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# LANGAT SINGH COLLEGE

NAAC Grade – 'A'

(A Constituent unit of B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur)

## Department Of Persian



### -: ONLINE CLASS E-CONTENT :-

Topic :- Pre Islamic Literature of Persia

M. A 4<sup>th</sup> Semester (Persian)

Course No & title :- Per 101

History Of Persian Language & Literature Of Iran Prior To Advent Of Islam

By

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# Pre Islamic Literature of Persia



The ancient Iran was a cradle of magnificent civilization and culture and as such it possessed an outstanding and exquisite literature, which is evident not only from the rock inscriptions, the only remnants of the hoary past, but also from the external evidences furnished by the authors and historians of the old ages.

They are classified below:-  
Among the Greek historians Heremepos, who lived in the third century B. C. and was a contemporary of the Achae-manians, mentions an Iranian book meaning the Avesta.



Herodotus, the Father of modern historiography, says that during the reign of Deiokes (Persian king), the king of Media, a north eastern part of Iran, there were a large number of revenue departments.

Kentsias, a Greek physician in the court of Ardasher, says that there were special departments of news writers in the court and Bulletins were issued in the country.



Xenophon, another Greek historian tells us of a large number of schools of Iran during the reign of Cyrus the Great.

Similar information could also be gathered from the writings of Plato, Blutarch and others.

Of the Jewish sources, the Torah ( Old Testament) is itself a witness to the existence of news letters and court Bulletin in the ancient Iran.

It contains different sections dealing with multifarious subject matter and the same had been compiled during the Achaemanian period.

Among the literary and historical works of the early centuries of Islam, like the histories of Tabari, Masudi and Hamza-i-Isfahani, the Kitab-e-Awani and the Kitab-al-Fihrist and others, are ample references to the books written in ancient Iran.



Among the Iranian sources the Avesta itself gives the references of old books and authors of Iran.

From the above accounts we may conclude that the Ancient Iran was rich in literary attainment and for a country which produced great rulers, such as Cyrus and Darius and which could claim equality with any other country of the world in cultural progress and civilization.





It would not therefore be far from truth to consider that the ancient Iran possessed a vast literature, though we are unfortunately little acquainted with it.

Literary achievements of Iran during the Achaemanian and Sassanian dynasties, which ruled over the country for centuries before the advent of Islam, under which the Pre-Islamic culture of Iran reached its zenith, are, however, known to us to some extent.

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