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The Life and Status of Women in ACHAEMENID PERSIA

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The Life and Status of
WOMEN INachaemenid Persia

Persepolis Harem

The Harem is interconnected with the Throne Hall, Treasury, and the Council Hall via staircases.

There's a drainway on the far west wing that connects the Harem with the Kings' Palaces.

A drainage duct was found in the western wall of a room near the Council Hall which is connected to the drainage channel running away from the Harem court yard.

Many rooms in the palace are on the stairway or on the walls of the central section of the Harem. This is apparent because we find severalounced of previously unknown vaults are in the painting. Everywhere else in the palace there is extravagantly displayed.

The queen's quarters are presumed to be at the central sector of the Harem or even one of the Peres (known as E or E).

Seals

Inlaid Seal #751 "Hunter Battling"

PF 756

Aryshoma Seal #38 "Hero-worship"

PF 1835

Persepolis Fortification Tablets

PF 684

17.8 handel (2) wine, supplied by Lysya (the woman) Rukamarruk, received for Raktis, (2) a period of 6 days. She carried a sealed document of the king. 22nd year, 10th month.

- This tablet shows that women were entrusted with important documents.

PF 727

28.8 handel (2) wine, supplied by Lysya, was expended in behalf of (the woman) Turuma. (2) Eusa, in the 22nd year.

- Turuma ordered the largest amount of wine out of the entire royal family, including King Darius, (2880 quarts of wine)

PF 780

20.3 handel (2) grain, supplied by Lysya from (the place) Luranmeritt, received on behalf of (the woman) Luranmeritt, received as before. (For) 1 month, the manua(?) Iset, 22nd year, 1 man 5 s, 1 woman 3, 3 women 10 s, 5 women, Seal: 53

Occupations Of Women

Estates Owners: Such as Aryshoma, Rukamarruk, and Amista. Owning an Estate meant that these women were responsible for people, goods, and land.

Peasants: A work group made mostly of women and children and on a few occasions men.

Harvesters: A work group that is mostly women and sometimes a few men.

Aryshoma is a member of the royal family but her relationship to the king is unknown. She is also known as the "armilla" and has two larger written letters.

Aryshoma is the daughter of Cyrus I and King Darius I wanted her to legitimize his right to the throne. She was also the favorite wife and Darius ordered a statue of her to be made out of gold. She owns at least 6 estates.

Resources: