

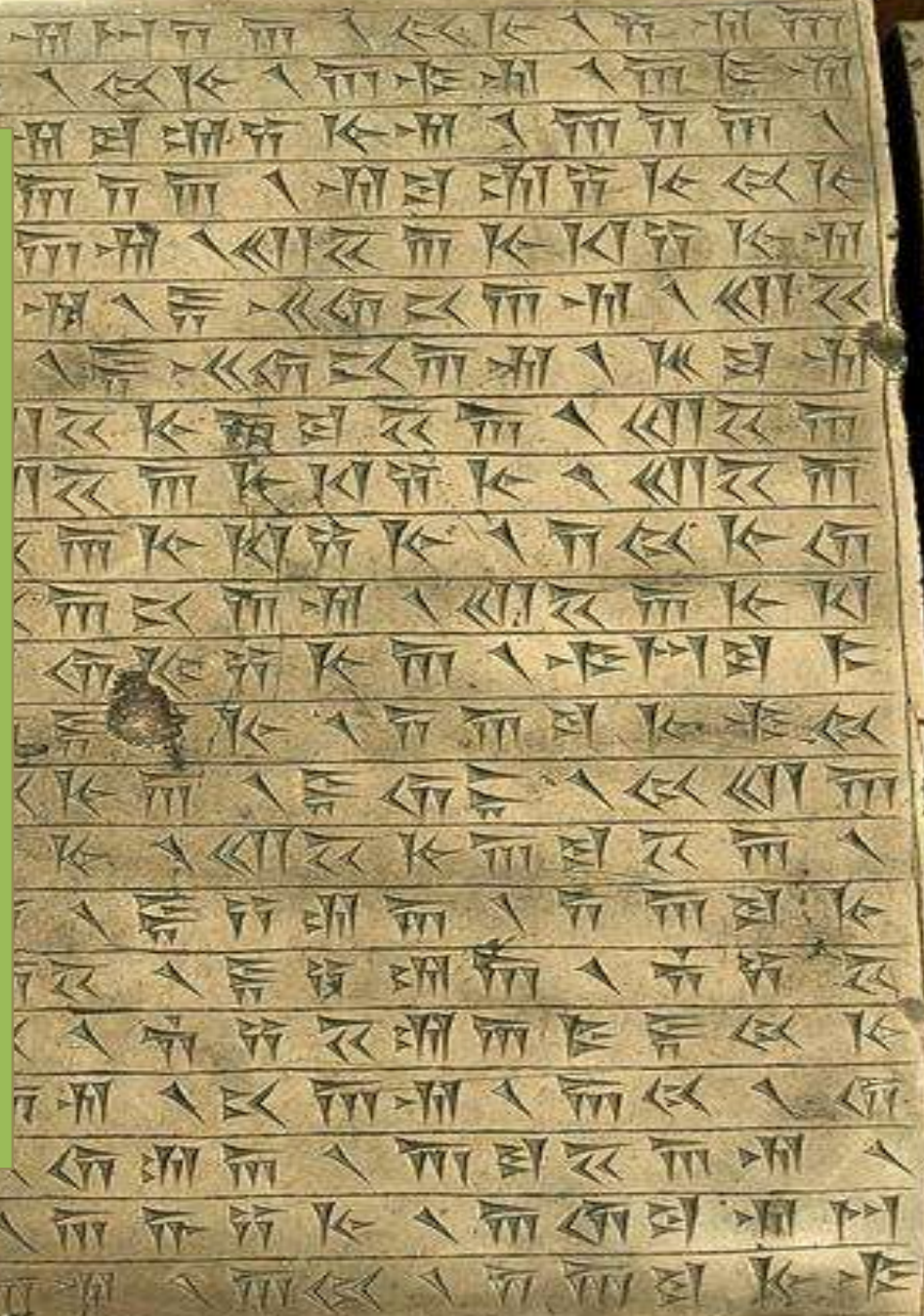


**Symphony of Persepolis  
and Pasargadae**

**Shirana & Mandana  
Salimian**

## Foundation Inscription of Darius I:

“ ... I [am] Darius the great king, king of kings, king of many countries, son of Hystaspes, an Achaemenid. ... by the grace of Ahura Mazda these [are] the countries which feared me [and] brought to me tribute: Elam, Media, Babylonia, Assyria, Egypt, Armenia, Cappadocia, Spada, the Ionians who [are] of the mainland [and] those who [are] on the sea, and the countries which [are] beyond the sea... I fear no one else, than protect the Persians. Because when the Persians are protected, their happiness will remain unbroken, and the favour of Ahuramazda will come down upon the royal house.



EUROPE

ASIA

Black sea

LYDIA

Sardis

The Royal Road

Rhagae

Ecbatana

Babylon

Susa

Pasargadae

Persepolis

INDIA

Mediterranean Sea

LYBIA

AFRICA

EGYPT

persean Gulf



## A BRIEF INTRODUCTION...

- ❖ There are currently nine world heritage sites registered to UNESCO from Iran: Persepolis is the first of them all.
- ❖ Persepolis is the main symbol of Persian culture and civilization for Iranians around the globe and is reckoned a source of honour for young people in modern day Iran.
- ❖ The architectural traits of this ceremonial palace make it a unique site in the country -- and the world -- and an attraction for thousands of tourists who travel to the country just to visit Persepolis.
- ❖ The palace is known to modern Iranians as "Takht-e-Jamshid" or the throne of Jamshid. Jamshid is a mythological king of Persian Empire who has been described in great detail by Ferdowsi in "Shahnameh," the most esteemed epic poem in Persian literature.
- ❖ It's most ancient name was *Parse* or *Parsa*

# Site Plan:

- 1. Monumental Stairway**
- 2. Gateway of All Lands:  
Xerxes' Gate**
- 3. Apadana/Audience Hall**
- 4. Hall of One Hundred  
Columns/Throne Hall**
- 5. Royal Treasury**
- 6. Tripylon**
- 7. Palace of Darius**
- 8. Palace of Xerxes**

❖ The buildings at Persepolis include three general groupings: military quarters, the treasury, and the reception halls and occasional houses for the King.

The Stairway to Heaven !

# Major Structures of Persepolis

## 1. APADANA

The largest building at **Persepolis**, the **Apadana** (audience hall), stood to the right of the gatehouse. Archaeologists estimate that it could accommodate 10,000 people. There were originally 72 columns from which 13 remain standing today.

Each column was 20m (66ft) tall and was topped by an elaborate capital. The double-headed animals at the top of the capitals once supported wooden roof beams.

❖ Monumental staircases decorated with elaborate sculpture in relief led to the Apadana, which stood on an elevated platform.

❖ The relief sculpture depicts the ceremonial procession that took place when representatives from the conquered nations brought gifts to the king. The procession is led by Persians and Medes, the peoples whom Cyrus the Great united to found the Persian Empire. After them come delegates bearing gifts:

➔ The Elamites bring lions, the Babylonians a Brahma bull, the Lydians cloth, and so on.

❖ The columns carried the weight of the vast and heavy ceiling.

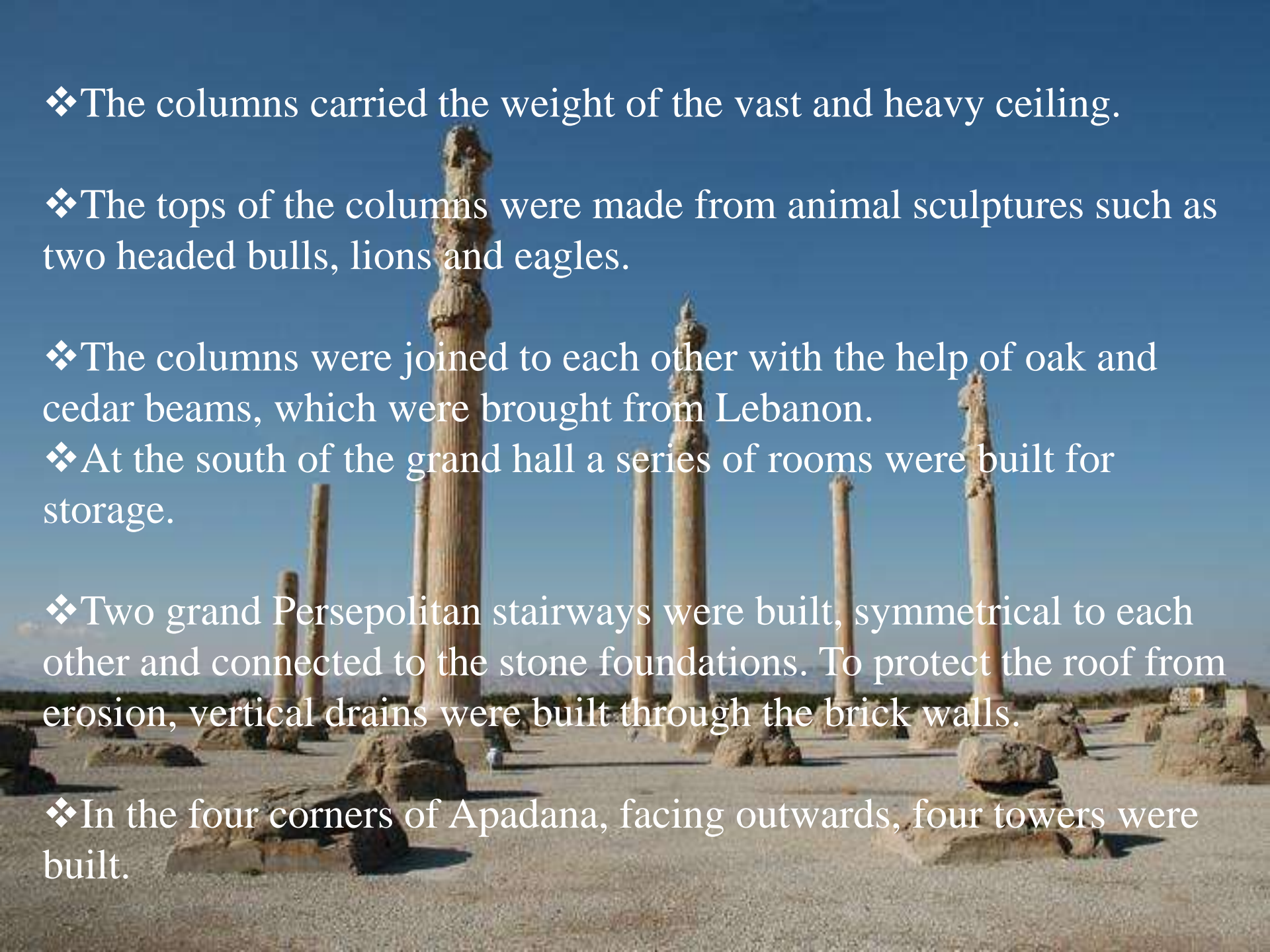
❖ The tops of the columns were made from animal sculptures such as two headed bulls, lions and eagles.

❖ The columns were joined to each other with the help of oak and cedar beams, which were brought from Lebanon.

❖ At the south of the grand hall a series of rooms were built for storage.

❖ Two grand Persepolitan stairways were built, symmetrical to each other and connected to the stone foundations. To protect the roof from erosion, vertical drains were built through the brick walls.

❖ In the four corners of Apadana, facing outwards, four towers were built.







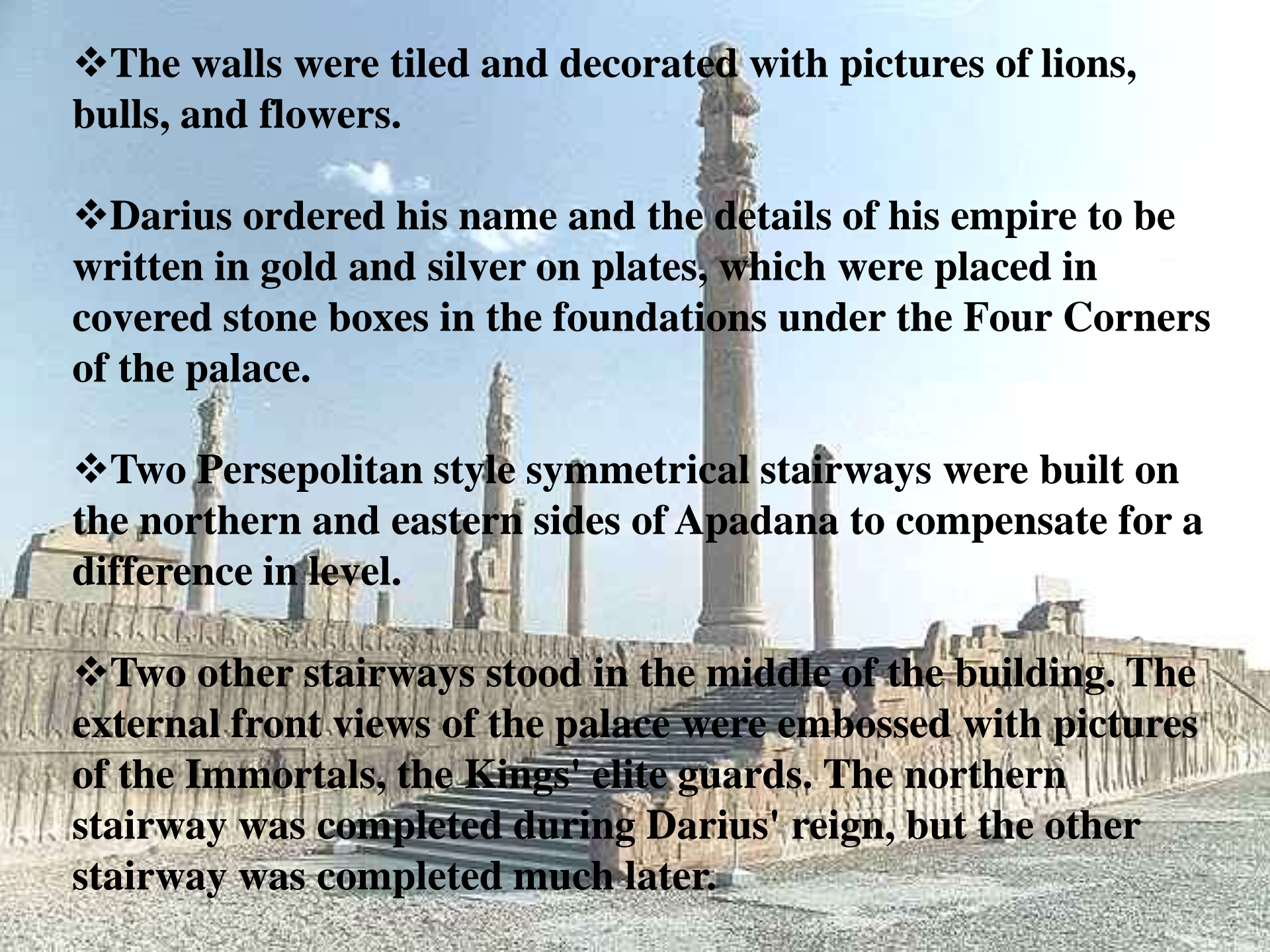


❖ The walls were tiled and decorated with pictures of lions, bulls, and flowers.

❖ Darius ordered his name and the details of his empire to be written in gold and silver on plates, which were placed in covered stone boxes in the foundations under the Four Corners of the palace.

❖ Two Persepolitan style symmetrical stairways were built on the northern and eastern sides of Apadana to compensate for a difference in level.

❖ Two other stairways stood in the middle of the building. The external front views of the palace were embossed with pictures of the Immortals, the Kings' elite guards. The northern stairway was completed during Darius' reign, but the other stairway was completed much later.

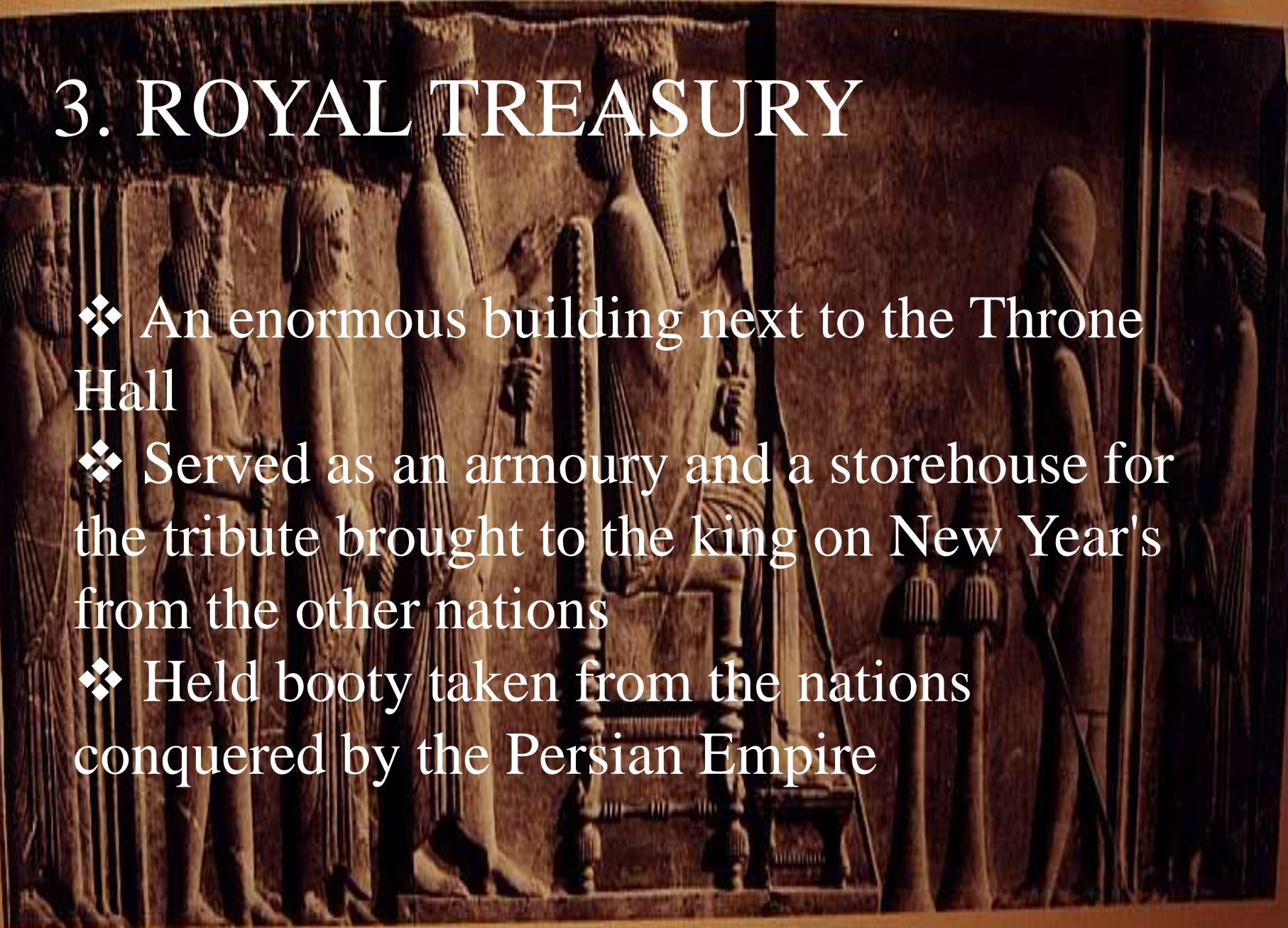


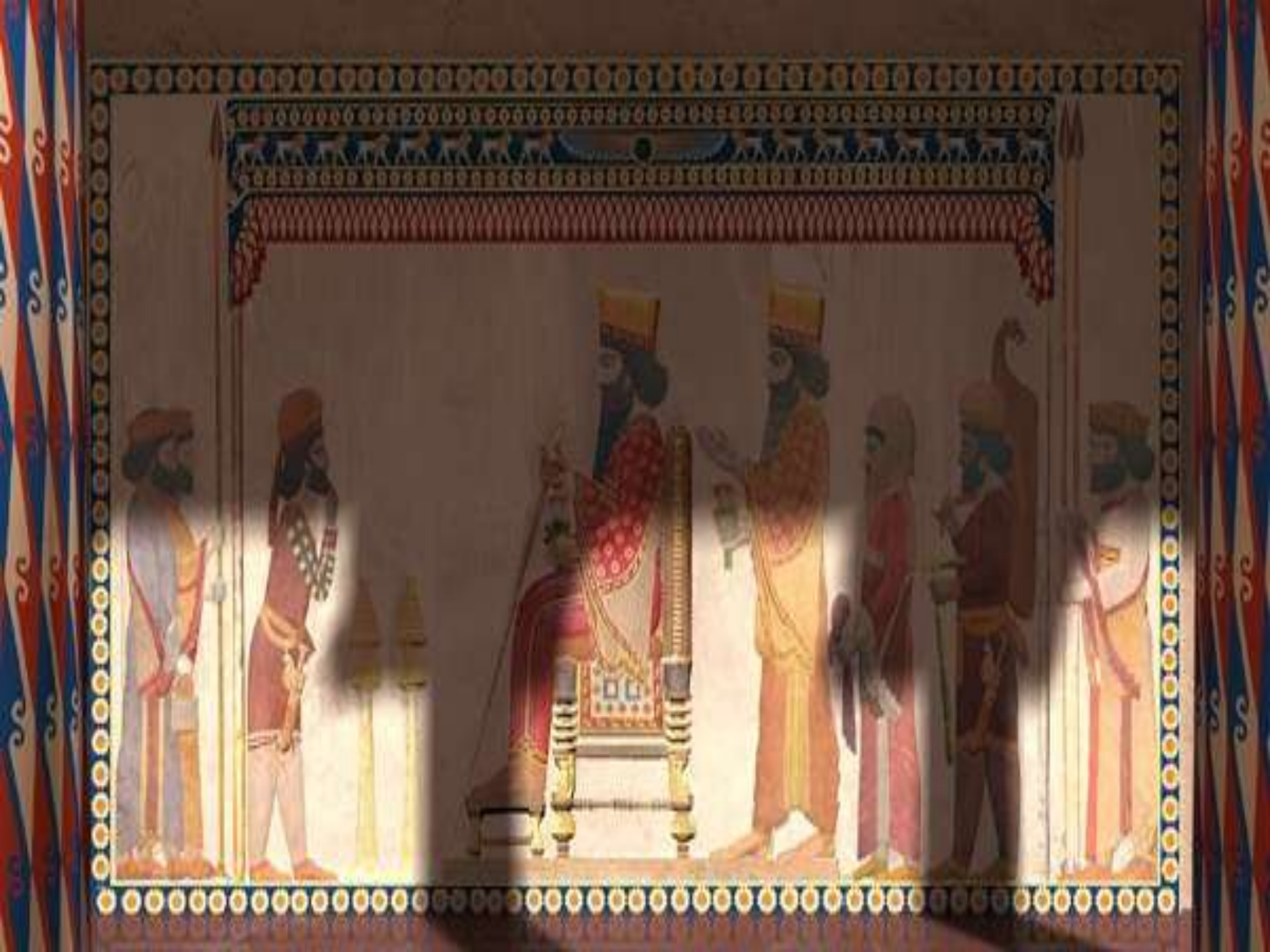
## 2. THRONE Hall

❖ The second largest building at Persepolis, where the king received nobles, dignitaries, and tribute. An enormous throne room, 70 by 70m (230 by 230ft), occupied the central portion of the Throne Hall. It is also known as the 'Hall of a Hundred Columns' after the 100 columns that supported its roof. These columns were made of wood, and only their stone bases survive today. Eight stone doorways led into the throne room. Carvings on the sides of the doorway depict the king on his throne and the king in combat with demons. The Throne Room was begun by Xerxes and completed by Artaxerxes I.

### 3. ROYAL TREASURY

- ❖ An enormous building next to the Throne Hall
- ❖ Served as an armoury and a storehouse for the tribute brought to the king on New Year's from the other nations
- ❖ Held booty taken from the nations conquered by the Persian Empire





# Gate Of All Nations ( Darvaze Mellal)



❖ One of the most interesting features of Persepolis is a gate called the Gate of All Nations, also known as the Gate of Xerxes. The gate contains the figure of a creature with the head of a human, body of a lion, wings of the eagle and the legs of a bull which represent the four signs of the Zodiac and was used as a welcome gesture to all the nations from the four corners of the world, for these constellations covered the four corners of the night sky. The Egyptians had the four sons of Horus the Sun God representing the same idea.

❖ Also this gate bears inscriptions in three languages which implies that you should be kind to travelers and must respect other people's cultures, and idea that today the "civilized" first World countries try to imply.





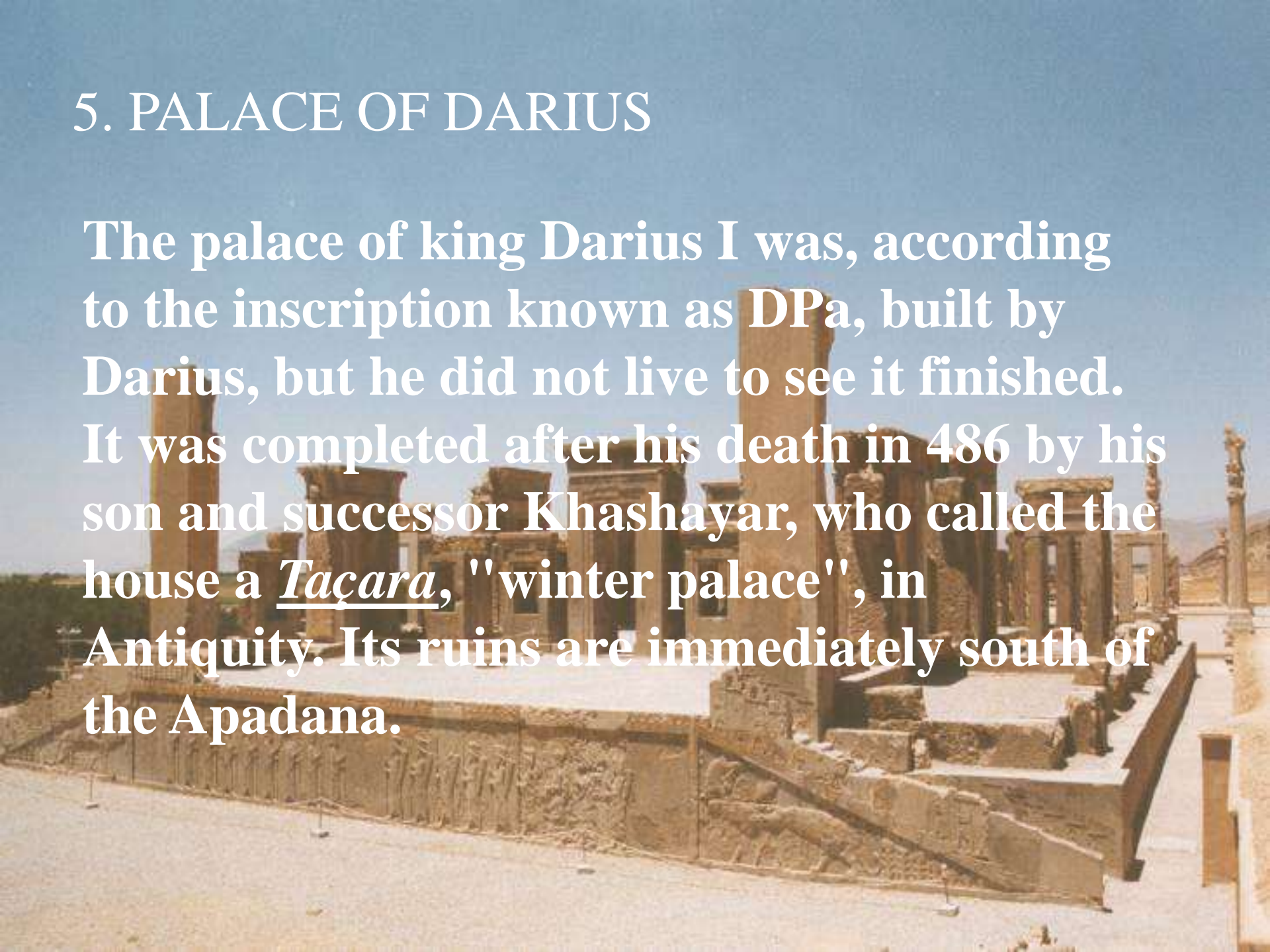


## 4. NAGHSHE ROSTAM

- ❖ Five kilometres distant from Parsa
- ❖ Tombs of four Hakhamaneshi kings: Darius I, Darius II, Khashayar Shah and Artakhashayar
- ❖ Only that of Darius I bears inscriptions of his name → maybe the other three tombs were not built by these kings
- ❖ Similar designs; form of a Greek cross
- ❖ In front of the tomb of Darius are traces of a mud-brick wall that probably enclosed a sacred area
- ❖ Within these walls stands *Ka`Ba-i-Zardusht*: may have been a temple, tomb, or religious archive

## 5. PALACE OF DARIUS

The palace of king Darius I was, according to the inscription known as DPa, built by Darius, but he did not live to see it finished. It was completed after his death in 486 by his son and successor Khashayar, who called the house a *Taçara*, "winter palace", in Antiquity. Its ruins are immediately south of the Apadana.

The background image shows the ruins of the Palace of Darius I at Persepolis. The scene is dominated by several tall, rectangular stone columns, some of which are partially ruined or missing their capitals. The columns are arranged in a grid-like pattern, suggesting a large hall or courtyard. The ground is a mix of dirt and gravel, with some low stone walls and steps visible. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall atmosphere is one of ancient grandeur and historical significance.