

Reverence Posture at Darius' Relief in Persepolis

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Abstract : The beliefs of the ancient peoples about gods and kings and how to perform rituals played an active part in the ancient civilizations. One of them in the ancient Near Eastern civilizations, which were accomplished, was paying homage to the gods and kings. The reverence posture during the Achaemenid period consisted of raising one right hand with the palm and the extended fingers facing the mouth. It is worth paying attention to the fact that the ancient empires such as Akkadian, Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian should be regarded as successive versions of the same multinational power structure, each resulting from an internal power struggle within this structure. This article tries to show the reverence gesture with those of the ancient Near East. The working method is to study Darius one in Persepolis and pay homage to him and his similarities to those of the ancient Near East. Thus, it is logical to assume that the Reverence gesture follows the Sumerian and Akkadian ones.

Keywords : Darius, Persepolis, Achaemenid, Proskynesis

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