

in the name of God

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**In Search of Ancient Art of Weaving in
Kurdish Curpet
(Kolyā'i, Kermānshāh, Harsin).**

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Zagros Cultural Ecology

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In some of my previous works, I found it suitable to distinguish between natural and cultural environment or ecology. By cultural ecology it means all what man has created to compensate his numerous physical mental needs and weaknesses. All what has been created to compensate his physical needs and weaknesses is called material culture; whereas all others fall within the field of non-material culture. Weaving has been one of the most fascinating invention of man within the material culture in the last thousands of years.

In many parts of the world, especially in the so-called Middle East, weaving has not remained only in the field of material culture and deeply has entered the fields of artistic and religious activities.

This study is performed about traditional weaving activities in an important part of latter region, called by some writers as the "Cradle of Mankind" i.e. in Western parts of present Iran and Eastern part of present Iraq. This parts were the core of the Sassanid dynasty between Third and seventh centuries B.C. This long lived dynasty that inherited all what had until then remained from all earlier Mesopotamian civilizations. During the Islamic periods for the first time during Saljuk Turkish rule the same part constitute a province which was officially called "Kurdistan".

Europeans travelers of eighteenth and nineteenth centuries have reported that in earlier time some of the most precious carpets used to be manufactured here. According to them these carpets were called Kordi or Kurdish carpets. But this same name is now used the carpet of some other Kurdish speaking region and do not take especially a high position in the world of carpets. The precious Kordi carpet has but disappeared since several centuries.

In this study it has been tried to explore all what has been survived about traditional weaving in the homeland of Kordi carpet in Kolyai and Harsin. The provincial capital of Kermanshah began to grow during Qajar period in eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as a result of migrations weavers from places like Harsin and Kolyai. Therefore this study concentrates on the weaving of these three places.

Surprisingly also in the process of field work in Harsin which is known for its Kelims, fascinating old carpets were discovered which can show us some idea about how the Kordi carpet could have looked like.

Harsin is located in south east Western Iranian city of Kermanshah and south west of Hamadan the ancient capital of the Median Empire.


Harsin has been inhabited since the pre-historical times. The pre-historical site of Harsin called "Bawa Khaki" has not yet be excavated. Among many archeological sites of Harsin county, Ganj Dara, is supposed to have been inhabited around 8000 BC i.e. eleven thousand five hundred years ago.

Some remainings of a fort and a palace, related to the Sassanid period has been investigated by Dietrich Huff.

Certainly without personal relations such relatively detailed study of weaving activities under present situation would not have been possible.

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About

Introduction

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M. Reza (Fariborz) Hamzeh'ee was born in Harsin (Iran). He studied "*Economics*" on the University of Poona (India). 1986: Received the "*PhD*" in Poona -with the approval of the internationally renowned sociologists from Delhi- in the "*Sociology of Social Movements*". 1989: Was given the German "*Dr. phil*" title, in "*Sociology of Religion*" by the University of Augsburg, with the approval of two other Bavarian universities. 1990: Finished a one year post doctoral course in "*International Development*" on the University of Kassel. 1998: Received the German professorship title (*Habilitation*) by the University of Osnabrück; with the approval of three other German universities (FU Berlin, Leipzig, Weingarten), in "*Sociology of Culture*". In additions to his scientific publications in English, German and Persian, he has published a novel (*Warcham*) and an anthology. His first documentary film about the untouchable caste of India was inaugurated in 2007 on the University of Augsburg in Germany.