

# The Kayanian Dynasty: A Synthesis of Myth, Epic, and History

## Introduction: The Kayanian Archetype in Iranian Consciousness

The Kayanian dynasty stands as the second legendary ruling house in Iranian tradition, chronicled as the successors to the primordial Pishdadian kings.<sup>1</sup> These monarchs and their champions form the nucleus of Iran's "Heroic Age," their narratives enshrined as the central sagas of two foundational texts of Iranian civilization: the Zoroastrian holy book, the Avesta, and the national epic, Abolqasem Ferdowsi's

*Shahnameh*.<sup>1</sup> This report posits that the Kayanian dynasty, while unsubstantiated by direct archaeological or epigraphic evidence, functions as a potent and enduring political and cultural archetype within the Iranian consciousness. Its identity is not that of a verifiable historical lineage but of a foundational idea, meticulously constructed over millennia. This idea began with ancient Indo-Iranian myths, was later codified and given theological weight by Zoroastrianism, repurposed as a state-building project by the Sasanian Empire, and ultimately immortalized in the epic poetry that defines Persian identity. The Kayanians are less a dynasty of flesh and blood and more a conceptual framework for legitimate kingship, national unity, and the cosmic struggle that has shaped Iranian self-perception.

To fully explore this multifaceted identity, this analysis will synthesize textual evidence from primary sources, including the Avesta, various Pahlavi (Middle Persian) texts, and the *Shahnameh*. It will delve into the long-standing scholarly debate surrounding the dynasty's historicity, integrating archaeological findings from Eastern Iran and Central Asia that provide a material context for the Avestan world. Furthermore, by situating the Kayanian epic within a comparative mythological framework, this report will draw upon a wide array of sources in Persian, German, French, and English to present a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of this legendary dynasty.<sup>7</sup>

## Part I: Foundations in Myth and Language

### 1.1 The Visionary King: Etymology and Meaning of Kavi

The defining feature of the Kayanian monarchs is their title, *Kay*, a prefix to each of their names. This title is a direct descendant of the Middle Persian *kay*, which in turn originates from the more ancient Avestan term *kauui*.<sup>5</sup> A linguistic analysis of its Proto-Indo-Iranian origins reveals a primary meaning not of a secular ruler, but of a "(visionary) poet," "seer," or "poet-sacrificer".<sup>5</sup> In the cognate tradition of the Indian Rigveda, the term *kaví* designates inspired poets and priests who are instrumental in maintaining cosmic order, known as *ṛtá*, through the power of ritual and sacred utterance.<sup>8</sup>

Within the Avesta itself, the term carries a complex and telling duality. In the Gathas, the oldest hymns attributed to the prophet Zoroaster, *kauui* is frequently used in a pejorative sense to condemn the prophet's adversaries—the priests and princes of the old, pre-Zoroastrian religion who perform what he deems incorrect sacrifices and oppose his message.<sup>8</sup> Yet, the very same title is applied with reverence to Zoroaster's own patron, Kavi Vištāspa (later known as Goshtasp), the ruler who accepts the new faith and becomes its champion.<sup>15</sup> This dual application is not a contradiction but a calculated theological and political maneuver. Zoroaster's condemnation of the *kauuis* represents a polemical assault on the established religious and political order. By simultaneously bestowing the honorific *Kavi* upon his royal patron, he was performing a powerful act of re-appropriation. He was stripping the title of its authority from his opponents and re-sanctifying it within the framework of his new "Good Religion." This move redefined the nature of legitimate authority, transforming the ideal ruler from a mere ritual chieftain into a monarch whose legitimacy was contingent upon his acceptance of Ahura Mazda's truth as revealed by Zoroaster. This theological act laid the ideological foundation for the entire Kayanian legend, where righteous kingship became inextricably linked to the Zoroastrian faith.

## 1.2 The Mandate of Heaven: Kavaēm Kharēno (The Kayanian Glory)

The legitimacy of Kayanian sovereignty is predicated on the possession of a unique divine grace known as *kavaēm kharēno* in Avestan, which evolved into the Persian concept of *farr-i kayani*—the Kayanian Glory.<sup>5</sup> This

*farr* is a luminous, supernatural aura, a divine gift bestowed by the supreme deity Ahura Mazda that signifies a monarch's right to rule.<sup>18</sup> It is a tangible manifestation of divine favor, endowing the king with wisdom, victory, and prosperity.<sup>18</sup> The Zamyad Yasht (Yasht 19), one of the principal hymns of the Avesta, is largely dedicated to the narrative of this divine glory and the succession of heroes and kings who possessed it.<sup>2</sup>

Crucially, *farr* is not a static or automatically hereditary right but a dynamic moral force. It is granted for virtue, justice, and piety, and it can be withdrawn from a king who succumbs to sin, hubris (*un*), or falsehood (*druj*), leading inevitably to his downfall.<sup>18</sup> This concept serves as the central narrative engine and moral logic for the epic tradition chronicled in the *Shahnameh*. It provides a theological framework for understanding political change, transforming events such as rebellion or conquest into a moral drama. The failure of a king is

never presented as merely a political or military miscalculation; it is fundamentally a spiritual failing, a loss of divine grace that legitimizes his replacement. For example, the primordial Pishdadian king Jamshid loses his *farr* due to his arrogance, paving the way for the monstrous tyrant Zahhak.<sup>17</sup> Similarly, the Kayanian king Kai Kavus repeatedly endangers his reign and his kingdom through foolish and prideful actions that demonstrate his unworthiness of the glory he holds.<sup>2</sup> The loss of

*farr* creates a vacuum of legitimacy, inviting chaos and foreign invasion. A new hero or king must then emerge, one who is worthy of the *farr*, to restore order and justice. Thus, the concept of *farr* establishes a political philosophy wherein rebellion against an unjust monarch is not treason but a necessary act of restoring cosmic balance, as the successor is merely claiming a divine glory that the previous king has already spiritually forfeited.

## Part II: The Kayanian Narrative Across Millennia of Texts

### 2.1 Primordial Echoes: The Kauuis in the Avesta

The earliest textual traces of the Kayanian figures are found not in a cohesive narrative but as scattered references within the *Yashts*, the hymns to various deities that form a part of the Younger Avesta.<sup>5</sup> In these texts, the *kauuis* are depicted as legendary heroes of a bygone era who performed sacrifices to divinities such as Ahura Mazda, Anahita (the goddess of the waters), and Vayu (the god of the wind). These rituals were performed to gain divine favor, strength in battle, and victory over their perennial enemies, the Anaryas (non-Aryans), who are often identified with the people of Turan.<sup>5</sup>

Among the figures mentioned are Kauui Kauuāta (the progenitor of Kai Kobad), Kauui Usan (Kai Kavus), and most significantly, Kauui Haosrauuah (Kai Khosrow). Haosrauuah is lauded in the *Yashts* as a great king who successfully unified the disparate Aryan (Iranian) tribes into a single nation, a foundational act of political consolidation.<sup>5</sup> In stark contrast, the Gathas—the most ancient and sacred part of the Avesta attributed to Zoroaster himself—mention only one of these figures by name: Kavi Vištāspa (Goshtasp). Vištāspa is not presented as part of a long line of kings but as the specific royal patron who embraced Zoroaster's teachings and facilitated the establishment of the first Zoroastrian community.<sup>15</sup> This textual discrepancy has led many scholars to conclude that Vištāspa was likely a historical chieftain who was, in later tradition, retroactively grafted onto the pre-existing, legendary lineage of the *kauuis* to lend his new faith an ancient and heroic pedigree.<sup>23</sup>

## 2.2 The Sassanid Imperial Recension: Pahlavi Literature and the Khwaday-Namag

The transformation of these disparate heroic legends into a unified national history was a deliberate state project undertaken during the late Sasanian Empire (224–651 CE).<sup>24</sup> Motivated by a desire to consolidate a distinct Iranian identity and legitimize their own rule, the Sasanian monarchs, particularly Khosrow I (r. 531–579 CE), commissioned a comprehensive chronicle of the Iranian nation.<sup>5</sup> The result was the

*Khwaday-Namag*, or "Book of Lords," a monumental prose work in Middle Persian (Pahlavi).<sup>25</sup>

This text arranged the reigns of some fifty legendary and historical monarchs into a single, continuous narrative, beginning with the first man, Gayomart, proceeding through the Pishdadian and Kayanian dynasties, and culminating with the Sasanian kings themselves.<sup>5</sup> This act of compilation was profoundly ideological, creating a sacred, unbroken history that positioned the Sasanians as the rightful heirs to a glorious lineage stretching back to the dawn of time.<sup>25</sup> Other important Pahlavi Zoroastrian texts from this era and the early Islamic period, such as the encyclopedic

*Denkard* (especially Book 7) and the creation myth compendium *Bundahishn*, also contain detailed genealogies and accounts of the Kayanian kings, preserving and elaborating upon the traditions that would form the basis for later works.<sup>5</sup>

## 2.3 The Islamic-Era Revival: From Prose to Epic Poetry

Following the Arab conquest of Persia in the 7th century and the subsequent decline of Zoroastrianism as the state religion, the Kayanian legends were preserved and ultimately experienced a powerful revival during the 10th century under the patronage of the Persianate Samanid dynasty.<sup>5</sup> The Samanids, based in eastern Iran, fostered a renaissance of Persian language and culture. During this period, new prose versions of the *Khwaday-Namag* were compiled, most notably the now-lost version commissioned by Abu Mansur Abd al-Razzaq, which served as the principal source for the poet Abolqasem Ferdowsi.<sup>5</sup>

It was Ferdowsi who gave the Kayanian saga its definitive and immortal form. In his epic masterpiece, the *Shahnameh* ("Book of Kings"), completed around 1010 CE, he masterfully transformed the prose chronicles into more than 50,000 rhyming couplets.<sup>6</sup> Ferdowsi's work was not a mere translation; he synthesized various traditions, imbued the characters with psychological depth, and elevated the narrative to a work of world literature. He also incorporated earlier poetic efforts, most significantly about a thousand verses composed by the poet Daqiqi, which narrate the story of King Goshtasp's conversion to Zoroastrianism.<sup>6</sup> Through the

*Shahnameh*, the Kayanian dynasty was cemented as the heart of Iran's national story.

**Table 1: Evolution of Kayanian Figures Across Key Texts**

Avestan Name & Title	Pahlavi Name	<i>Shahnameh</i> Name	Key Avestan Attributes	Key <i>Shahnameh</i> Narrative Role
Kauui Kauuāta	Kay Kawād	Kai Kobad	Founder of the <i>kauui</i> lineage.	Founder of the dynasty, a just king installed by the hero Rostam to end chaos. <sup>29</sup>
Kauui Usan	Kay Us	Kai Kavus	Sacrificer to the gods; builder of seven palaces on the mythical mountain Harā. <sup>3</sup>	A powerful but arrogant and deeply flawed king, defined by his hubris and repeated need for rescue by Rostam. <sup>2</sup>
Kauui Haosrauuh	Kay Husrōy	Kai Khosrow	Unifier of the Aryan tribes; vanquisher of the Turanian foe Fraŋrasyan (Afrasiab). <sup>5</sup>	The archetypal ideal and just king; avenges his father Siyavash and ultimately abdicates the throne to pursue a spiritual existence. <sup>3</sup>
Kauui Vištāspa	Kay Wištāsp	Goshtasp	The royal patron of Zoroaster; champion and defender of the "Good Religion". <sup>15</sup>	A pious king who accepts Zoroastrianism but whose jealousy of his son Esfandiyar leads to tragedy. <sup>30</sup>

## Part III: The National Epic: The Kayanian Dynasty in Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh*

### 3.1 The Heroic Lineage (Kai Kobad to Kai Khosrow)

The Kayanian era in the *Shahnameh* begins with **Kai Kobad** (Avestan: *Kauui Kauuāta*). After the end of the preceding Pishdadian dynasty, Iran falls into chaos under the oppression of the Turanians. The great hero Rostam is dispatched by his father, the wise Zal, to find Kai Kobad, a noble descendant of the ancient king Fereydun living in seclusion on Mount Alborz. Kobad accepts the throne, founding the Kayanian line. His reign is marked by the establishment of order and a successful war, aided by Rostam, against the Turanian king Afrasiab, which culminates in a peace treaty that sets the Amu Darya (Oxus River) as the border between the two realms.<sup>3</sup>

He is succeeded by his son, **Kai Kavus** (Avestan: *Kauui Usan*), one of the most complex and problematic kings in the epic. Portrayed as powerful but simultaneously arrogant, impulsive, and foolish, his long reign is a catalog of self-inflicted disasters from which he must be repeatedly rescued by Rostam.<sup>33</sup> Early in his reign, he is tempted by a demon to invade the magical land of Mazandaran, where he and his army are defeated and blinded by the White Demon (

*Div-e Sepid*), requiring Rostam to undertake his legendary Seven Labors to save them.<sup>36</sup> In another famous episode of hubris, Kavus attempts to fly to the heavens on a throne propelled by four eagles lured by meat, a venture that ends with him crashing ignominiously in a distant land.<sup>2</sup> His most consequential failing is his unjust treatment of his noble son, Prince Siyavash. Falsely accused by the queen Sudabeh, Siyavash exiles himself to Turan, where he is eventually murdered on the orders of King Afrasiab. This act of treachery ignites the great Iran-Turan wars of revenge that dominate the epic's central portion.<sup>30</sup> Kai Kavus serves as a negative exemplar of kingship, a ruler whose lack of wisdom constantly jeopardizes the kingdom and underscores its dependence on the hero Rostam.

The apex of the Kayanian heroic line is **Kai Khosrow** (Avestan: *Kauui Haosrauuah*), the grandson of Kavus and the son of the murdered Siyavash. He is the *Shahnameh*'s embodiment of the ideal king (*pādshāh-e ārmānī*).<sup>39</sup> Born in exile in Turan, he is hidden from his maternal grandfather, the villainous Afrasiab, and raised by the wise vizier Piran.<sup>29</sup> The Iranian hero Gev eventually finds the young prince and brings him back to Iran, where he proves his worthiness and ascends to the throne.<sup>30</sup> Kai Khosrow's reign is defined by wisdom, justice, and the singular goal of avenging his father. He masterfully prosecutes the long war against Turan, which culminates in the capture and execution of Afrasiab.<sup>29</sup> Having fulfilled his destiny and restored justice to the world, Kai Khosrow remains uncorrupted by power. Weary of worldly affairs, he abdicates the throne, names Lohrasp as his successor, and walks away into the mountains with his loyal companions, where he mysteriously disappears. In Zoroastrian tradition, he does not die but becomes an immortal, awaiting the final resurrection.<sup>29</sup>

### 3.2 The Pious Lineage (Lohrasp to Dara)

The reign of **Lohrasp**, chosen by Kai Khosrow, marks a transition to a new branch of the dynasty, characterized more by piety than by the heroic martial exploits of the preceding era. Lohrasp is remembered as a devout king who constructed a great Zoroastrian fire temple.<sup>30</sup> He is succeeded by his son,

**Goshtasp** (Avestan: *Vištāspa*), whose reign is the pivotal moment of religious transformation in the epic. It is during his rule that the prophet Zoroaster appears and preaches his new religion. Goshtasp accepts the faith, an act that incites holy wars with the king of Turan, Arjasp, who champions the old ways.<sup>15</sup>

While pious, the *Shahnameh*'s Goshtasp is a flawed figure, driven by jealousy and fear of his heroic son, **Esfandiyar**. The prince is a formidable champion of the new Zoroastrian faith, an invulnerable warrior who successfully defeats Arjasp. Despite promising Esfandiyar the throne upon his victory, Goshtasp, fearing his son's ambition, sends him on one final, impossible task: to travel to the domain of Rostam in Sistan and bring the aging hero back to court in chains for a perceived slight.<sup>30</sup> This command precipitates the epic's most profound tragedy. The ensuing duel between Rostam and Esfandiyar ends with Rostam, guided by the mythical Simorgh bird, being forced to kill the invulnerable prince by striking his one weak point—his eyes.<sup>32</sup>

The dynasty continues with Esfandiyar's son, **Bahman**, who, after Rostam's own death, seeks revenge on the hero's family.<sup>30</sup> The line of kings concludes with

**Darab** and his son **Dara**. This final king, identified with the historical Darius III, is defeated by **Eskandar** (Alexander the Great), an event that brings the Kayanian dynasty and the heroic age of the *Shahnameh* to a close.<sup>30</sup>

### 3.3 The Champion and the Crown: Rostam's Role

Throughout the heroic age of the Kayanian dynasty, the central military and political force is not a king, but the champion **Rostam** of Sistan. As the paramount *pahlavan* (hero), he serves as the dynasty's protector, kingmaker, and indispensable general.<sup>17</sup> His relationship with the Kayanian monarchs is a central theme of the epic, illustrating the delicate and often fraught balance of power between the central authority of the Shah and the great feudal lords of the realm. Rostam's loyalty to the Iranian crown is profound, yet it is conditional. He serves the institution of the monarchy and the nation of Iran, but he refuses to be subjugated or dishonored by the personal whims of an unjust or foolish king.<sup>33</sup>

This tension culminates in the tragic confrontation between Rostam and Esfandiyar. This conflict is more than a duel between two heroes; it is an irreconcilable clash between two distinct and mutually exclusive codes of honor. Rostam embodies the values of an older heroic world, where personal honor, autonomy, and individual martial prowess are the highest virtues. He is his own man, serving the kings by choice, not by obligation.<sup>48</sup> Esfandiyar, in

contrast, represents a new political and religious order. As the crown prince and the champion of the newly established Zoroastrian state, his identity is defined by absolute duty to his king and his faith.<sup>44</sup> King Goshtasp's command to bring Rostam in chains creates a situation with no honorable exit. For Esfandiyar, to disobey is to fail in his duty as a prince and a believer. For Rostam, to submit to chains is an intolerable stain on a lifetime of honor and service.<sup>33</sup> Rostam's victory, achieved only with the supernatural aid of the Simorgh—a creature of the old, magical world—results in the death of the new order's greatest champion. This victory is ultimately pyrrhic, leading to the eventual destruction of Rostam's own house at the hands of Esfandiyar's son, Bahman. The duel symbolizes a pivotal moment in the epic's political philosophy: the tragic but inevitable supplanting of the individual heroic ethos by the impersonal demands of the centralized, religious state.

**Table 2: Chronology and Key Events of the Kayanian Kings in the Shahnameh**

King	Reign Length (per <i>Shahnameh</i> )	Key Events & Conflicts	Relationship with Rostam	Major Accomplishments/ Failures
<b>Kai Kobad</b>	100 years <sup>3</sup>	War with Afrasiab of Turan; establishment of the Amu Darya as the border. <sup>30</sup>	Kingmaker relationship; Rostam finds him and places him on the throne. <sup>30</sup>	<b>Accomplishment:</b> Founded the dynasty and restored order to Iran.
<b>Kai Kavus</b>	150 years <sup>3</sup>	Invasion of Mazandaran; capture by the White Demon; attempted flight to heaven; unjust treatment of his son Siyavash, leading to major wars. <sup>2</sup>	Repeatedly rescued by Rostam from self-inflicted disasters; relationship is one of loyal service to a flawed ruler. <sup>33</sup>	<b>Failure:</b> Defined by hubris, foolishness, and injustice; his actions cause immense suffering and prolonged warfare.
<b>Kai Khosrow</b>	60 years <sup>3</sup>	The Great War of Revenge against Turan; capture and execution of Afrasiab; abdication of the throne. <sup>29</sup>	Strong alliance; Rostam is his chief commander and aids him in avenging Siyavash. <sup>33</sup>	<b>Accomplishment:</b> The ideal just king; achieves final victory over Turan and restores justice to the world.



<b>Lohrasp</b>	120 years <sup>3</sup>	Peaceful reign; construction of the Azar Barzin Mehr fire temple; conflict with his son Goshtasp. <sup>30</sup>	Rostam's role diminishes and he is not central to this reign.	<b>Accomplishment:</b> Pious rule and continuation of the dynasty.
<b>Goshtasp</b>	120 years <sup>3</sup>	Conversion to Zoroastrianism; holy wars against Arjasp of Turan; conflict with his son Esfandiyar. <sup>30</sup>	Becomes antagonistic; orders Esfandiyar to capture Rostam, leading to their fatal duel. <sup>33</sup>	<b>Accomplishment:</b> Established Zoroastrianism. <b>Failure:</b> His jealousy and deceit cause the death of his own son and Iran's greatest hero.
<b>Bahman</b>	99 years <sup>3</sup>	Invasion of Sistan to avenge his father Esfandiyar; kills Rostam's son Faramarz and imprisons Zal. <sup>30</sup>	Antagonistic; destroys Rostam's family line.	<b>Accomplishment:</b> Consolidated power and continued the line. <b>Failure:</b> Act of vengeance against the family of Iran's greatest protector.
<b>Homay</b>	32 years <sup>3</sup>	Rules as queen after her father, Bahman. <sup>3</sup>	Rostam is deceased.	<b>Accomplishment:</b> One of the few ruling queens in the epic.
<b>Darab</b>	12 years <sup>3</sup>	Father of Dara and Eskandar (Alexander). <sup>3</sup>	Rostam is deceased.	<b>Accomplishment:</b> Continues the dynastic line.
<b>Dara</b>	12-14 years <sup>3</sup>	War with Eskandar (Alexander the Great); defeated and killed, ending the dynasty. <sup>30</sup>	Rostam is deceased.	<b>Failure:</b> The last Kayanian king, under whom the empire falls to foreign invasion.

## Part IV: The Quest for Historical Reality

## 4.1 The Great Debate: Myth, Legend, or History?

The question of the Kayanian dynasty's historicity has been a subject of intense scholarly debate for over two centuries.<sup>23</sup> Early Western historiography, up until the 19th century, often accepted the traditional accounts as factual, attempting to synchronize the Kayanian kings with the Median, Assyrian, or Babylonian rulers mentioned in Greek sources like Herodotus.<sup>23</sup> With the decipherment of Old Persian cuneiform and a more critical approach to sources, this view was largely abandoned, and the pendulum swung towards viewing the Kayanians as purely mythical figures with no basis in historical reality.<sup>23</sup>

A more nuanced and persistent theory has focused on a potential connection between the later Kayanian kings and the historical Achaemenid dynasty (c. 550–330 BCE).<sup>23</sup> The final Kayanian king, Dara, is almost universally identified with Darius III, who was defeated by Alexander the Great.<sup>33</sup> Other proposed equivalences include identifying Kai Khosrow with Cyrus the Great, due to their shared reputation as ideal conquerors and rulers, and Kavi Vištāspa (Goshtasp) with Hystaspes, the father of Darius I.<sup>23</sup> The Kayanian king Bahman is sometimes seen as a composite figure, blending the characteristics and achievements of both Cyrus the Great (conquering Babylon, freeing the Jews) and Artaxerxes I.<sup>26</sup>

Most contemporary scholarship, however, distinguishes between the two phases of the dynasty. The early, "heroic" Kayanians, from Kai Kobad to Kai Khosrow, are generally considered legendary figures originating from an ancient oral epic tradition of Eastern Iran, without direct historical counterparts.<sup>23</sup> The historicity of the later, "pious" line, beginning with Vištāspa, remains inextricably linked to the much-debated historical time and place of the prophet Zoroaster himself.<sup>23</sup> The selective "remembering" of certain Achaemenid figures within the later Kayanian narrative framework is now understood not as a confused memory but as a sophisticated act of ideological construction by the Sasanian state. The Sasanians needed to create a national history that legitimized their rule and their vision of a centralized, orthodox Zoroastrian empire, or

*Ērānšahr*. The historical Achaemenid Empire was a powerful precedent, but its reality—marked by religious tolerance and multiculturalism—did not fully align with Sasanian ideology. The Kayanian legends, rooted in the sacred Avesta, provided a more ideologically pure foundation. By merging the two traditions—grafting select, renamed Achaemenid figures like "Dara" onto the Avestan lineage—the Sasanians created a single, unbroken chain of legitimate Zoroastrian rule. This was not an act of forgetting history, but of actively rewriting and filtering it to serve a contemporary political and religious agenda.<sup>26</sup>

## 4.2 Searching for a Material Past: The Archaeological Evidence

While no inscription or ruin can be definitively assigned to "King Kai Kobad," archaeology provides a crucial material context for the world that produced the Kayanian legends. The

geographical locus of the Avesta and the early Kayanian stories is firmly in Eastern Iran and Central Asia—the regions of Bactria, Sogdia, Margiana, and Sistan—not the western Iranian plateau where the historical Median and Persian empires were centered.<sup>51</sup> This geographical evidence makes a direct identification of the early Kayanians with western Iranian dynasties highly improbable.

Archaeological research in this eastern region has identified two successive cultures of immense importance. The first is the **Bactria-Margiana Archaeological Complex (BMAC)**, also known as the Oxus Civilization, a sophisticated urban Bronze Age culture that flourished from approximately 2300 to 1700 BCE.<sup>52</sup> The BMAC was not an Indo-Iranian culture, but the migrating proto-Iranian tribes who entered the region from the northern steppes would have encountered and interacted with it extensively. It is now widely believed that these incoming pastoralists adopted crucial elements of agriculture, architecture, and possibly religious concepts from the BMAC, a process reflected in linguistic loanwords and mythological motifs.<sup>56</sup>

The culture that succeeded the BMAC in this region, the **Yaz Culture** (c. 1500–500 BCE), is considered by many archaeologists to be the strongest candidate for the material correlate of the "Avestan people"—the society that composed and transmitted the Kayanian legends.<sup>59</sup> Several key features of the Yaz Culture align remarkably with the world described in the Younger Avesta:

- **Location and Chronology:** It flourished in Eastern Iran and Central Asia during the Iron Age, the period most scholars now assign to the composition of the Younger Avesta.<sup>61</sup>
- **Settlement Patterns:** The culture is characterized by fortified citadels and agricultural settlements, consistent with the Avestan depiction of a society of settled farmers and warriors defending their lands.<sup>59</sup>
- **Funerary Practices:** The most striking correspondence is the near-total absence of burial sites in Yaz Culture contexts. This lack of graves is widely interpreted as the earliest archaeological evidence for the Zoroastrian ritual of exposure of the dead to the elements (sky burial), a practice explicitly detailed in Zoroastrian texts like the *Vendidad*.<sup>59</sup>

Thus, while archaeology cannot prove the existence of individual Kayanian kings, it provides a tangible historical backdrop for the legends. The epic narratives of kings uniting tribes, establishing fortified centers, and battling nomadic enemies from the north (the Turanians) can be understood as a mythological reflection of the socio-political realities faced by the Iranian peoples of the Yaz Culture during the Iron Age.

## Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of the Kayanian Idea

The Kayanian Dynasty is most accurately understood not as a verifiable historical entity but as a composite national mythos, forged over centuries from a rich amalgam of sources. It synthesizes the archetypal figure of the visionary poet-king (*kavi*) from ancient Indo-Iranian oral traditions; the theological doctrines of Zoroastrianism, particularly the cosmic dualism of

good versus evil and the concept of divinely-mandated glory (*farr*); the epic memory of Iron Age chieftains in Eastern Iran, whose society is likely reflected in the Yaz archaeological culture; and a politically motivated Sasanian recasting of Achaemenid imperial history. As immortalized in Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh*, the dynasty embodies a profound and enduring Iranian ideal of just kingship. In this ideal, legitimacy is not merely a matter of birthright but is a divine grace that must be earned and maintained through wisdom, piety, justice, and the unwavering defense of *Ērān* against the forces of chaos and falsehood. The contrasting figures of the flawed, hubristic Kai Kavus and the ideal, spiritually-minded Kai Khosrow serve as permanent archetypes in Persian political and ethical discourse, providing models of both failed and perfected sovereignty. From the Sasanian shahs who deployed the legend for imperial legitimation, to Ferdowsi who wielded it as a vessel for the preservation of Persian language and identity in the face of Arab-Islamic cultural dominance, the story of the Kayanian kings has remained a cornerstone of Iranian cultural consciousness for well over 1,500 years. Its extraordinary power lies not in its questionable historicity, but in its profound and timeless articulation of a people's conception of themselves, their sacred history, and their place within a moral and cosmic order.

## Works Cited

1. dbpedia.org. "Kayanian dynasty." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>1</sup>
2. Wikipedia. "Kayanian dynasty." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>5</sup>
3. Ancient Origins. "Early Rulers of Persia Part II: The Kayanian Dynasty." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>2</sup>
4. Reddit. r/AskHistorians. "Is there historical basis behind the mythical kings in the Shahnameh?" Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>63</sup>
5. The Fitzwilliam Museum. "The Shahnameh: Structure and Themes." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>17</sup>
6. Wikipedia. "Shahnameh." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>6</sup>
7. Wikipedia. "Avesta." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>51</sup>
8. Encyclopædia Iranica Online. "KAYĀNĪĀN xiv. The Kayanids in Western Historiography." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>23</sup>
9. Wikipedia. "Middle Persian literature." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>25</sup>
10. West, E.W. "Denkard, Book V and VII." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>27</sup>
11. Karani, Ramiyar. "Il Kayan." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>29</sup>
12. Avesta.org. "Pahlavi texts." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>64</sup>
13. Elmotafakor. "دودمان کیانیان در شاهنامه (Kayanian Dynasty in the Shahnameh)." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>7</sup>
14. Kojaro. "کیانیان؛ دومین سلسله پادشاهی ایران در تاریخ اساطیری (Kayanians: The Second Royal Dynasty of Iran in Mythical History)." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>3</sup>
15. Wikipedia (Persian). "کیانیان (Kayanians)." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>30</sup>

16. Amordad News. "کیانیان در شاهنامه (Kayanians in the Shahnameh)." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>65</sup>
17. Wikipedia (Persian). "پیشدادیان (Pishdadians)." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>4</sup>
18. Rah-e Charmin. "کیانیان (Kayanians)." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>32</sup>
19. Brill. "KAYĀNĪĀN." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>8</sup>
20. Scribd. "z6." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>66</sup>
21. Wikipedia (German). "Iranische Mythologie." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>12</sup>
22. Wikipedia (French). "Kaïaniens." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>9</sup>
23. Wikipedia (French). "Key Kavous (Kayanides)." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>67</sup>
24. Abstracta Iranica. "The Hazaraspid Dynasty's Legendary Kayanid Ancestry." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>68</sup>
25. Le Livre des Rois. "Kayanides." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>69</sup>
26. YouTube. "L'Empire Sassanide." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>70</sup>
27. Reddit. r/KaeyaMains. "So, I just learned about the Kayanian dynasty..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>71</sup>
28. Encyclopædia Iranica Online. "KAYĀNĪĀN." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>73</sup>
29. Journal of Social-Political Studies of Iran's Culture and History. "The Kayanians: From Myth to Reality." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>50</sup>
30. The-Persians.co.uk. "THE KAYANIAN DYNASTY." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>33</sup>
31. Princeton Historical Review. "Culling Ancestors: The Sasanians' Selective Memory of the Achaemenids." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>26</sup>
32. History Stack Exchange. "Were Kayanian and Pishdadian actually a thing?" Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>75</sup>
33. CRIS Unibo. "PANAINO\_Abebim ST.pdf." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>76</sup>
34. Encyclopædia Iranica Online. "KAYĀNĪĀN ii. The Kayanids as a Group." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>20</sup>
35. Encyclopædia Iranica Online. "DĀRĀ(B) (1)." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>45</sup>
36. Encyclopædia Iranica Online. "Explore." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>77</sup>
37. Encyclopædia Iranica Online. "IRAN iii. TRADITIONAL HISTORY OF IRAN." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>24</sup>
38. Encyclopædia Iranica Online. "GOŠTĀSP." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>15</sup>
39. Princeton University. "Shahanmeh - All Episodes." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>34</sup>
40. The-Persians.co.uk. "The reign of Kavad." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>78</sup>
41. Wikipedia. "Kavad I." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>79</sup>
42. Encyclopædia Iranica Online. "KAWĀD I i. Reign." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>80</sup>
43. Wikipedia. "Kay Kāvus." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>37</sup>
44. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. "Abu'l Qasim Firdausi - 'Kai Kavus Ascends to the Sky'..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>38</sup>
45. Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art. "Kay-Kavus." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>36</sup>

46. Wikipedia. "Kay Khosrow." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>31</sup>
47. Aspirantum. "7 things you might like to know about the Shahnameh." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>81</sup>
48. GCGI. "Ferdowsi's Shahnameh: The Epic of the Persian Kings..." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>82</sup>
49. Wikipedia. "Kay Lohrasp." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>43</sup>
50. Kate Elliott. "Shahnameh | I Make Up Worlds | Page 2." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>83</sup>
51. Yag24. "summary of Shahnameh Ferdowsi." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>28</sup>
52. Wikipedia. "Vishtaspa." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>22</sup>
53. UCL Discovery. "Factoids of Assyrian presence in Anatolia..." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>85</sup>
54. eHRAF Archaeology. "Iranian Bronze Age - Summary." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>86</sup>
55. Encyclopædia Iranica Online. "BRONZE AGE." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>87</sup>
56. MOM Éditions. "The Bronze Age and the Iron Age on the Central Iranian Plateau." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>88</sup>
57. NYU Arts & Science. "Uncovering Kimirek-Kum 1..." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>89</sup>
58. UNESCO Silk Road. "THE BEGINNING OF THE IRON AGE IN TRANSOXANIA." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>90</sup>
59. ResearchGate. "Distribution and location of Iron Age sites..." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>91</sup>
60. Geni. "King Vištāspa of the Kiyānid dynasty..." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>92</sup>
61. VoVatia. "king vishtaspa." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>93</sup>
62. Logos Verlag Berlin. "Kolsoum Ghazanfari : Perceptions of Zoroastrian Realities in the Shahnameh." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>94</sup>
63. ResearchGate. "The Relationship Between Zoroastrianism and Kingship in the Iranian Empire." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>95</sup>
64. Encyclopædia Iranica Online. "ESFANDIĀR (1)." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>44</sup>
65. Mazda Publishers. "Šāhrestānīhā-yē Ērānšahr." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>96</sup>
66. Avesta.org. "Houston Gatha Conference 1996 Complete Proceedings." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>97</sup>
67. Marefa. "Ancient Iranian Religion." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>98</sup>
68. ResearchGate. "Connectivity and Communication in the Achaemenid Empire." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>99</sup>
69. CFL Modares. "Manifestation of Archetypes in Bahram and Golandam Story..." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>100</sup>
70. XE Gold. "Part Nine: Kay Khosrow – The Sovereignty of the Self." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>42</sup>
71. Wikipedia. "Rostam." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>46</sup>
72. Encyclopædia Iranica Online. "AVESTAN PEOPLE." Accessed September 15, 2024. <sup>101</sup>
73. Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies. "Chapter 9: The King and his People." Accessed

September 15, 2024.<sup>102</sup>

74. Etymonline. "Avestan." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>103</sup>
75. Bharat Kalyan. "Kavi of Rgveda are koles 'smelters', kiana 'smiths'." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>13</sup>
76. Indian Institute of Advanced Study. "Common roots of heritage..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>104</sup>
77. Kamat's Potpourri. "Comparing Ramayan and Mahabharat Epics." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>105</sup>
78. Journal of Researches in Myth. "Comparative study of Karna in Mahabharata and Sohrab in Shahnameh." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>106</sup>
79. Wikipedia. "Ramakien." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>107</sup>
80. Journal of Heroic Literature. "Comparative Comparison of Iranian and Indian Epics..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>108</sup>
81. Quora. "What is the difference between Ramayan and its Thai interpretation Ramakian?" Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>109</sup>
82. Wikipedia. "Proto-Indo-Iranian religion." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>110</sup>
83. Antrocom. "Contrastive Study of 'Time' in Iranian-Indian Mythology." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>111</sup>
84. Encyclopædia Iranica Online. "INDO-IRANIAN RELIGION." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>112</sup>
85. Attalus.org. "Armenian Mythology." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>113</sup>
86. Wikipedia (German). "Kayaniden." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>10</sup>
87. Google Arts & Culture. "Afrasiab." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>114</sup>
88. ResearchGate. "Ferdowsis Schahname und seine unerforschten Grenzen..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>115</sup>
89. Transform Iran. "Histoire de l'Iran..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>116</sup>
90. Clio.fr. "Chronologie Iran." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>117</sup>
91. IBNA. "کتابی مبهم و دشوار؛ جست وجوی سلسله کیانیان در تاریخ پیشینه ایران" (An ambiguous and difficult book; searching for the Kayanian dynasty in early Iranian history)." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>11</sup>
92. Civilica. "کیانیان از اسطوره تا واقعیت" (Kayanians from myth to reality)." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>118</sup>
93. Jame Ghor. "قسمت دوم - کیانیان دومین شاهان داستانی و تاریخی درآریانا زمین" (Part Two - The Kayanians, the second mythical and historical kings in the land of Ariana)." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>119</sup>
94. DergiPark. "Cenotaphs from the Bactria Margiana Culture of Northeastern Iran." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>55</sup>
95. Reddit. r/IndoEuropean. "The Bactria-Margiana Archaeological complex in Central Asia..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>57</sup>
96. Wikipedia. "Bactria." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>52</sup>

97. Wikipedia. "Avestan geography." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>54</sup>
98. Encyclopædia Iranica Online. "AVESTAN GEOGRAPHY." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>53</sup>
99. Wikipedia. "Indo-Aryan migrations." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>120</sup>
100. Adnaera. "Varas and Dragonslayers: Rethinking the Indo-Iranian Expansion." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>121</sup>
101. Wikipedia. "Yaz culture." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>59</sup>
102. Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art. "Kay-Kavus Chained in a Cave." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>122</sup>
103. Wikipedia. "Khosrow I." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>40</sup>
104. Hunara. "Khosrow and the Old Woman..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>123</sup>
105. Bilderfahrzeuge. "The Hero Rustam in the Shāhnāmā of Firdausi..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>47</sup>
106. Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art. "Rustam & Rakhsh." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>35</sup>
107. Mage Publishers. "Rostam: Tales of Love & War from Persia's Book of Kings." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>48</sup>
108. ResearchGate. "On the literary structure of the Older Avesta." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>16</sup>
109. Wikipedia. "Avestan period." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>62</sup>
110. Cambridge University Press. "Reflections on Rereading the Iliad and the Shahnameh." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>124</sup>
111. Visnyk NAKKKiM. "Comparative Study of the Stylistic Features of Ferdowsi's Shahnameh..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>125</sup>
112. Journal of Educational and Social Research. "A Comparative Study of the Story of Esfandiar... and Achilles..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>126</sup>
113. EBSCO. "Zoroastrian Ditheism." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>127</sup>
114. Wikipedia. "Zoroastrianism." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>14</sup>
115. Wikipedia. "Ancient Iranian religion." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>128</sup>
116. Karl Ancer. "TLOO.pdf." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>129</sup>
117. Scribd. "Visions of Community in the Post-Roman World..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>130</sup>
118. Dokumen.pub. "Ancient States and Infrastructural Power..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>131</sup>
119. David Motadel. "MotadelAryans.pdf." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>132</sup>
120. Spektrum Iran. "The Hero Book of Iran Joseph Görres..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>133</sup>
121. ResearchGate. "Pahlavi kirrēnīdan: Traces of Iranian Creation Mythology." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>134</sup>
122. Roshd Magazine. "كاووس اسطوره نيك يا بد؟ (Kavus: A Good or Bad Myth?)." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>135</sup>



123. WikiShahnameh. "شخصیت های شاهنامه: کیکاووس" (Characters of the Shahnameh: Kay Kavus)." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>136</sup>
124. Irannamag. "کیکاووس خودکامه ای نامجو" (Kay Kavus, an Ambitious Autocrat)." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>21</sup>
125. Saraye Tarikh. "درباره زندگینامه کیخسرو نماد پادشاهی ایرانی" (About the Biography of Kay Khosrow, Symbol of Iranian Monarchy)." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>39</sup>
126. Reddit. r/IndoEuropean. "Cultural legacy of BMAC in Indo-Aryans." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>58</sup>
127. Encyclopædia Iranica Online. "IRAN iv. MYTHS AND LEGENDS." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>137</sup>
128. Reddit. r/IndoEuropean. "Proto-Iranic, the Yaz culture, and how it all connects." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>60</sup>
129. Iranian Journal of Archaeological Studies. "A Review on the Iron Age of Khorasan..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>61</sup>
130. I Make Up Worlds. "Kay Kavus's War Against the Demons of Mazanderan..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>138</sup>
131. Cambridge University Press. "The Persian Alexander." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>41</sup>
132. Iranian Studies. "The Death of Rostam..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>139</sup>
133. EBSCO. "The Nursemaid of Rostam." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>49</sup>
134. Journal of Historical Researches of Iran and Islam. "An Explanation and Analysis of Divine Glory (Farr-e Izadi)..." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>19</sup>
135. Angelfire. "The Role of Farr in the Shahnameh." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>18</sup>
136. Medium. "Imprints of Eternity: Zoroastrian Echoes in Ferdowsi's Shahnameh." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>141</sup>
137. Dialnet. "Reflection of Confrontation and Contradiction in Ferdowsi's Shahnameh." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>142</sup>
138. ISAC University of Chicago. "The Epic of Gilgamesh." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>143</sup>
139. Bartleby. "Compare And Contrast The Epic Of Gilgamesh." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>144</sup>
140. Wikipedia. "Epic of Gilgamesh." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>145</sup>
141. Wikipedia (German). "Naqsch-e Rostam." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>146</sup>
142. YouTube. "The Epic of Rostam: Iran's Legendary Hero." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>147</sup>
143. JSTOR. "The Sasanians in the Shahnameh." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>148</sup>
144. CAIS-SOAS. "The Kayanian Dynasty." Accessed September 15, 2024.<sup>149</sup>

## Works cited

1. About: Kayanian dynasty - DBpedia, accessed September 4, 2025,

- [https://dbpedia.org/page/Kayanian\\_dynasty](https://dbpedia.org/page/Kayanian_dynasty)
2. The Early Rulers of Persia, Part II: The Kayanian Dynasty | Ancient Origins, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-asia/early-rulers-persia-part-ii-kayanian-dynasty-005454>
  3. کیانیان؛ دومین دودمان پادشاهی اساطیر ایرانی - کجارو, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://www.kojaro.com/history-art-culture/194729-kayanians-dynasty-persian/>
  4. پیشدادیان - ویکی‌پدیا، دانشنامهٔ آزاد, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://fa.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D9%BE%DB%8C%D8%B4%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AF%DB%8C%D8%A7%D9%86>
  5. Kayanian dynasty - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kayanian\\_dynasty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kayanian_dynasty)
  6. Shahnameh - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shahnameh>
  7. کیانیان - علم و تفکر, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://elmotafakor.com/ArticleView.aspx?aid=4493>
  8. KAYĀNĪĀN - Brill - Reference Works, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://referenceworks.brill.com/display/entries/EIRO/COM-11281.xml>
  9. Kaianiens — Wikipédia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ka%C3%AFaniens>
  10. Kayaniden – Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kayaniden>
  11. کتابی مبهم و دشوار؛ جست و جوی سلسله کیانیان در تاریخ/ ایران ... - ایبنا, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://www.ibna.ir/news/506911/%DA%A9%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%A8%DB%8C-%D9%85%D8%A8%D9%87%D9%85-%D9%88-%D8%AF%D8%B4%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AC%D8%B3%D8%AA-%D9%88%D8%AC%D9%88%DB%8C-%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%84%D9%87-%DA%A9%DB%8C%D8%A7%D9%86%DB%8C%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%AF%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%B1%DB%8C%D8%AE-%D8%A7%DB%8C%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86-%D9%BE%DB%8C%D8%B4%DB%8C%D9%86%D9%87-%D8%A7%DB%8C>
  12. Iranische Mythologie – Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iranische\\_Mythologie](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iranische_Mythologie)
  13. Kavi of Rgveda are Koles, 'smelters', Kiana, Kayanians of Ancient Iran. Baghpat warrior crowns compare with Kiani/Qajar royal crowns - Bharatkalyan97, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<http://bharatkalyan97.blogspot.com/2018/06/kavi-of-rgveda-are-koles-smelters-kiana.html>
  14. Zoroastrianism - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoroastrianism>
  15. GOŠTĀSP - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/gostasp/>
  16. (PDF) On the literary structure of the Older Avesta - ResearchGate, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/231781495\\_On\\_the\\_literary\\_structure\\_o](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/231781495_On_the_literary_structure_o)

f\_the\_Older\_Avesta

17. Structure and Themes: Myth, Legend and History | The Shahnameh ..., accessed September 4, 2025, <https://shahnameh.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/structure-and-themes>
18. The Role of Farr in Firdowsi's Shahname - Angelfire, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.angelfire.com/rnb/bashiri/Farr/TheRoleofFarrintheShahname.pdf>
19. The symbols of Farr(ah) during the reign of Anūshīrwān of Sassanid in Tabari's history, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://jrm.ut.ac.ir/article\\_102679.html?lang=en](https://jrm.ut.ac.ir/article_102679.html?lang=en)
20. KAYĀNĪĀN ii. The Kayanids as a Group - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/kayanian-ii/>
21. کیکاووس\* خودکامه ای نامجو - IranNamag, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.irannamag.com/article/%DA%A9%DB%8C%DA%A9%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%88%D8%B3-%D8%AE%D9%88%D8%AF%DA%A9%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%87-%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%AC%D9%88/>
22. Vishtaspa - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vishtaspa>
23. KAYĀNĪĀN xiv. The Kayanids in Western Historiography ..., accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/kayanian-xiv/>
24. IRAN iii. TRADITIONAL HISTORY - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/iran-iii-traditional-history/>
25. Middle Persian literature - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle\\_Persian\\_literature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Persian_literature)
26. Culling Ancestors: Selective Remembrance of the Achaemenids in Sasanian Iran - history@princeton.edu, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://history.princeton.edu/undergraduate/princeton-historical-review/issue-22-23/culling-ancestors>
27. Pahlavi texts, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://bpb-us-e2.wpmucdn.com/sites.uci.edu/dist/c/347/files/2024/04/West\\_Denkard-V-and-VII-d4e2d04a9bd2d17d.pdf](https://bpb-us-e2.wpmucdn.com/sites.uci.edu/dist/c/347/files/2024/04/West_Denkard-V-and-VII-d4e2d04a9bd2d17d.pdf)
28. summary of Shahnameh Ferdowsi | 24 هوش مصنوعی یاک, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://yag24.com/summary-of-shahnameh-ferdowsi/>
29. Il Kayan - Ramiyar Karanjia, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://ramiyarkaranjia.com/ii-kayan/>
30. کیانیان - ویکی‌پدیا، دانشنامه آزاد, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://fa.wikipedia.org/wiki/%DA%A9%DB%8C%D8%A7%D9%86%DB%8C%D8%A7%D9%86>
31. Kay Khosrow - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kay\\_Khosrow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kay_Khosrow)
32. کیانیان - راه, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://persian.rah-chemin.com/3738-2>
33. Iranian National History - Rustam lives on to support the Kayanian ..., accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.the-persians.co.uk/kayanians.htm>
34. Shahanmeh - All Episodes, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.princeton.edu/~shahnama/allep.htm>
35. Rustam & Rakhsh - Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art, accessed

- September 4, 2025, <https://asia-archive.si.edu/learn/shahnama/rustam-rakhsh/>
36. Kay-Kavus - Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://asia-archive.si.edu/learn/shahnama/kay-kavus/>
37. Kay Kāvus - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kay\\_K%C4%81vus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kay_K%C4%81vus)
38. Abu'l Qasim Firdausi - "Kai Kavus Ascends to the Sky", Folio 134r from the Shahnama (Book of Kings) of Shah Tahmasp - The Metropolitan Museum of Art, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/452130>
39. سرای تاریخ - درباره زندگینامه کیخسرو نماد پادشاهی ایرانی - accessed September 4, 2025, <https://sarayetarih.ir/%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%87-%D8%B2%D9%86%D8%AF%DA%AF%DB%8C%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%87-%DA%A9%DB%8C%D8%AE%D8%B3%D8%B1%D9%88-%D9%86%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AF-%D9%BE%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%DB%8C/>
40. Khosrow I - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khosrow\\_I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khosrow_I)
41. The Persian Alexander (1) (Chapter 12) - A History of Alexander the Great in World Culture, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/history-of-alexander-the-great-in-world-culture/persian-alexander-1/5FDBBABC20E8F1740C621B052A07BBB8>
42. Part Nine: Kay Khosrow – The Sovereignty of the Self - XE Gold Magazine, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://xe.gold/part-nine-kay-khosrow-the-sovereignty-of-the-self/>
43. Kay Lohrasp - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kay\\_Lohrasp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kay_Lohrasp)
44. ESFANDIĀR (1) - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/esfandiar-1-son-gostaspl>
45. DĀRĀ(B) (1) - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/darab-1/>
46. Rostam - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rostam>
47. Hero Recast as Human: Transformation of Rustam in the Shāhnāmā - BILDERFAHRZEUGE, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://bilderfahrzeuge.hypotheses.org/5601>
48. Shahnameh - ROSTAM Tales of Love and War from Persia's Book of Kings, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://mage.com/rostan-tales-of-love-and-war-from-persias-book-of-kings/>
49. The Nursemaid of Rostam | EBSCO Research Starters, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/religion-and-philosophy/nursemaid-rostan>
50. Journal of Social-Political Studies of Iran's Culture and History The Kayanians: From Myth to Reality - مطالعات سیاسی-اجتماعی تاریخ و فرهنگ ایران - accessed September 4, 2025, <https://journalspsich.com/index.php/journalspsich/article/download/399/320/1518>

51. Avesta - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avesta>
52. Bactria - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bactria>
53. AVESTAN GEOGRAPHY - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/avestan-geography/>
54. Avestan geography - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avestan\\_geography](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avestan_geography)
55. CENOTAPHS IN THE BACTRIA MARGIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX DOMAIN: A CASE STUDY OF NORTHEAST IRAN - DergiPark, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://dergipark.org.tr/en/download/article-file/1726359>
56. Bactria–Margiana Archaeological Complex - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bactria%E2%80%93Margiana\\_Archaeological\\_Complex](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bactria%E2%80%93Margiana_Archaeological_Complex)
57. The Bactria-Margiana Archaeological Complex in pictures : r/IndoEuropean - Reddit, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/IndoEuropean/comments/f1fjkj/the\\_bactriamargiana\\_archaeological\\_complex\\_in/](https://www.reddit.com/r/IndoEuropean/comments/f1fjkj/the_bactriamargiana_archaeological_complex_in/)
58. Cultural legacy of BMAC in Indo-Aryans : r/IndoEuropean - Reddit, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/IndoEuropean/comments/1bmbyti/cultural\\_legacy\\_of\\_bmac\\_in\\_indoaryans/](https://www.reddit.com/r/IndoEuropean/comments/1bmbyti/cultural_legacy_of_bmac_in_indoaryans/)
59. Yaz culture - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yaz\\_culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yaz_culture)
60. Proto-Iranic, the Yaz Culture, and how it all relates to Central Asian Nomadic Iranian people of antiquity. - Reddit, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/IndoEuropean/comments/1fbpt4r/protoiranian\\_the\\_yaz\\_culture\\_and\\_how\\_it\\_all/](https://www.reddit.com/r/IndoEuropean/comments/1fbpt4r/protoiranian_the_yaz_culture_and_how_it_all/)
61. A New Perspective on the Archaeology of the Khorasan Region during the Iron Age, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://ijas.usb.ac.ir/article\\_6844\\_caf9ec9dabb79d14cb647f96cfefb4422.pdf](https://ijas.usb.ac.ir/article_6844_caf9ec9dabb79d14cb647f96cfefb4422.pdf)
62. Avestan period - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avestan\\_period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avestan_period)
63. Is there historical basis behind the mythical kings in the Shahnameh? : r/AskHistorians - Reddit, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/qr3i6y/is\\_there\\_historical\\_basis\\_behind\\_the\\_mythical/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/qr3i6y/is_there_historical_basis_behind_the_mythical/)
64. Pahlavi texts - Avesta.org, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://www.avesta.org/pahlavi/>
65. کیانیان در شاهنامه - امرداد, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://amordadnews.com/7430/>
66. Kayaniden Vater Siyawaschs Und Großvater Kai Chosraus Im, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://de.scribd.com/document/684239701/z6>
67. Key Kavous (Kayanides) - Wikipédia, accessed September 4, 2025,

- [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Key\\_Kavous\\_\(Kayanides\)](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Key_Kavous_(Kayanides))
68. Osamu Otsuka. "The Hazaraspid Dynasty's Legendary Kayanid Ancestry: the Flowering of Persian Literature under the Patronage of Local Rulers in the Late Il-khanid Period" - OpenEdition Journals, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/53691?lang=en>
  69. Kayanides | Lexique - Le Livre des Rois | Shâhnâmeh, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.livredesrois.com/fr/tag/kayanides/>
  70. Épisode 152 : La dynastie des Sassanides, âge d'or de la Perse - YouTube, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q\\_Rx18tCU4M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_Rx18tCU4M)
  71. Du coup, je viens d'apprendre l'existence de la dynastie kayanide, où les souverains portent le titre de Kay, et j'ai trouvé un nom familier. : r/KaeyaMains - Reddit, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://www.reddit.com/r/KaeyaMains/comments/1kak4da/so\\_i\\_just\\_learned\\_about\\_the\\_kayanian\\_dynasty/?tl=fr](https://www.reddit.com/r/KaeyaMains/comments/1kak4da/so_i_just_learned_about_the_kayanian_dynasty/?tl=fr)
  72. So, I just learned about the Kayanian dynasty, where rulers are given the title of Kay, and I found a familiar name - Reddit, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://www.reddit.com/r/KaeyaMains/comments/1kak4da/so\\_i\\_just\\_learned\\_about\\_the\\_kayanian\\_dynasty/](https://www.reddit.com/r/KaeyaMains/comments/1kak4da/so_i_just_learned_about_the_kayanian_dynasty/)
  73. KAYĀNĪĀN - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/kayanian-parent/>
  74. KAYĀNĪĀN - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/kayanian-parent>
  75. Were Kayanian and Pishdadian actually a thing? - History Stack Exchange, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://history.stackexchange.com/questions/65809/were-kayanian-and-pishdadian-actually-a-thing>
  76. INDO-IRANICA ET ORIENTALIA - Università di Bologna, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://cris.unibo.it/retrieve/handle/11585/893723/6ccf8d00-86a2-4761-b296-36404d160e1f/PANAINO\\_Abebim%20ST.pdf](https://cris.unibo.it/retrieve/handle/11585/893723/6ccf8d00-86a2-4761-b296-36404d160e1f/PANAINO_Abebim%20ST.pdf)
  77. Explore - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://mail.iranicaonline.org/explore/?wpv\\_view\\_count=903&wpv\\_paged=469](https://mail.iranicaonline.org/explore/?wpv_view_count=903&wpv_paged=469)
  78. The reign of Kavād - also known as Kavādh, Kawād, Qubādh, Ghobād - iran & the iranians, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.the-persians.co.uk/kavad.htm>
  79. Kavād I - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kavād\\_I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kavād_I)
  80. KAWĀD I i. Reign - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/kawad-i-reign/>
  81. 7 things you might like to know about the Shahnameh - aspirantum, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://aspirantum.com/blog/all-about-shahnameh>
  82. Ferdowsi's Shahnameh: The Epic of the Persian Kings, The Saviour of Persia - gcgi.info, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://gcgi.info/blog/419-shahnameh-the-epic-of-the-persian-kings>
  83. Shahnameh | I Make Up Worlds | Page 2 - Kate Elliott, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://imakeupworlds.com/index.php/category/shahnameh/page/2/>



84. About: Vishtaspa - DBpedia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://dbpedia.org/page/Vishtaspa>
85. Factoids of Assyrian presence in Anatolia: towards a historiography of archaeological interpretation at Kültepe-Kaneš - UCL Discovery, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10125853/1/Heffron%20Y%202021%20Factoids%20Accepted%20Manuscript.pdf>
86. Iranian Bronze Age - Summary - eHRAF Archaeology, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/ma50/summary>
87. BRONZE AGE - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/bronze-age/>
88. The Bronze Age and the Iron Age on the Central Iranian Plateau - MOM Éditions, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://books.openedition.org/momeditions/8196>
89. Uncovering Kimirek-Kum 1: Exploring a Forgotten Delta and Central Asia's Bronze Age-Iron Age Transition in Central Uzbekistan - NYU Arts & Science, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://as.nyu.edu/departments/ancientstudies/events/spring-2025/uncovering-kimirek-kum-1--exploring-a-forgotten-delta-and-centra.html>
90. THE BEGINNING OF THE IRON AGE IN TRANSOXANIA, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://ru.unesco.org/silkroad/sites/default/files/knowledge-bank-article/vol\\_1%20silk%20road\\_the%20beginning%20of%20the%20iron%20age%20in%20transoxania.pdf](https://ru.unesco.org/silkroad/sites/default/files/knowledge-bank-article/vol_1%20silk%20road_the%20beginning%20of%20the%20iron%20age%20in%20transoxania.pdf)
91. Distribution and location of Iron Age sites with archaeozoological material in southern Central Asia. - ResearchGate, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Distribution-and-location-of-Iron-Age-sites-with-archaeozoological-material-in-southern\\_fig1\\_317346511](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Distribution-and-location-of-Iron-Age-sites-with-archaeozoological-material-in-southern_fig1_317346511)
92. King Vištāspa of the Kiyānid dynasty - Ferdowsi's Shānameh (deceased) - Genealogy - Geni, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://www.geni.com/people/King-Vi%C5%A1taspa-of-the-Kiyānid-dynasty-Ferdowsi-s-Shānameh/6000000018396469924>
93. king vishtaspa | VoVatia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://vovatia.wordpress.com/tag/king-vishtaspa/>
94. Book Description: Kolsoum Ghazanfari : Perceptions of Zoroastrian Realities in the Shahnameh. Zoroaster, Beliefs, Rituals - Logos Verlag Berlin, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://www.logos-verlag.de/cgi-bin/engbuchmid?isbn=2868&lng=eng&id=>
95. The Relationship Between Zoroastrianism and Kingship in the Iranian Empire, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/371266157\\_The\\_Relationship\\_Between\\_Zoroastrianism\\_and\\_Kingship\\_in\\_the\\_Iranian\\_Empire](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/371266157_The_Relationship_Between_Zoroastrianism_and_Kingship_in_the_Iranian_Empire)
96. Shahrestanihay-e Eranshahr - Mazda Publishers, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<http://www.mazdapublishers.com/book/shahrestanihay-e-eranshahr>
97. THE JOURNAL OF THE RESEARCH AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE - AVESTA -- Zoroastrian Archives, accessed September 4, 2025,

- [https://www.avesta.org/ebooks/Houston\\_Gatha\\_Conference\\_1996\\_Complete\\_Proceedings.pdf](https://www.avesta.org/ebooks/Houston_Gatha_Conference_1996_Complete_Proceedings.pdf)
98. المعرفة - الديانة الإيرانية القديمة - المعرفة, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://www.marefa.org/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%A9\\_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9\\_%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%85%D8%A9](https://www.marefa.org/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%A9_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9_%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%85%D8%A9)
99. (PDF) Connectivity and Communication in the Achaemenid Empire - ResearchGate, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270693064\\_Connectivity\\_and\\_Communication\\_in\\_the\\_Achaemenid\\_Empire](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270693064_Connectivity_and_Communication_in_the_Achaemenid_Empire)
100. A Review of Mythological Structure of "The Hero Within" in the Story of Bahram and Golandam based on Joseph Campbell and Pearson-Kumar Theory - Tarbiat Modares University Journals System - Culture and Folk Literature, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://cfl.modares.ac.ir/article-11-41459-en.html>
101. AVESTAN PEOPLE - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/avestan-people/>
102. Chapter 9. The King and His People - The Center for Hellenic Studies, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://chs.harvard.edu/chapter/chapter-9-the-king-and-his-people/>
103. Avestan - Etymology, Origin & Meaning, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://www.etymonline.com/word/Avestan>
104. Fellow's Weekly Seminar: Common roots of heritage: A research on ..., accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://ias.ac.in/events/fellows-weekly-seminar-common-roots-of-heritage-a-research-on-similarities-present-between-ramayan-mahabharat-and-shahnameh-of-ferdowsi/>
105. Comparing Ramayan and Mahabharat Epics - Kamat's Potpourri, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://www.kamat.com/kalranga/mythology/ramayan\\_vs\\_mahabharat.htm](https://www.kamat.com/kalranga/mythology/ramayan_vs_mahabharat.htm)
106. comparative study of the epic characters "Karna" and "Sohrab" in the Mahabarata and Shahnameh, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://jrm.usb.ac.ir/article\\_8572.html?lang=en](https://jrm.usb.ac.ir/article_8572.html?lang=en)
107. Ramakien - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramakien>
108. Comparative Comparison of Iranian and Indian Epics with the Adaptive Approach to Siavash and Rama's Story, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://heroic.lu.ac.ir/article\\_716430.html?lang=en](https://heroic.lu.ac.ir/article_716430.html?lang=en)
109. What is the difference between Ramayan and its Thai interpretation Ramakian? - Quora, accessed September 4, 2025,  
<https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-difference-between-Ramayan-and-its-Thai-interpretation-Ramakian>
110. Proto-Indo-Iranian religion - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025,  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proto-Indo-Iranian\\_religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proto-Indo-Iranian_religion)
111. Contrastive Study of "Time" in Iranian-Indian Mythology - Antrocom, accessed September 4, 2025,



- <https://antrocom.net/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/asghari-annapurna-contrastive-study-time-iranian-indian-mythology.pdf>
112. INDO-IRANIAN RELIGION - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/indo-iranian-religion/>
113. Indo-Iranian Mythology, Eastern Asia Minor and the Caucasus, Armenian, Indian, Iranian, Persian, Mythology, Myths, Airyanem Vaejah, Ahura Mazda, High Hara, Arax, Araxes, River, Mithra, Sraosha, Rashnu, Ardvi-sura Anahita, Haoma - ATTALUS, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.attalus.org/armenian/imyth.htm>
114. Afrasiab - Google Arts & Culture, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://artsandculture.google.com/entity/m01vxfn?hl=de>
115. Ferdowsis Schāhnāme und seine unerforschten Grenzen: Die verlorenen Dimensionen der iranischen Identität innerhalb der Geschichte der menschlichen Zivilisation entdecken - ResearchGate, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/395031342\\_Ferdowsis\\_Schahname\\_und\\_seine\\_unerforschten\\_Grenzen\\_Die\\_verlorenen\\_Dimensionen\\_der\\_iranischen\\_Identitat\\_innerhalb\\_der\\_Geschichte\\_der\\_menschlichen\\_Zivilisation\\_entdecken](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/395031342_Ferdowsis_Schahname_und_seine_unerforschten_Grenzen_Die_verlorenen_Dimensionen_der_iranischen_Identitat_innerhalb_der_Geschichte_der_menschlichen_Zivilisation_entdecken)
116. Histoire de l'Iran : Voyage des anciens empires à la République islamique moderne, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://transformiran.com/fr/apprendre/histoire-de-liran-voyage-depuis-les-anciens-empires-jusqua-la-republique-islamique-moderne/>
117. Iran De l'ancienne Perse à la République islamique - Clio.fr, accessed September 4, 2025, [http://www.clio.fr/chronologie/pdf/pdf\\_chronologie\\_iran.pdf](http://www.clio.fr/chronologie/pdf/pdf_chronologie_iran.pdf)
118. مقاله کیانیان از اسطوره تا واقعیت - سیولیکا, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://civilica.com/doc/2181749/>
119. قسمت دوم: کیانیان دومین شاهان داستانی و تاریخی آریایی - جام غور, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://jameghor.com/article/%D9%82%D8%B3%D9%85%D8%AA-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%85-%DA%A9%DB%8C%D8%A7%D9%86%DB%8C%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%85%DB%8C%D9%86-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%86%DB%8C-%D9%88/>
120. Indo-Aryan migrations - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Aryan\\_migrations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Aryan_migrations)
121. Varas and Dragonslayers: Rethinking the Indo-Iranian Expansion - Ancient DNA Era, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://adnaera.com/2025/04/01/varas-and-dragonslayers-rethinking-the-indo-iranian-expansion/>
122. Kay-Kavus Chained in a Cave - Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://asia-archive.si.edu/learn/shahnama/f2006-7/>
123. Khosrow and the Old Woman: Two Historical Stories with Two Side Stories on Animal Rights, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://www.hunara.org/article\\_180132\\_fb3eedb3ebb3f493a5fcbec8baa451c1.pdf](https://www.hunara.org/article_180132_fb3eedb3ebb3f493a5fcbec8baa451c1.pdf)
124. Reflections on Re-reading the Iliad and the Shahnameh - Cambridge University Press & Assessment, accessed September 4, 2025,

- [https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/F57163FA4893F1E64A2DE916739505E2/stamped-9789400600096c4\\_p63-68\\_CBO.pdf/reflections\\_on\\_rereading\\_the\\_iliad\\_and\\_the\\_shahnameh.pdf](https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/F57163FA4893F1E64A2DE916739505E2/stamped-9789400600096c4_p63-68_CBO.pdf/reflections_on_rereading_the_iliad_and_the_shahnameh.pdf)
125. COMPARISON OF THE GENERAL STRUCTURE OF SHAHNAMEH FERDOWSI AND GARSHASPNAME ASADI TOOSI AND ILIAD AND ODYSSEY Zarnosh Mushtaq\*, P, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://journals.uran.ua/visnyknakkkim/article/download/178799/178831>
  126. A Comparative Study of the Story of Esfandiar in Ferdowsi's Shahnameh and Achilles in Homer's Iliad | Journal of Educational and Social Research - Richtmann Publishing, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.richtmann.org/journal/index.php/jesr/article/view/1003>
  127. Zoroastrian Ditheism | EBSCO Research Starters, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/religion-and-philosophy/zoroastrian-ditheism>
  128. Ancient Iranian religion - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient\\_Iranian\\_religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Iranian_religion)
  129. A State of Mixture, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.karlancer.com/api/file/1705625947-TLO0.pdf>
  130. Visions of Community in The Post-Roman World The West, Byzantium and The Islamic World 300-1100 - 2012 PDF | PDF | Ethnic Groups - Scribd, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.scribd.com/document/472981357/Visions-of-Community-in-the-Post-Roman-World-The-West-Byzantium-and-the-Islamic-World-300-1100-2012-pdf>
  131. Ancient States and Infrastructural Power: Europe, Asia, and America 9780812294170, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://dokumen.pub/ancient-states-and-infrastructural-power-europe-asia-and-america-9780812294170.html>
  132. Iran and the Aryan myth\* - David Motadel, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.davidmotadel.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/MotadelAryans.pdf>
  133. The Hero Book of Iran Joseph Görres and his German translation of Abu'l Qāsim Firdowsi's Shahnāma, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://www.spektrumiran.com/article\\_194646\\_en.html](https://www.spektrumiran.com/article_194646_en.html)
  134. Pahlavi kīrrēnīdan: Traces of Iranian Creation Mythology - ResearchGate, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/275855727\\_Pahlavi\\_kirrenidan\\_Traces\\_of\\_Iranian\\_Creation\\_Mythology](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/275855727_Pahlavi_kirrenidan_Traces_of_Iranian_Creation_Mythology)
  135. کاووس، اسطوره نیک یا بد | دفتر انتشارات و فناوری آموزشی - مجلات رشد, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.roshdmag.ir/fa/article/24755/%DA%A9%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%88%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%B7%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%87-%D9%86%DB%8C%DA%A9-%DB%8C%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D8%AF>
  136. کیکاووس، شخصیت های شاهنامه - کیشاهنامه, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://wikishahnameh.com/%D8%B4%D8%AE%D8%B5%DB%8C%D8%AA-%D9>

- [%87%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%87-%DA%A9%DB%8C%DA%A9%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%88%D8%B3/1836/](#)
137. IRAN iv. MYTHS AND LEGENDS - Encyclopaedia Iranica, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/iran-iv-myths-and-legends/>
  138. Kay Kavus's War Against the Demons of Mazanderan (Shahnameh Reading Project 12) | I Make Up Worlds - Kate Elliott, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://imakeupworlds.com/index.php/2016/04/kay-kavuss-war-against-the-demons-of-mazanderan-shahnameh-reading-project-12/>
  139. The Death of Rostam: Literary Representations of Iranian Identity in Early Islam, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/iranian-studies/article/death-of-rostam-literary-representations-of-iranian-identity-in-early-islam/646979F0399F548A68EECCC3E785A1AF>
  140. An Explanation and Analysis of Divine Glory (Farr-e Izadi) in Prose Works of Islamic Period: Historical Sources, Texts related to the Wisdom of Illumination and Books of Precept, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://jhr.usb.ac.ir/article\\_1974.html?lang=en](https://jhr.usb.ac.ir/article_1974.html?lang=en)
  141. Imprints of Eternity: Zoroastrian Echoes in Ferdowsi's Shahnameh | by Mashrur Arafin Ayon, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://medium.com/@mashrur\\_ayon/imprints-of-eternity-zoroastrian-echoes-in-ferdowsis-shahnameh-7c414c0aa20e](https://medium.com/@mashrur_ayon/imprints-of-eternity-zoroastrian-echoes-in-ferdowsis-shahnameh-7c414c0aa20e)
  142. Confrontations in the historical part of Shahnameh with the approach of Louis Strauss - Dialnet, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/download/articulo/8108797.pdf>
  143. THE GILGAMESH EPIC AND OLD TESTAMENT PARALLELS - Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://isac.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/shared/docs/misc\\_gilgamesh.pdf](https://isac.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/shared/docs/misc_gilgamesh.pdf)
  144. Compare And Contrast The Epic Of Gilgamesh - 2096 Words | Bartleby, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.bartleby.com/essay/Compare-And-Contrast-The-Epic-Of-Gilgamesh-1D84E231E2235112>
  145. Epic of Gilgamesh - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epic\\_of\\_Gilgamesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epic_of_Gilgamesh)
  146. Naqsch-e Rostam - Wikipedia, accessed September 4, 2025, [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naqsch-e\\_Rostam](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naqsch-e_Rostam)
  147. Rostam: The Legendary Hero of Persia and the Shahnameh - YouTube, accessed September 4, 2025, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjXmp8Ojj90>
  148. accessed January 1, 1970, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24047957>
  149. accessed January 1, 1970, <https://www.cais-soas.com/CAIS/Mythology/kayanian.htm>