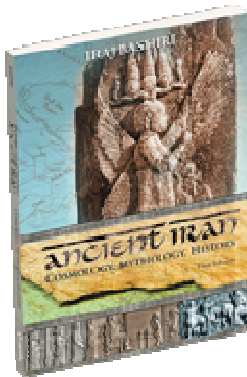


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Ancient Iran

Cosmology, Mythology, History (First Edition)

By Iraj Bashiri

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Ancient Iran: Cosmology, Mythology, History presents Iran's pre-Islamic history within the context of both its complex cosmology and rich mythology. The book uses the concept of *farr* to show how authority, finding guidance in the cosmic realm, organized the lives of Iran's hero-saints in the mythic realm. It also discusses how historical monarchs organized their hierarchical societies according to the dictates of *Ahura Mazda*.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part examines cosmology, concentrating on *Ahura Mazda* and the *Ahuric* order that emanates from him. The next section addresses mythology and describes how the rulership of hero-saints promoted the *farr*, culminating in the unique creed of Zoroaster. The final section tells the history of pre-Islamic Iran. It begins with a study of life on the plateau, moves on to the stages of empire and concludes with the rule of the Parthians and Sassanids.

Additionally, through a new interpretation of Firdowsi's *Shahname*, the volume shows how the prophet Zoroaster reorganized *Mazdian* cosmology to fit the ethical, philosophical, and sociological dynamics of Achaemenid and Sassanid Iran.

The text provides cutting-edge scholarship for graduate students and scholarly insight for researchers. It is also appropriate for upper-level undergraduate students.



Biography

Iraj Bashiri received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He is a Professor of History at the University of Minnesota, where he teaches Ancient Iran among other courses. His published works include *The Ishraqi Philosophy of Jalal al-Din Rumi*, *The Fiction of Sadeq Hedayat*, *Prominent Tajik Figures of the Twentieth Century*, and *Samanids and the Revival of the Civilization of Iranian Peoples*.

Dr. Bashiri's work, *Impact of Egypt on Ancient Iran*, offers a new view of the interaction between ancient Persia and Egypt, while his interpretation of Firdowsi's *Shahname* brings the mythical hero-saints of Iran to life. He is a recipient of the CLA Distinguished Teaching Award and is currently involved in research on the philosophy of Mulla Sadra Shirazi.