‘By the favour of Ahura Mazda, I built this Gate of All Lands. Much other good (construction) was built within this (city of) Parsa, Which I built and which my father built. Whatever good construction is seen, we built all that by the grace of Ahura Mazda.’

Xerxes the king says: ‘May Ahura Mazda protect me and my kingdom and what was built by me, and what was built by my father, that also may Ahura Mazda protect.