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# THE INDUSTRY IN PERSIA UNDER THE ERA OF SASSANID (224-226/651 AD)

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# **ABSTRACT**

The Sassanian state 's extension and its diverse needs especially in the Sassanian era have a big role into extending its economic activity especially in the field of industry. This witnessed a great progress in developing its national economy and reinforcing its political independence by meeting its people needs ,along with its contribution into developing the other fields as agriculture and trade. So long as the Sassanian society is a sector one, the craftsman inherited his carrier to his sons, teaching them its secrets, most importantly the famous one (Tukhshin Bid) means the chief of industry men. The main purpose of that is to resolve disputes and problems ensued among the jobs owners and to organize their productions, to specify their prices. Of factors helping them to develop the industry was the use of the captives of war especially the skilled in developing and entering new types of industries just like the industry of textiles they were skilful in their countries, most importantly Pottery, mining, tanning and perfumes industries.

# INTRODUCTION

"The industrial man" has been known as the "chief of the Manufacturers", aiming to resolve disputes and problems that may be aroused among owners of the craft, to organize their production and to set up price. Among the factors that helped the development of the industry in the Sasanian state was the use of Sassanian prisoners of war, especially the skilled ones who contributed to the development and introduction of types of good industries such as textile industry, which they mastered in their country. The most important industries were pottery, mining, tanning and perfumes. .. etc

Industry as linguistic : profession of Manufacturer, making fine things: They worked by their own hands(1)

Industry as a term: It is manual work carried out by the manufacturer in his craftsmanship as carpenter, smith and goldsmith . (2)

The industrial is a process of converting materials from raw materials to commodities and other needs which are used to be consumed in the local markets or exported to the abscess and it is normal for the manufacture of raw materials, and need for domestic and foreign markets lead to industry (3)

Among the industries witnessed by the Sassanid era

# (1. The industry of Textiles, carpets and clothing)

The textile industry is one of the oldest industries in Persia and the most important in the Sassanid era, and that got spread because of the availability of raw materials of cotton, wool and linen. In other words, these materials have been used since the earliest historical times, which preceded the Sassanid era and the next(4)

The shortage of the needs of this industry was brought from abroad such as silk, which was at the head of the goods and goods imported from China, the Sasanian markets took their needs of raw silks to weave from their factories and then exported in the form of textiles(5). The Babylonian carpets were one of the most important materials that China wanted to import from Persia(6).

This led to flourished the industry.

It was the custom of the Sasanians when they got control of a city, to bring with them skilled craftsmen and artisans to their country where they lived in their own places (7). The textile and clothing industry benefitted many Roman prisoners who mastered the industry, It is worthy to be mentioning that King Sabor dhul Aktaf ((309-379m) (8) transferred many of the Antakya weavers(9), to the province of Ahwaz(10), which led to the flourishing of the textile industry in this region (11). Many Sassanian cities were famous for fabric production(12). The city of Tester was famous for its textile production, the city of Tester pwas known for being a center for the manufacture of silk known as the Taste(13). Al-Maqdisi (14)praised this industry by saying: " he "who wore silks (15) it was good and luxurious pattern(16)

The city of Arjan (17) was famous for the production of linen (18) and was famous for the city of Sinz (19), the production of linen Sinaise (20), and the best types of linen was known Baltuzi as a result of the city of Tuz or Tuj (21), , where it manufactured luxury clothes called clothes Tuzia(22), Yaqut al-Hamawi described this clothes by saying it was soft clothes since they endowed with good colors and having golden embroidery (23)"The people of Khorasan(24) wanted to have such clothes and they wanted a lot (25)." The city of Mero(26), it was famous for the manufacture of the garments of the cloves and cotton (27) and the city of Heart known for the production of cotton textiles(29). The textile industry in the Sassanid era was characterized by a variety of decorations, some of them were painted in the form of superstitious animals such as the phoenix and the winged horse, , peacocks and seabirds(30), some of them were in the form of geometric decorations such as circles and quadrilateral shapes, and the elements are formed in different situations such as reciprocity, repetition and interruptions in a beautiful geometric arrangement (31). Each class of the Sasanian society had its own clothing and uniform. Each class had a uniform that distinguished it from the other. Even if the man entered the king, he knew through his clothes his work and the class to which he belonged(32)

notewarthy that King Oahad I (33) (488-531) durin

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It is noteworthy that King Qabad I (33) (488-531) during his escape to Khakan(34) (Turk), defeated him by his brother King Blach (484-488)(35), married the mother of his son Anucharwan(36), and her parents knew nothing about his person. Her mother asked her about Qabad and she replied that she knew nothing about his condition, but that his trousers were woven with gold, so I knew that he was one of the sons of kings(37).

The men of the state were proud to wear luxury attire, indicating that these men were dressed at the reception of the delegates wearing clothes woven with gold thread, especially silk(38).

From the beginning, the industry had two places, one of which was a house where weavers did their job in their houses and the other in small shops. The head of the household was the employer and his family helped him to sew the textiles needed by the family(39)

In addition to these small home factories, there were private ownership factories attached to the palaces and temples that were supervised by the state(40)

It seems that the textile industry has reached a high degree of perfection and maturity and has become popular in the markets of neighboring countries(41).

It seems that the textile industry has reached a high degree of perfection and maturity and has become popular in the markets of neighboring countries(42)

This led to the creation of special textile factories by the Sasanian kings

As for the carpet industry, it reached the height of its greatness in the Sassanid era. The precious carpets were laid in the court of kings, especially in the house of the special model. The historians and the writers differed in determining the origin of knowledge of the role of the style. Ibn Khaldun is believed to be the original Sassanian(43)

\*Conel\* believes that the role of the embroilments was found in the Byzantine era(44), which encourages the flourishing of this industry and the availability of raw materials necessary for it. Due to the accuracy of this industry and its difficulty, the time required to produce

a Sassanian carpet ranged from six months to two years depending on size, Privilege (45)

The most famous carpets of the Sassanian period were the carpets of King Kusra Abrawiz (46) (known as Bahar Khusraw), means the spring of Kusra in the capital city of Tisfun(47), which were made of silk with gold (48)

Al-Tha'albi mentioned that Kusra Abrazites had four stripes of woven brocades, studded with pearls and sapphires, each one of which had the same shape as the other(49).

If they would accept the fall season and set up a council of their drink on this carpet, they would imagine that they were in a green meadow (50)

It is most likely that the same rug that the Muslims had conquered when they entered Tesfun after it was opened, and after King Yazdgerd III (51) (632-651) fled. It is mentioned that the Caliphate " Umar ibn al-Khattab" divided it on the conquerors (52). This indicates that the Sasanians Since ancient times, were the manufacture of luxury carpets, which can only be made in private factories, private factories are specialized for the king and the men of his court (53), and was based on the consideration and management of things and consider the matters of dyeing, knitting and machinery and it included expensive materials (54) to see (55)

The workers were weavers who were known for their skill in the art of weaving rugs and carpets. They often used silk with wool in their fabric. They adorned with silver and gold thread, and this type of textile is usually expensive (56).

They used carpets in the floor of their homes, especially in the cold winter, when the rooms of the houses were spread with carpet from the wall to the wall, but they rarely used the equipment to cover the walls (57).

As for the fabrics that were used from the textile, wool and silk, which was common, there were several types of fabrics in different drawings, including drawings in the form of bouquets of flowers and another of the fabrics form of foliage and other drawings in the form of birds (58), the fabrics took forms, Oval and

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sometimes in the shape of a circular ring linked to each other, for the most common colors are (blue - green white - red) (59)

Thus, we find that the textile industry was one of the most well-known industries in the Sassanid era, as its fame spread outside the Sassanid state. See Figure 1 and Figure 2.

# 2. Metal industry: (metal fabricated)

The Sasanians made great progress in the metal industries of gold, silver, iron, bronze and brass, who inherited from their ancestors good knowledge of the manufacture of these metals in various industrial and ceramic methods.

This industry got developed and prosperous due to the availability of raw materials of different metals, where the country of Persia has produced many minerals since ancient times (60) Traveler Hyun Tsiag (61) described the economic life in the Sasanian state, by saying: The country produced gold, silver, copper, iron, silver, copper, and other metals, rock crystals, rare gems and precious materials(62)

The metal industry in the Sassanid era was characterized by a degree of perfection elevation, and fine taste, and was in several types and forms including pots, cups, jugs, gloves, furniture, etc. The pots made of gold, silver and copper were among the finest (63). It also produced pots or flasks to burn incense, most of which were made in the form of animals, birds, plants and geometric decorations(64).

The jugs and utensils made specifically for the royal or upper classes were often carried photos for kings in a hunting scene in which the king appeared to be fighting a lion, a deer or a pig, all made of gold and silver(65).

The metal smelting process was carried out in dedicated places supervised by skilled metal smelters(66), who ran them on lathes, engraved them with chisel and painted hands and spoons in different situations(67). The world's museums included many silver and gold

silverware and utensils that were related to the Sassanid era.

One of them is a golden syrup, whose base is shaped like a lion, see the figure No. 3 , The silver base is shaped like a mythical animal, see the figure No. 4 , as to appear the greatness of the Sasanian kings, they were shown on the silver plates sitting on the thrones carried by the lions or winged horses with money.

Many Sassanian cities were famous for the production of various types of metal. The iron and sulfur mines were in Persia(68), and in the Balkh regions(69), the silver ores were found (70), and in Isfahan(71), copper, silver(72) and zinc were extracted and brought from Armenia(73)., Gold and silver metal(74).

The royal palaces contained many types of metal vessels made of gold and silver, decorated with king's pictures, hunting scenes and animal shapes(75). Some of these were used for food and drink, and others were used for decoration and often the Sasanian kings offered luxurious models of these vessels gifts to their contemporaries Of the kings of neighboring countries(76).

The money was the other subject of Sassanian kings' interest because of its importance in the main business activity and facilitating the process of selling and buying, and allowing the prestige and strength of the Sassanid state

The Sassanids inherited the experiences of their predecessors in the industry(77), adding modifications to the development of their state. King Ardashir I (226-272M)(78), minting his gold coins after his conquest of Persia(79), defeated King Arduan V (80), The last kings of the state of the Parthian (81), and carried the money on his face and the image of his father on the other side (82), and after the death of his father and after he took from the religion of Zoroastrian religion as official religion , he minted coins engraving his image on one side and the image of the holy fire on the other side(83), For more, see Fig. 5, the money of King Sabor the first (241-272m) continued on this picture (84)

Thus, we find the metal industry and its melting considered one of the professions that were known among the members of the Sassanian society where it

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was a high degree of maturity and progress

# 3. Wood Industry

The Sassanids knew this industry for a long time, and it was an important industry. Carpenters made household furniture such as chairs, tables, doors and wooden ceilings and decorated them with beautiful engravings, especially if they were teak(85), .The pieces of wood nailed with nails, each one 's end integrated with the other end in a technical manner and then polished to show all one piece(86). One of the most beautiful things that was made by the carpentry was the wooden carving on which the king sat in his royal court, and the most famous of those takht (87), Kusra Abruzzi (590-628), which consisted of first four layers called mashar, means the head of the lamb, the second is called the lazurite, the third is called the turquoise, and the fourth is the king's council(88)

Al-Tha'ali said(89): "It is made of ivory, and its pages are of silver and gold, and it is one hundred and eighty cubits wide, and one hundred and thirty cubits high, and fifteen cubits high, including the corresponding seasons of the year

It is evidenced that the progress of the wooden furniture industry in the Sasanian state, especially in the role of the special style attached to the Palace of the King of cities.

The chairs are the indispensable wooden furniture in the royal palaces. The royal palace included chairs for the Prime Minister(90), the Mabdaz(91), and the al-Maraziba (92)Great, and the Great(93)

The throne of KUSRA Anucharwan included three chairs for the kings of China, Rome and Turk (94).

# 4. Ceramic Industry ( Pottery) : (manufactured by Salfkri)

Man used pottery since ancient times and made various tools. Each society was distinguished by a particular

type of profession and differed in quality, decoration, shape and method of manufacture

There is no doubt that the pottery industry was known in Persia since ancient times(95), and it reached the height of its greatness and flourishing during the Sassanid era(96), especially the manufacture of jars, pots and vials for keeping wine, oils, dried fish, perfumes and utensils for preparing and presenting food(97). and is characterized by human and animals forms, geometric decoration famous for its beauty, . Persian was famous in types of porcelain, most importantly ceramic painted under the paint, this is characterized with a layer of light white or blue or pale green (98), and then comes the decorations of the same color, which are usually dark Black, or blue, or dark brown, or multicolored decorations. The porcelain species, which is known as the Mazandaran region (99), is called Zanjan(100). The second type of porcelain, which Persian was famous for this kind was the porcelain of mineral shines, This type contains a good yellow paste coated with a sterile lining painted after burning metal buckets and then burned for the second time at low temperature resulting in a thin layer of metal with a golden color or a brown degree(101). Despite that the Sasanian ceramics was of a good type, but the pots of gold, silver and copper were of the finest made (102). The evolution of the ceramics industry in the Sasanian era is represented by the inscriptions and decorations that are characterized by its beauty and its appearance(103). These represent forms of human and animal drawings and geometric decorations engraved on jars, pots and jugs ( 104). Despite the quality of Sassanian pottery, this industry did not make progress which has witnessed the quality of metal industries and the perfection of their industry and increase the demand for their products, (see Figure 6).

#### 5.Manufacturing of weapons (manufactured weapons)

There is no doubt that the manufacture and production of weapons, especially the heavy ones and required of mining requiring a lot of money and effort to achieve tangible progress in its development

During their various periods, the Persians used different

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types of weapons and armor, both in battles and wars or in their daily lives(106)

Swords and daggers dating back to 1000 BC were found. Daggers were of various types, arched and doubleedged daggers. They also used spears, arrows and various shields made of steel with tools. Their armor was on several types of hand, arm, leg, helmet, leg protector and other armor parts(107). The Knights were the elite of the army, where the Sassanids formed an organized group of these knights, who were the first to fight (108). The victory depended on their strength and courage, their glamour armors of their shields reflect the prestige astonished by the all, this power appears as if ironed (109), not only shields on the knights, but extended to the horses also, where I made them special armor to protect them spears and arrows(110).

These weapons were decorated with drawings and emblems, some of which were adorned with gold and silver. Not only were these weapons used in the manufacture of iron, but weapons were found made of precious metals, such as gold and silver daggers(111).

The Sasanians used the machines to destroy the walls and the funnels(112), to repel the weapons of the siege of their enemies(113), and the weapons of the army developed under the reign of King Kusra Anusharwan (531-579). The knight became in addition to his armor, carried sword, spear and bow and arrows (114) . If the war ended, the military equipment was returned to its own warehouses, to be placed in warehouses and caches(115) in an organized manner(116) (see Figure 7 for more details).

# 6-Other Industries and professions

The Sassanids knew many other industries and professions

# 1.Leather Industry

It is one of the important local industries. Once the animal is slaughtered, the skin is cleaned of fat and then dyed and used in tanning, salt and tannins(117). Tanners used for this important industry. It uses the skin

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produced in the short and long boots worn by the soldiers and public people, guard for weapons, and horse saddles and other uses (118).

# 2. The perfume industry (manufactured perfume)

The use of perfumery, as well as its use in religious rituals and temples, was widespread, as the sons of the affluent classes used perfume in their councils and festivities, and they used perfume for the holidays and events(119). The common belief was that the use of camphor and musk helped to dismiss the evil spirits (120), it is mentioned that the king (Kusra) (531-579) recommended his son Hormoz IV (579-590 AD)(121), that if he died to have his body drown in camphor and fill his body with musk and amber(122).

Perfumes were accompanied by kings and sons of the upper classes in their travels even in their wars. King Kasri Abrawiz (590-628), if he goes out for hunting, his procession included two hundred young men carrying conveyers of gold, who burn the oud and amber(123), and two hundred young men with daffodil and saffron. They march in front to bring the air perfumed to the king(124). The perfumes also accompanied the great leaders when they go out to war. Razi (125)said that strong wind uprooted the Rustam's tent (126), the commander of the Sassanid army, during the Battle of Qadisiyah in 1536 AH. He hid himself, but he was exposed due to smell of musk he used to perfume.

In the Sassanian era, there were many kinds of famous perfumery and perfumes including oud, amber, musk, camphor(127), sandal(128), and rose water. Al-Khwarizmi (129) mentioned two tools which are gourd and al-Anbiq, both made rose water, which was famous for the city of Gour(130), By producing his perfume, the perfumes were presented to the kings as gifts from the kings of India(131), The Indian oud is considered one of the best perfumes for its permanence and perseverance(132). The king of India gave the King Kasri Anusharwan (531-579m), 2,000 Indian oud, 4,000 musk and ten tons of camphor(133). The gift include a variety of perfumes and carnations from India, the Arabian Peninsula and Serendip Island(134).

# . 3: Goldsmith industry

It is also one of the industries that were known in the Sassanian era and that, because they are close professions to kings and princes and owners of feudalism, where jewelry, garnet and gilding were one of the holdings of the aristocratic class has been increased sources to talk about the treasures of the Sasanians and treasures, including the crown of King Kasri Abruz made of gold and jeweled and a ceiling hanging with a chain of gold for its weight(135), and a cup that reflects the art of the outer studding. Its frame consists of a grid of gold and is studded with crystal and red glass(136). The tables made of gold and embroidered with jewels and precious stones, (582-602m), an amber table with a diameter of five feet and with gold and jeweled (136), we conclude from this that the members of the Sasanian community (138) practiced lot of occupations and industries, 139 which they excelled in some of them until they became the best among other countries.

### CONCLUSION

- 1. The industry is considered as a socio-economic phenomenon, its importance is manifested mainly in meeting the needs of the individual and the society in cooperation with the other elements of production and they are always linked to the person himself.
- 2. The industry or crafts were inherited by parents and grandparents. Some industries were confined to certain families and did not disclose the secret of their profession to any outsider.
- 3. Some industries have emerged because of the urgent need for a particular industry that may be necessary and not available in the country or difficult to be obtained through foreign trade, which led some families to resume these professions as to meet their need for the required material and become an economic resource.
- 4. The Byzantine prisoners had a clear impact on the flourishing of many industries and crafts, especially the textile industries. Sapur II (309-379m) transferred many of Antioch's weavers to Ahwaz province, which made this region famous for this industry

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# **APPENDICES**



Figure (2) Allam, Nemat Ismail, Middle Eastern Arts, p. 165



Figure (1) Allam, Nemat Ismail, Middle East Arts, p. 164



Figure (4) Okasha, Ancient Persian Art, p. 430.



Figure (3) Akasha, Tharwat, Ancient Persian Art, I 9, Supreme Council of Culture, Cairo, 2012, p. 430.



Figure (6) Karashmen, Ruman, Hinar Iran Der Duran Parti and Sasani, Gap Som, Translated by: Bahram Farah Wesh, Enthashar Alami and Farhaniqi, Tehran 1390, 2011, p. 336.



Figure (5) Al-Kaabi, the dialectic of religion and state, p. 118.

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Figure (7)

http:/www.sassanian army php.htm.

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- 87. Takht: or what is called the card or the meaning of the name of the name of the magnificent building and means the Royal Throne Hall of King Kasri Abruiz, is one of the seven wonders of its own, it is said that used in the construction of the hundred and twenty manufacturers and continued work in two years, and picture the most beautiful images in the The Dome of the Heavens, where the heavens were placed, including Paradise, the Shahnameh, C2, pp. 240-239, unknown

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- 101. (Abdel Moneim, Iran, p. 436).
- 102 . (Bart), Islamic Art, p. 169.
- 103. (Nafisi, History of the Teman of Iran, p. 203, Abdel Moneim, Iran, p. 436.
- 104. (Wilson), History of the Industrialization of Iran, p. 111, Pharaoh and the Declaration, Studies in History and Civilization, p. 206.
- 105. (Nafisi, History of the Republic of Iran, p. 203.
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- 107. The adoption of the Sultanate by Muhammad Hassan, Darar al-Tijan in the history of Bani al-Ashkan, Jab al-Awal, Correction: Naamat Hamdi, Atlas, Tehran, 1731 AH, 1951, p. 204, Baqir et al.
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- 109. (Cretensen, Iran in the Sassanid era, pp. 96-197.
- 110. (Nicolle, David, Sassanian Armies (the Iranian Empireearly3, rdtomid7 the centers A, D), trastated by, Angus Mcdrid, Montevert, 1996, p.27
- 111. Pharaoh and the Declaration, Studies in the History of Persia and Civilizations, p. 205.
- 112. Al-Majid: An old machine of the siege machine thrown by heavy stones at the walls and destroyed by a single monolith; Ibn Qutaiba, Abu Abdullah Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Muslim (286 AH / 889 AD) Eyes of the news, investigation: Yusuf Ali Tawil, 4, , Beirut, 2009, p. 194, which is similar to the artillery weapon at the present time.

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- 115. (Wakim, Selim, Iran and the Arabs and the Arab-Iranian Relations through History), Beirut, 1967, p. 51.
- 116. (Nada, Studies in the Shahnameh, pp. 167-168.
- 117. (Al-Tafs): It was a plant from which the ink was used to write and was dyed by the clothes and used as tannins in tanning, as it helps to preserve the skin and prevent it from damage.
- 118. Sultan, Tareq Fathi, History of the Sasanian State, Dar al-Fikr, Amman, 2013, p. 120, Abed, History of the Sasanian State, c. 2, p. 148.
- 119. (Al-Masoudi, Gold Promoters and Minerals of Essence, 1, p. 293).
- 120. (Badawi, Amin Abdul Majid, The Story in Persian Literature, I 2, Dar Al Ma'arif, Cairo, 1964, p.
- 121. (Hormuzd IV: He is the son of King Kasri Anusharwan of the wife of the son of Khakan State Coke Turk, Dinur, Longitudinal News, p. 126.
- 122. Al-Fardousi, Al-Shahnameh, p. 2, p. 169.
- 123. (Saffron): A well-known dye, or it is said, is from the good and it is said al-Jadi is one of its names, which is a bulbous plant which includes wild species and a well-known species. Al-Farahidi, Al-Khalil bin Ahmad (1751/787 AD), P. 2, p. 333, Jawaliki, the translator of the words Ajami, p. 88.
- 124. Al-Fardousi, Al-Shahnama, 2, p. 236, Nafisi, The History of the Development of Iran, p. 178.
- 125. Detailed History of Iran, p.
- 126. Rustam ibn Farkhzad bin Bendawan is the first of the irrigation people. He is said to have led the Sasanian armies in the Battle of Qadisiyah in 1563 / AD 636 AD during the reign of King Yazdrejd III (632-651 AD). He was a courageous leader and an exalted king. He faced

the army of the Muslims because he was afraid of defeat and lost his position that was enjoyed by the Sassanids

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c.

127. Camphor: Indian tree origin, which is a pleasant smells similar to basil bushes and has white wood and fragile in its good edges; Adi Sher, Dictionary of the Persian language of the Arabic, p.108.

and was killed in the same battle; Alfardosi, Shahnama,

- 128. (al-Sandal: Indian tree smells like walnut trees and has a love of green and clusters, Jawaliqi, the translator of speech, Ajami, p. 109, Adi Sher, lexicon of the words of the Persian Persian, p.
- 129. Science Keys, p. 146.
- 130. Gore: A city in Persia, whose construction is attributed to King Ardashir bin Babak, between it and Shiraz, twenty Farsha, Yacout al-Hamwi, lexicon of countries, C2, p. 181, and Forsakh 3 miles or 6 kilometers, which is about 120 kilometers away from Shiraz, And Islamic weights or equivalent in the metric system, translated by: Kamel Asali, University of Jordan publications, Amman, 1970, p.
- 131. (Ibn al-Atheer, complete history, c 1, p. 277.
- 132. (Cretensen, Iran in the Sassanian era, p.
- 133. (Al-Masoudi, Al-Mawraj Al-Zahab, 1, p 293).
- 134. Al-Jahiz, Abu Othman Amr ibn Bahr (255/868 AD), Crown in the ethics of kings, investigation: Ahmed Zaki Pasha, Farodin Press, Iran, 1914, pp. 146-147.
- 135. Sirendib: It is a great island in the Sea of Herchend in the most extreme country of India, including the mountain on which Adam landed (□) when he descended from Paradise.
- 136. Nafisi, History of the Republic of Iran, p. 10.
- 137. Hammerten, Sargon. History of the World, Translation: Ministry of Public Knowledge, Egyptian Renaissance Library, Cairo: Bla., P. 344.
- 138 . Derwant, The Story of Civilization, C12, p. 302.