

Behistun inscription

(10) King [Darius](#) says: The following is what was done by me after I became king. A son of [Cyrus](#), named [Cambyses](#), one of our dynasty, was king here before me. That Cambyses had a brother, [Smerdis](#) by name, of the same mother and the same father as Cambyses. Afterwards, Cambyses slew this Smerdis. When Cambyses slew Smerdis, it was not known unto the people that Smerdis was slain. Thereupon Cambyses went to Egypt. When Cambyses had departed into Egypt, the people became hostile, and the lie multiplied in the land, even in Persia and [Media](#), and in the other provinces. כך הוא מתאר את שלטון של אחשוורוש

(11) King [Darius](#) says: Afterwards, there was a certain man, a [Magian](#), [Gaumâta](#) by name, who raised a rebellion in [Paishiyâuvâdâ](#), near a mountain called Arakadriš. On the fourteenth day of the month [Viyaxana](#) 14 Adar 3408 did he rebel. He lied to the people, saying: 'I am Smerdis, the son of [Cyrus](#), the brother of [Cambyses](#).' Then were all the people in revolt, and from Cambyses they went over unto him, both Persia and [Media](#), and the other provinces. He seized the kingdom; on the ninth day of the month [Garmapada](#) 9 Tamuz 3408 he seized the kingdom. Afterwards, Cambyses died of natural causes.

(12) King [Darius](#) says: The kingdom of which [Gaumâta](#), the [Magian](#), dispossessed [Cambyses](#), had always belonged to our dynasty. After that Gaumâta, the Magian, had dispossessed Cambyses of Persia and [Media](#), and of the other provinces, he did according to his will. He became king.

(13a) King Darius says: There was no man, either Persian or Mede or of our own dynasty, who took the kingdom from Gaumâta, the Magian. The people feared him exceedingly, for he slew many who had known the real Smerdis. For this reason did he slay them, 'that they may not know that I am not Smerdis, the son of [Cyrus](#).'

Battle 1(13b) There was none who dared to act against [Gaumâta](#), the [Magian](#), until I came. Then I prayed to [Ahuramazda](#); Ahuramazda brought me help. On the tenth day of the month [Bâgayâdiš](#) 10 Tishrey 3409 I, with a few men, slew that Gaumâta, the Magian, and the chief men who were his followers. At the stronghold called Sikayauvatiš, in the district called [Nisaia](#) in [Media](#), I slew him; I dispossessed him of the kingdom. By the grace of Ahuramazda I became king; Ahuramazda granted me the kingdom.

(14) King [Darius](#) says: The kingdom that had been wrested from our line I brought back and I reestablished it on its foundation. The temples which [Gaumâta](#), the [Magian](#), had destroyed, I restored to the people, and the pasture lands, and the

herds and the dwelling places, and the houses which Gaumâta, the Magian, had taken away. I settled the people in their place, the people of Persia, and [Media](#), and the other provinces. I restored that which had been taken away, as is was in the days of old. This did I by the grace of Ahuramazda, I labored until I had established our dynasty in its place, as in the days of old; I labored, by the grace of [Ahuramazda](#), so that Gaumâta, the Magian, did not dispossess our house.

איך תוך שלשה חדשים גאומאטה הצליח לקחת שלטון מפרסים? אלא כוונתו לשלטון של אחשוורוש המידי. ומאחר ושלטון זה גידל את המן וגאומטה היה מחבורה של המן, נחשב כל מעשה אחשוורוש מעשה של גאומטה.

(16) King Darius says: After I had slain [Gaumâta](#), the [Magian](#), a certain man named [Âššina](#), the son of Upadarma, raised a rebellion in Elam, and he spoke thus unto the people of Elam: 'I am king in Elam.' Thereupon the people of Elam became rebellious, and they went over unto that [Âššina](#): he became king in Elam. And a certain [Babylonian](#) named [Nidintu-Bêl](#), the son of Kîn-Zêr, raised a rebellion in [Babylon](#): he lied to the people, saying: 'I am Nebuchadnezzar, the son of [Nabonidus](#).' Then did all the province of Babylonia go over to Nidintu-Bêl, and Babylonia rose in rebellion. He seized on the kingdom of Babylonia.

No battle. Elamians by themselves brought Assina to Darius (17) King [Darius](#) says: Then I sent [an envoy?] to Elam. That [Âššina](#) was brought unto me in fetters, and I killed him.

שושן הבירה היתה בירת עילם ובה ישבו אסתר ומרדכי. מה קרה שם בזמן המרד?

Battle 2 (18) King Darius says: Then I marched against that [Nidintu-Bêl](#), who called himself Nebuchadnezzar. The army of Nidintu-Bêl held the [Tigris](#); there it took its stand, and on account of the waters [the river] was unfordable. Thereupon I supported my army on [inflated] skins, others I made [dromedary](#)-borne, for the rest I brought horses. [Ahuramazda](#) brought me help; by the grace of Ahuramazda we crossed the Tigris. Then did I utterly overthrow that host of Nidintu-Bêl. On the twenty-sixth day of the month [Âçiyâdiya 26 Kislev 3409](#) we joined battle.

Battle 3 (19) King [Darius](#) says: After that I marched against [Babylon](#). But before I reached Babylon, that [Nidintu-Bêl](#), who called himself Nebuchadnezzar, came with a host and offered battle at a city called Zâzâna, on the [Euphrates](#). Then we joined battle. Ahuramazda brought me help; by the grace of [Ahuramazda](#) did I utterly overthrow the host of Nidintu-Bêl. The enemy fled into the water; the water carried them away. On the second day of the month [Anâmaka 2 Tevet 3409](#) we joined battle.

Battle 4 (20) King [Darius](#) says: Then did [Nidintu-Bêl](#) with a few horsemen into [Babylon](#). Thereupon I marched to Babylon. By the grace of [Ahuramazda](#) I took Babylon, and captured Nidintu-Bêl. Then I slew that Nidintu-Bêl in Babylon.

(21) King Darius says: While I was in Babylon, these provinces revolted from me: Persia, Elam, [Media](#), [Assyria](#), Egypt, [Parthia](#), [Margiana](#), [Sattagydia](#), and [Scythia](#).

(22) King [Darius](#) says: A certain man named [Martiya](#), the son of Zinzakriš, dwelt in a city in Persia called Kuganakâ. This man revolted in Elam, and he said to the people: 'I am Ummaniš, king in Elam.'

No battle (23) King Darius says: At that time, I was friendly with Elam. Then there were Elamites afraid of me, and that Martiya, who was their leader, they seized and slew.

לא היה מרד בשושן נגד דריוש. אולי מרדכי שלט שם והוא הרג את מרטיה

(24) King Darius says: A certain [Mede](#) named [Phraortes](#) revolted in Media, and he said to the people: 'I am Khshathrita, of the family of [Cyaxares](#) **Ahashverosh who took Asur in Cheshvan of 3311 and Ninve in Sivan 3313. And he was also of family of Achashverosh of Ester.**' Then did the Medes who were in the palace revolt from me and go over to Phraortes. He became king in Media.

Battle 5 (25) King [Darius](#) says: The Persian and [Median](#) army, which was with me, was small. Yet I sent forth an[other] army. A Persian named [Hydarnes](#), my servant, I made their leader, and I said unto him: 'Go, smite that Median host which does not acknowledge me.' Then Hydarnes marched forth with the army. When he had come to Media, at a city in Media called Maruš, he gave battle to the Medes. He who was chief among the Medes was not there at that time. Ahuramazda brought me help: by the grace of [Ahuramazda](#) my army utterly defeated that rebel host. On the twenty-seventh day of the month [Anâmaka](#) **27 Tevet 3409** the battle was fought by them. Then did my army await me in a district in Media called Kampana, until I came into Media.

Battle 6 (26) King [Darius](#) says: An Armenian named [Dâdarši](#), my servant, I sent into [Armenia](#), and I said unto him: 'Go, smite that host which is in revolt and does not acknowledge me.' Then Dâdarši went forth. When he came into Armenia, the rebels assembled and advanced against Dâdarši to give him battle. At a place in Armenia called Zuzza they fought the battle. Ahuramazda brought me help; by the grace of Ahuramazda did my army utterly overthrow that rebel host. On the eighth day of the month [Thûravâhara](#) **8 Yiar 3409** the battle was fought by them.

Battle 7 (27) King [Darius](#) says: The rebels assembled for the second time, and they advanced against [Dâdarši](#) to give him battle. At a stronghold in [Armenia](#) called Tigrâ they joined battle. [Ahuramazda](#) brought me help; by the grace of Ahuramazda did my army utterly overthrow that rebel host. On the eighteenth day of the month [Thûravâhara](#) **18 Yiar 3409** the battle was fought by them.

(28a) King Darius says: The rebels assembled for the third time and advanced against Dâdarši to give him battle. At a stronghold in Armenia called Uyamâ they joined battle. Ahuramazda brought me help.

Battle 8 (28b) by the grace of [Ahuramazda](#) did my army utterly overthrow that rebel host. On the ninth day of the month [Thâigaciš](#) **9 Sivan 3409** the battle was fought by them. Then [Dâdarši](#) waited for me in [Armenia](#), until I came into Armenia.

(29a) King [Darius](#) says: A Persian named [Vaumisa](#), my servant, I sent into Armenia, and I said unto him: 'Go, smite that host which is in revolt, and does not acknowledge me.' Then Vaumisa went forth. When he had come to Armenia, the rebels assembled and advanced against Vaumisa to give him battle. At a place in [Assyria](#) called Izala they joined battle. Ahuramazda brought me help.

Battle 9 (29b) by the grace of [Ahuramazda](#) did my army utterly overthrow that rebel host. On the fifteenth day of the month [Anâmaka](#) **15 Tevet 3409 (this was before the battle in (26)-(28))** the battle was fought by them.

Battle 10 (30) King [Darius](#) says: The rebels assembled a second time and advanced against [Vaumisa](#) to give him battle. At a place in [Armenia](#) called Autiyâra they joined battle. Ahuramazda brought me help; by the grace of Ahuramazda did my army utterly overthrow that rebel host. At the end of the month [Thûravâhara](#) **29 Yiar 3409** the battle was fought by them. Then Vaumisa waited for me in Armenia, until I came into Armenia.

Battle 11 (31) King [Darius](#) says: Then I went forth from [Babylon](#) and came into Media. When I had come to [Media](#), that [Phraortes](#), who called himself king in Media, came against me unto a city in Media called Kunduruš to offer battle. Then we joined battle. [Ahuramazda](#) brought me help; by the grace of Ahuramazda did my army utterly overthrow that rebel host. On the twenty-fifth day of the month [Adukanaiša](#) **25 Nisan 3409-this continuation of (25)** we fought the battle.

This is not a battle (32) King [Darius](#) says: Thereupon that [Phraortes](#) fled thence with a few horseman to a district in [Media](#) called [Rhagae](#). Then I sent an army in pursuit. Phraortes was taken and brought unto me. I cut off his nose, his ears, and his tongue,

and I put out one eye, and he was kept in fetters at my palace entrance, and all the people beheld him. Then did I crucify him in [Ecbatana](#); and the men who were his foremost followers, those at Ecbatana within the fortress, I flayed and hung out their hides, stuffed with straw.

כי פראוטרס היה אויב הכי מסוכן כי הוא היה מלך מדי- בעלת ברית של פרס. לכן הוא דיכאה מרד שלו באכזריות רבה.

Battle 12 (33a) King [Darius](#) says: A man named [Tritantaechmes](#), a Sagartian, revolted from me, saying to his people: 'I am king in [Sagartia](#), of the family of [Cyaxares](#).' Then I sent forth a Persian and a [Median](#) army. A Mede named [Takhmaspâda](#), my servant, I made their leader, and I said unto him: 'Go, smite that host which is in revolt, and does not acknowledge me.' Thereupon Takhmaspâda went forth with the army, and he fought a battle with Tritantaechmes. [Ahuramazda](#) brought me help; by the grace of Ahuramazda my army utterly defeated that rebel host, and they seized Tritantaechmes and brought him unto me.

33b) Afterwards I cut off both his nose and ears, and put out one eye, he was kept bound at my palace entrance, all the people saw him. Afterwards I crucified him in [Arbela](#).

(34) King [Darius](#) says: This is what was done by me in [Media](#).

This is not battle of Darius (35) King Darius says:

The [Parthians](#) and [Hyrcanians](#) revolted from me, and they declared themselves on the side of [Phraortes](#). My father [Hystaspes](#) was in Parthia; and the people forsook him; they became rebellious. Then Hystaspes marched forth with the troops which had remained faithful. At a city in Parthia called Višpauzâtiš he fought a battle with the Parthians. Ahuramazda brought me help; by the grace of Ahuramazda my army utterly defeated that rebel host. On the second day of the month [Viyaxana](#) 2 Adar 3409 the battle was fought by them.

Battle 13 (36) King [Darius](#) says: Then did I send a Persian army unto [Hystaspes](#) from [Rhagae](#). When that army reached Hystaspes, he marched forth with the host. At a city in [Parthia](#) called Patigrabanâ he gave battle to the rebels. [Ahuramazda](#) brought me help; by the grace of Ahuramazda Hystaspes utterly defeated that rebel host. On the first day of the month [Garmapada](#)^{note} 1 Tamuz 3409 the battle was fought by them.

(37) King Darius says: Then was the province mine. This is what done by me in Parthia.

Battle 14 (38) King [Darius](#) says: The province called [Margiana](#) revolted against me. A certain Margian named [Frâda](#) they made their leader. Then sent I against him a Persian named [Dâdarši](#), my servant, who was satrap of [Bactria](#), and I said unto him: 'Go, smite that host which does not acknowledge me.' Then Dâdarši went forth with the army, and gave battle to the Margians. [Ahuramazda](#) brought me help; by the grace of Ahuramazda my army utterly overthrew that rebel host. Of the twenty-third day of the month [Âçiyâdiya](#) **23 Kislev 3409 (goes back in time)** was the battle fought by them.

(39) King [Darius](#) says: Then was the province mine. This is what was done by me in [Bactria](#).

(40) King Darius says: A certain man named [Vahyazdâta](#) **ויזתא?** dwelt in a city called Târavâ in a district in Persia called Vautiyâ. This man rebelled for the second time **after Gaumata** in Persia, and thus he spoke unto the people: 'I am [Smerdis](#), the son of [Cyrus](#).' Then the Persian people who were in the palace fell away from allegiance. They revolted from me and went over to that Vahyazdâta. He became king in Persia.

(41a) King [Darius](#) says: Then did I send out the Persian and the [Median](#) army which was with me. A Persian named [Artavardiya](#), my servant, I made their leader. The rest of the Persian army came unto me in Media. Then went [Vahyazdâta](#) with the army unto Persia. When he came to Persia, at a city in Persia called Rakhâ, that Vahyazdâta, who called himself [Smerdis](#), advanced with the army against Artavardiya to give him battle. They then fought the battle. [Ahuramazda](#) brought me help;

Battle 15 (41b) by the grace of [Ahuramazda](#) my host utterly overthrew the army of [Vahyazdâta](#). On the twelfth day of the month [Thûravâhara](#) **12 Yiar 3409 (Darius simultaneously fought in different places by sending his servants)** was the battle fought by them.

Battle 16 (42) King [Darius](#) says: Then that Vahyazdâta fled thence with a few horsemen unto Pishiyâuvâda. From that place he went forth with an army a second time against Artavardiya to give him battle. At a mountain called Parga they fought the battle. Ahuramazda brought me help; by the grace of Ahuramazda my host utterly overthrew the army of Vahyazdâta. On the fifth day of the month [Garmapada](#) **5 Tamuz 3409** was the battle fought by them. And they seized that Vahyazdâta, and the men who were his chief followers were also seized.

(43) King [Darius](#) says: Then did I crucify that [Vahyazdâta](#) and the men who were his chief followers in a city in Persia called Uvâdaicaya.

(44) King Darius says: This is what was done by me in Persia.

(45a) King Darius says: That Vahyazdâta, who called himself [Smerdis](#), sent men to [Arachosia](#) against a Persian named [Vivâna](#), my servant, the [satrap](#) of Arachosia. He appointed a certain man to be their leader,

Battle 17(45b) and thus he spoke to him, saying: 'Go smite [Vivâna](#) and the host which acknowledges king [Darius](#)!' Then that army that [Vahyazdâta](#) had sent marched against [Vivâna](#) to give him battle. At a fortress called [Kapiša-kaniš](#) they fought the battle. [Ahuramazda](#) brought me help; by the grace of Ahuramazda my army utterly overthrew that rebel host. On the thirteenth day of the month [Anâmaka](#) 13 Tevet 3409 (this was before (41b)) was the battle fought by them.

Battle 18 (46) King [Darius](#) says: The rebels assembled a second time and went out against [Vivâna](#) to give him battle. At a place called Gandutava they fought a battle. [Ahuramazda](#) brought me help; by the grace of Ahuramazda my army utterly overthrew that rebel host. On the seventh day of the month [Viyaxana](#) 7 Adar 3409 the battle was fought by them.

This is not battle (47) King Darius says: The man who was commander of that army that [Vahyazdâta](#) had sent forth against Vivâna fled thence with a few horsemen. They went to a fortress in [Arachosia](#) called [Aršâdâ](#). Then Vivâna with the army marched after them on foot. There he seized him, and he slew the men who were his chief followers.

(48) King [Darius](#) says: Then was the province mine. This is what was done by me in [Arachosia](#).

(49) King Darius says: While I was in Persia and in [Media](#), the [Babylonians](#) revolted from me a second time. A certain man named [Arakha](#), an [Armenian](#), son of Haldita, rebelled in [Babylon](#). At a place called Dubâla, he lied unto the people, saying: 'I am Nebuchadnezzar, the son of [Nabonidus](#).' Then did the Babylonian people revolt from me and they went over to that Arakha. He seized [Babylon](#), he became king in Babylon.

Battle 19 (50) King [Darius](#) says: Then did I send an army unto [Babylon](#). A Persian named [Intaphrenes](#), my servant, I appointed as their leader, and thus I spoke unto them: 'Go, smite that Babylonian host which does not acknowledge me.' Then

Intaphrenes marched with the army unto Babylon. [Ahuramazda](#) brought me help; by the grace of Ahuramazda Intaphrenes overthrew the Babylonians and brought over the people unto me. On the twenty-second day of the month [Markâsanaš 22 Marheshvan 3410](#); **the first time they revolted in 26 Kislev 3409** they seized that [Arakha](#) who called himself Nebuchadnezzar, and the men who were his chief followers. Then I made a decree, saying: 'Let that Arakha and the men who were his chief followers be crucified in Babylon!

(51) King [Darius](#) says: This is what was done by me in [Babylon](#).

(52) King Darius says: This is what I have done. By the grace of [Ahuramazda](#) have I always acted. After I became king, I fought nineteen battles in a single year from 10 Tishrey 3409 till 22 Marheshvan 3410