

# **A LEAF FROM THE GOLDEN LEAVES OF HISTORY**

**Dr. Khanak Eshghi Sanati**

(This is the summary of the Original, which is Farsi)

A leaf from history read under the radiance of the golden history of ancient Iranian Culture and Religion.

I start with the name of the lord of life and wisdom and in the name of ancient Iran.

Scholars and archeologist believe that Iran this land of love and Ahura, the place of birth and growth of the good and truthful people, was, according to recorded history, the first benevolent world government. This can be seen by studying its cultural and religious thoughts. The culture and religion which was powerful and significant in the ancient world, powerful enough to become one of the super powers of the ancient world.

We need to understand the culture and religion of all the lands under its control and then we will realize without doubt that Iran played a significant role in the history of mankind. The archeological finds helps us to understand the culture and religion of the ancient East, which includes Iran. They cover a period extending over 5000 years.

According to archeological finds at the island of Crete, the thoughts of Homer and his works Iliad and Oddasey are influenced by the culture and civilization of the ancient east.

It is important to note that the Iranian Empire did not destroy any culture, civilization, or language but helped them to flourish.

The ancient civilizations existed east of the Mediterranean Sea. Civilization started on the shore of the Euprathes and Nile and from there they went forward to Assyria and Elam. These civilizations all together influenced the forming of civilization in Greece and Rome and other places.

Medical and Mathematical knowledge, which started in these civilizations, was transferred to Rome, Greece and other places. Alphabet was started and developed in the East and then went to the West. Forms of administration started

from the East and went to the West. The Iranians were in control of these civilizations and helped in the spread of their systems.

Religion also formed and spread to the West from the East. In short the most ancient civilization were formed in the East and then spread to the West. Some of these date back to about 7000 years.

Six different races occupied the East. Sami, Hami, Sumerians, Ilamians, Hitians, and Aryans. The Sami and Hami took control of Syria, Mesopotamia and South Africa. The rest settled in the fertile lands east of Zagross and finally the Madhs and the Persians came and took control of all of them.

2300 years elapses after the Aryans separated and then the Iranians immerged as the Madhs and Persians. For this period we have no proper history. We do not know how they advanced from the cave age to the stage where they were organized and moved to the Iranian plateau. Mythology has filled in this gap. Ferdowsi's Shahnameh is the main source of information for this period. Some believe that the period of Jamshid and Faridoon was the time when the Indo-Iranians lived together. The period of Manucher and Zab was when they had separated.

The history of the Iranians have been lost to the attack by Alexander and the Arabs and what was left was used by them under their own names or changed and distorted.

The history that is know to us today is from about 800 BCE and can be divided into four parts.

The ancient period from eight BCE to the seventh century ACE. This period was ruled by three tribes the Madhs, the Parthian and the Persians. This ends with the Sasanians.

The second period starts with the coming of the Arabs till the coming of the Safavian dynasty. This can again be divided into two from the coming of the Moguls.

The third period is from the coming of the Safavian till the beginning of Constitutional Monarchy.

The forth period is the contemporary one that starts from the period of Constitutional Monarchy to date.

Here we are only concerned with the ancient period, which we shall begin from eight-century BCE and end seventh century ACE. This can again be divided into five parts. Period of Aryan supremacy in the ancient East or Madha Period, Period of Victory over the ancient East or Hakhamaneshi period, Period of Greek

supremacy or Macedonian period, Period of political upheaval or Parthian period, The period of political and cultural refinement or Sasanian period.

The 1400 years before the coming of Islam was the period of pride and supremacy of the Iranians. This period of advancement of knowledge, culture, religion and the boundaries of Iran. This period was started by the Medes by defeating the Assyrians. This lead was taken over by kings like Kurosh, Daryush and Khashahyar and the golden age of Iran starts in this period. They established a benevolent civilization that the world had never seen. A system of administration was designed that became the bases of other civilized countries. Hakhmaneshi were the first to unite the ancient civilizations under a common political system that was the first of its kind. A combination of materialism, religious and spiritual values was produced to unite the ancient civilizations. The rules and regulations that administered such a large Empire could not have been a dictatorial and tyrannical rule. Instead it was a system that was lead by a royal council.

The Iranians combined the ancient civilizations from Babylon to Rome that were moving in the wrong direction into a new benevolent civilization that we may call the Iranian civilization. The Persian Empire under Daryush was huge, but with a system of administration, which was the brainchild of the Iranians, it was easily controlled.

Iran introduced agriculture, animal husbandry, metal works, religion and philosophy, and science and mathematics to these ancient civilizations. Underground canals called Qanat were the invention of Iranians. It was used to lead underground waters to the far away fields for use. Road were built and caravansara or guesthouses were established for travel and trade.

According to archeological finds fruits and grain were cultivated in Iran as far back as 4000 BCE. Peach, apricot, dates, grapes and figs are some of the fruits taken to the Mediterranean region by the Iranians.

Similarly seeds of flowers like rose, tulips, iris, jasmine and lily are some of those which were taken to all parts of the Empire and grown.

Iranians were famous for their Justice and Daryush was one of the famous lawmakers who is know for his administrative system. Most of the laws were written by a council of lawmakers under the supervision of Daryush.

The countries that the Iranians conquered were allowed to carry on with their religion and tradition and only an overseer was appointed to control and stop the conquered nation from cessation.

A Royal council of inspectors was used to control the governors of the vast kingdom. The army was made up of all ethnic groups of the Empire. In the reign of Daryush new waterways were established and shipping was developed increasing trade between the far corners of the kingdom. Daryush ordered that the route between Indus and the Nile be navigated and a canal be built to join the Nile to the Red Sea and navigational maps be made to guide ships to the Mediterranean Sea.

Digging a the canal and promoting navigation was aimed at increasing trade and improving the life of the people and bringing about exchange of cultures and increase in knowledge.

Based on what we have noted so far, " While the Egyptians built pyramids for life after death. Iranians and Daryush based on their beliefs and culture joint the Red Sea to the Mediterranean via the Nile...." All this was based on the belief of Daryush and aimed towards progress in culture, civilization and exchange of ideas and increase in knowledge so that the people may have a better life.

But have we ever thought what was the cause of such behaviour and attitude of Kurosh and Daryush, which were based on truth and good thought words and deeds. Their treatment of their conquered subjects and equal justice towards all concerned, the progress and peace, cooperation and having the needs of the subjects in mind which lead them to being a benevolent superpower. From where did this originate? Where is the origin of such thoughts from. Without doubt all these come from the teaching of Zarathushtra and we see that in all the inscriptions, which say.... " My Laws are equal for weak and strong not against weak." The inscriptions at Biston show that Daryush was a true follower of the teachings of Zarathushtra.

\*\*\*\*\*