

An Analysis of the historical Performance of the Great Khorasan in Religious and Artistic Developments of Eastern Iran during the Parthian Period

Maryam Zohourian¹, Saman Farzin²

Abstract

The Great Khorasan has played an influential role in regional exchanges of the eastern Iran throughout the Iranian historical period and provides researchers with comprehensive information in this regard. However, information about the performance of Khorasan region during the Parthian period is very limited due to the destruction of historical works and sources by Sassanians as well as the passage of time. Accordingly, the purpose of this comparative-analytic study is to analyze the performance of the Great Khorasan as the first headquarter of the Parthians in religious and artistic contexts of this period. This research is performed with reference to the primary sources and archaeological evidence obtained from this period. Therefore, the present study seeks to answer the following questions: How could the Great Khorasan pave the way for religious and artistic structural developments during the Parthian period? Which regions have been most influenced by the religious and artistic developments of the Great Khorasan? In this regard, according to the findings of the present study, it can be stated that the performance of the Great Khorasan in the Parthian period has been trans-regional and based on religious and cultural tolerance. Also, due to its location in the east and west linking corridor, With the spread of Buddhism, Mehr and Zarathustra gained religious influence in eastern Iran, India, China, and even Byzantine Rome. And because of works of art such as sculpture, pottery and glassmaking, it made an artistic impact in India and China. In addition, by analyzing the etymology of the Pahlavi script and language in the Parthian period, we found that this region has had a trans-regional cultural impact by developing the Pahlavi script and language within Iran, Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

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1 . Assistant Professor of Archeology, College of Art, University of Birjand, Responsible Author
Zohouriyani@Birjand.ac.ir

2. Assistant Professor of Archeology, College of Art, University of birjand Farzin@ Birjand.ac.ir