



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Ecological aspects of the Bisotun inscription

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Abstract

Even though numerous travelers and scholars were awed by the lofty location of Bisotun inscription, there hasn't been a systematic study regarding its site selection, of which the current paper tries to reveal that water is a decisive factor. With close examination of the rock surface and construction stages of the monument, water streaming down and eroding the inscription is by no means accidental and instead, it's an integral part of the original design. Compared with the rock arts in the Kurdistan region at the turn of the third and the second millennium BC and other rock monuments in the Zagros mountains across time, Bisotun monument residing high up in a gorge looking to the river is not an innovation, instead a convention. This choice reflects the common conception across cultures that water is sacred and brings fertility. While the idea can be further approached from the perspective of Mesopotamian or Elamite religions, I venture the possibility of Darius I creating a holy space of water and light in the context his own Indo-Iranian belief.

Keywords

Bisotun Inscription, Space, Water, Religion, Natural agency

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