

❖ Tacara is better preserved than Apadana and the Treasury → Why?

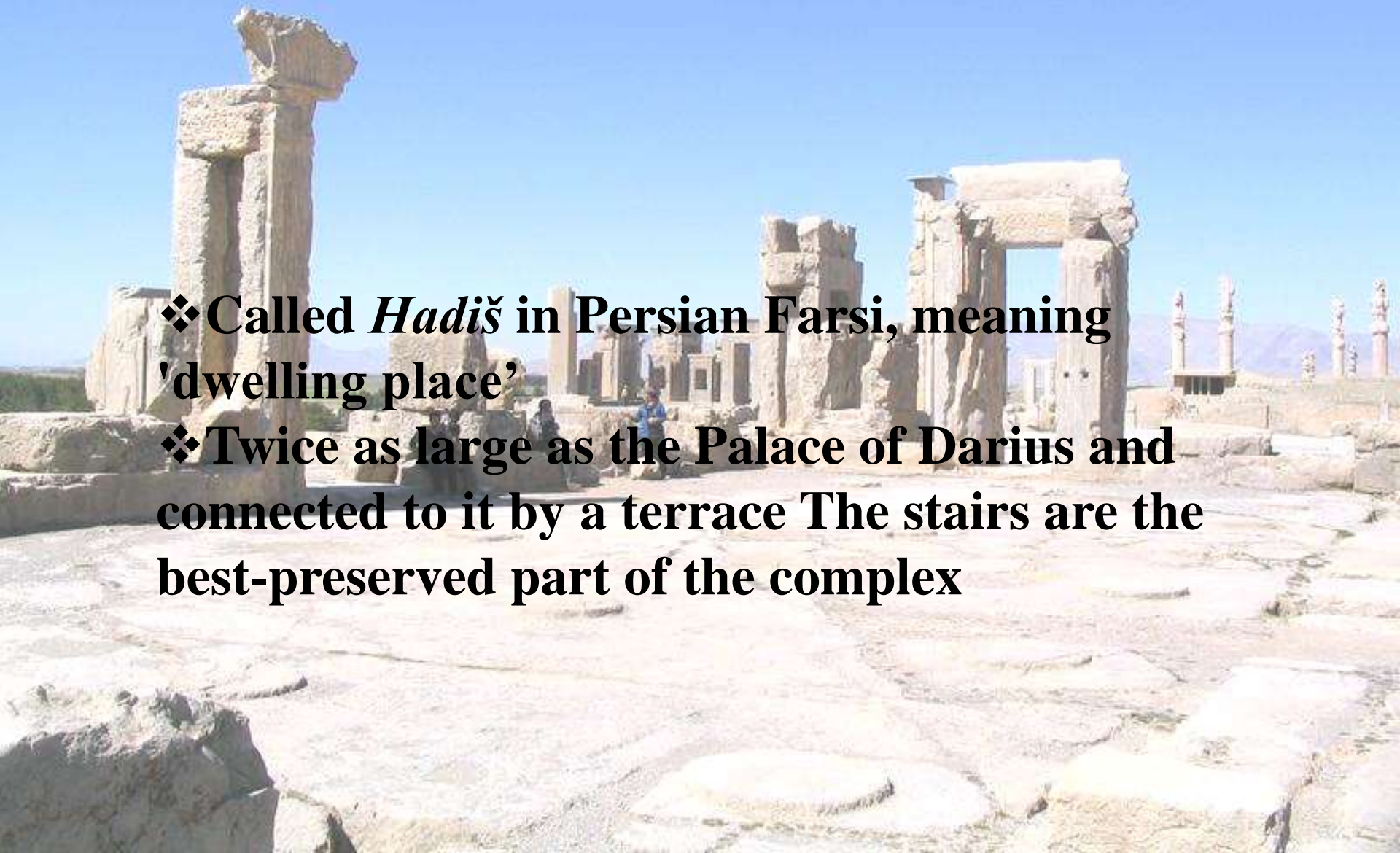
***Perhaps it was spared when the Macedonian king Alexander the Great destroyed Persepolis in 330 B.C.**

***His men were especially interested in the palace of the man who had once sacked Athens**

***Darius was, in European eyes, not a criminal.**

6. PALACE OF KHASHAYAR SHAH

- ❖ Called *Hadiš* in Persian Farsi, meaning 'dwelling place'
- ❖ Twice as large as the Palace of Darius and connected to it by a terrace The stairs are the best-preserved part of the complex



CULTURE

Unfortunately, royal inscriptions at Persepolis provide only fragmentary information about Hakhmaneshian. Thus the most comprehensive source is the account by Herodotus, the Greek historian:

- ❖ Persian youth were taught three things: to ride, to draw the bow, and to speak the truth**
- ❖ Agriculture flourished and justice was administered**
- ❖ Darius: “Worker”; Khashayar: “Warrior”??!**
- ❖ The name and kingdom of Darius respected in the ancient world**

RELIGION

- ❖ Persepolis: the spiritual heart of Persian empire
- ❖ Early evidence of Zoroastrian religion: worshipped fire at altars, sacrificed animals, drank *Haoma* (some sort of hallucinogenic)
- ❖ Herodotus: “The most disgraceful thing in the world they [Persians] think, is to tell a lie.” → reinforces Persians’ strong belief in truth and scorning of lies
- ❖ Also evidence of kings referring to Ahuramazda, the Zoroastrian God:

 Khashayar: “Ahuramazda, together with the gods of the royal house”
 Darius I: “Ahuramazda, together with the gods of the royal house”

Destruction of Persepolis



❖ After invading Persia, Alexander the Great sent the main force of his army to Persepolis in the year 330 BC by the Royal Road.

❖ A fire broke out in the eastern palace of Xerxes and spread to the rest of the city. It is not clear if it had been a drunken accident, or a deliberate act of revenge for the burning of the Acropolis of Athens.

WAS PERSEPOLIS AN OCCUPATIONAL SITE?

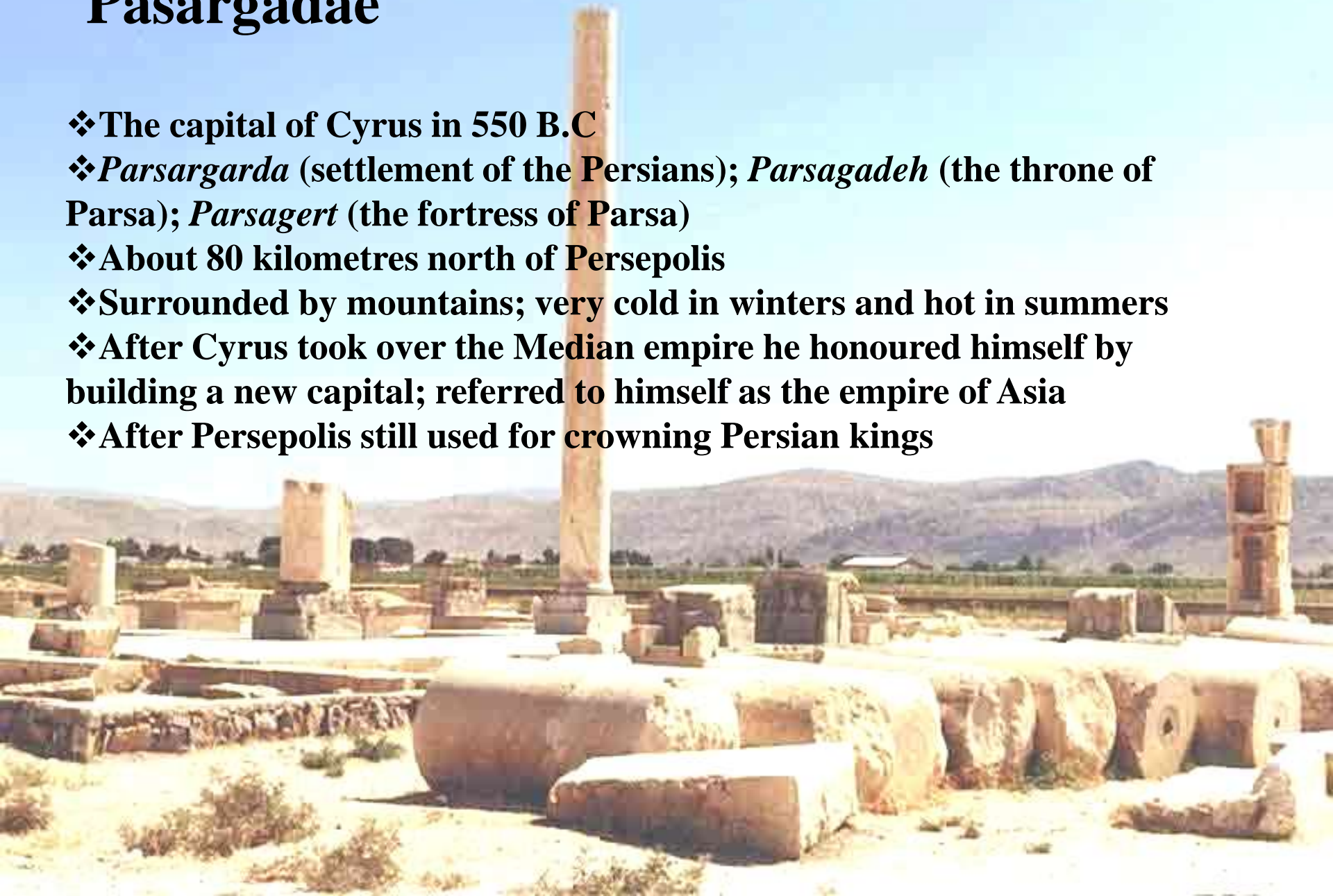
❖ There are a number of indications that the site was not permanently settled during its period of use.

❖ From looking at patterns of wear on steps, thresholds and floors, it is apparent that the site was not occupied permanently

➔ The site was a ceremonial and spiritual centre for the Achaemenid empire, a sacred site used only for the performance of certain rituals and events, such as the crowning and burial of kings and the presentation of tribute from the conquered nations.

Pasargadae

- ❖ The capital of Cyrus in 550 B.C
- ❖ *Parsargarda* (settlement of the Persians); *Parsagadeh* (the throne of Parsa); *Parsagert* (the fortress of Parsa)
- ❖ About 80 kilometres north of Persepolis
- ❖ Surrounded by mountains; very cold in winters and hot in summers
- ❖ After Cyrus took over the Median empire he honoured himself by building a new capital; referred to himself as the empire of Asia
- ❖ After Persepolis still used for crowning Persian kings





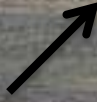
TOMB OF CYRUS



ZENDAN



PALACE S

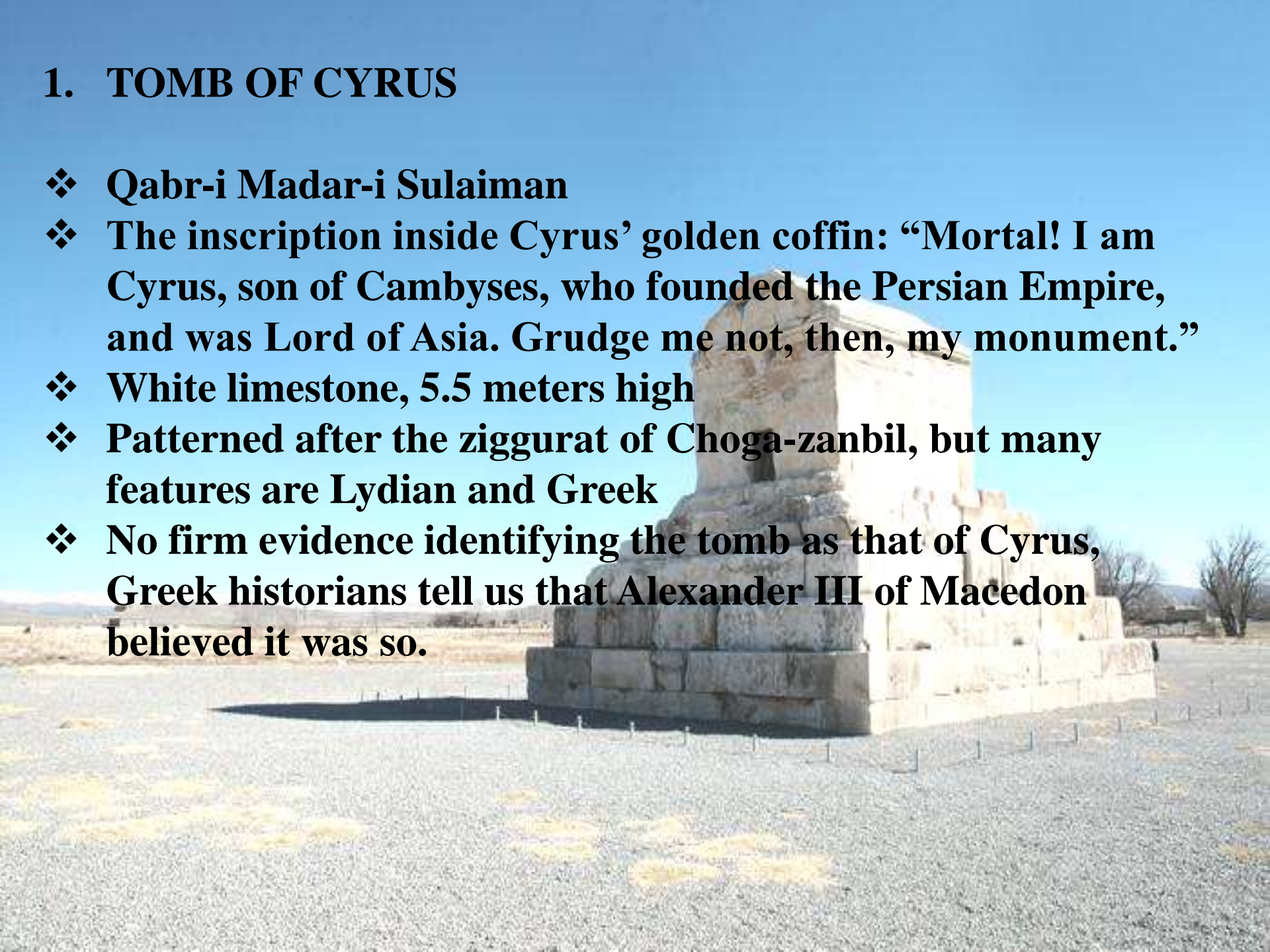


PALACE P



1. TOMB OF CYRUS

- ❖ **Qabr-i Madar-i Sulaiman**
- ❖ **The inscription inside Cyrus' golden coffin: "Mortal! I am Cyrus, son of Cambyses, who founded the Persian Empire, and was Lord of Asia. Grudge me not, then, my monument."**
- ❖ **White limestone, 5.5 meters high**
- ❖ **Patterned after the ziggurat of Choga-zanbil, but many features are Lydian and Greek**
- ❖ **No firm evidence identifying the tomb as that of Cyrus, Greek historians tell us that Alexander III of Macedon believed it was so.**



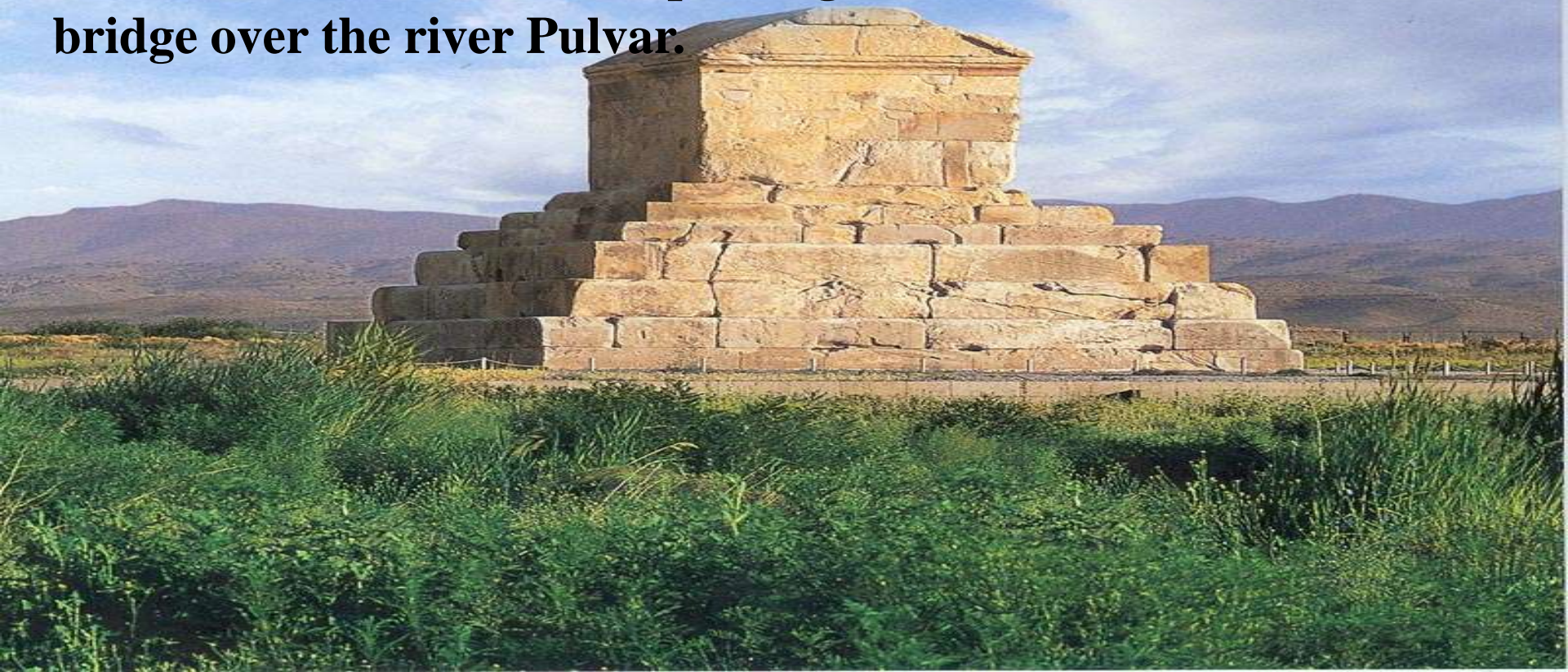
2. ZENDANE SULAIMAN

- ❖ What is left of this tower today is one wall about 13 meters high with three rows of false windows**
- ❖ A staircase of 29 steps probably ascended to the chamber**
- ❖ Great resemblance to the better-preserved Ka`aba-i Zardusht in Naghshe Rostam**
- ❖ What was their purpose?**
 - 1. Fire Temples**
 - 2. Repositories for archives or royal objects**
 - 3. Tombs**



3. TALL-i-TAKHT

The oldest part of Pasargadae was the citadel, which is known as Tall-i-Takht or 'throne hill'. It overlooks the palace complex itself. This consists of two smaller units: the residential palace (built from cold white natural stone) and a columned audience hall. The visitor first has to pass a gate and then has to cross a bridge over the river Pulvar.

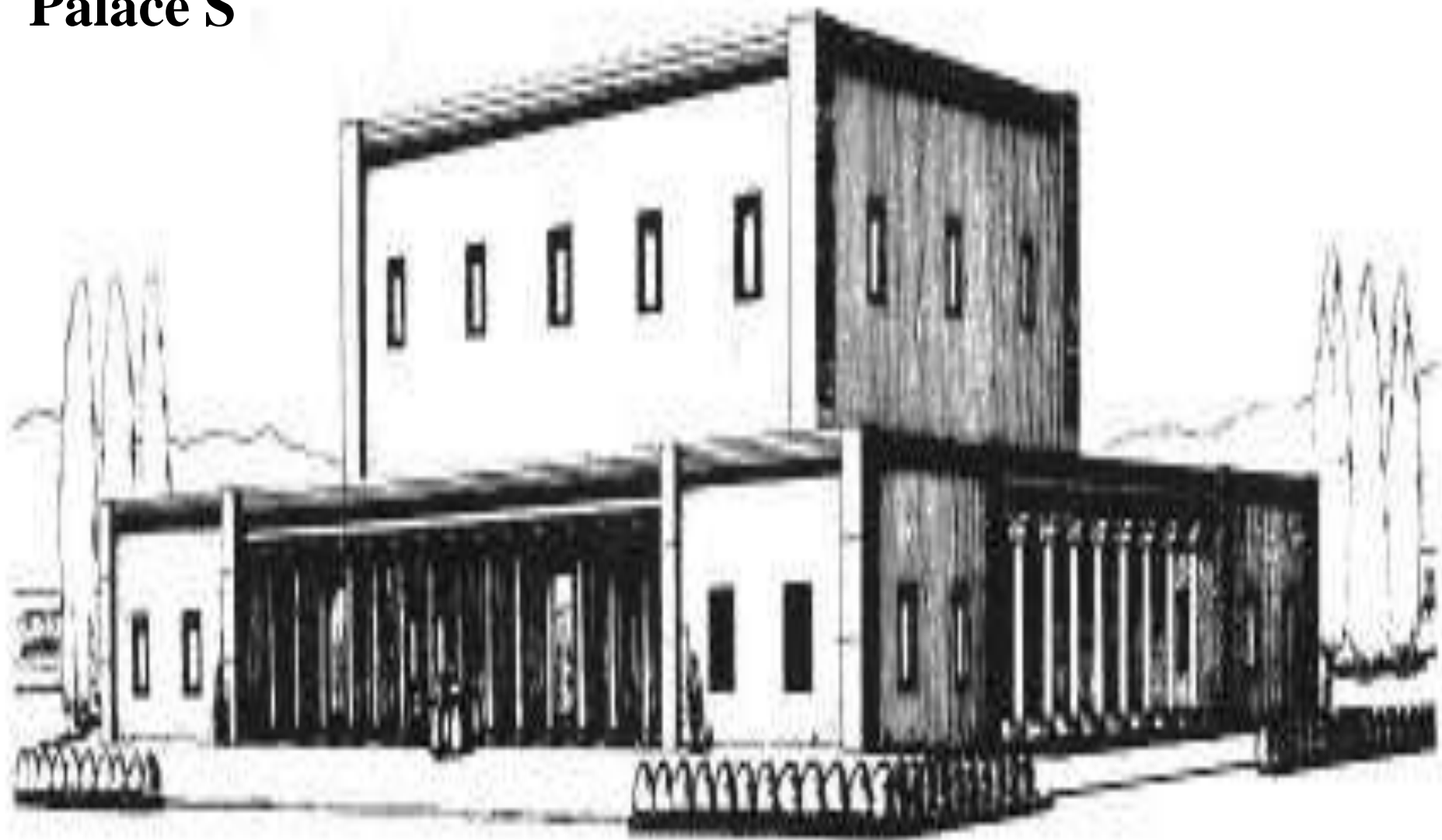




4. PALACE S: The white column, the oldest known stone pillar in Iran, is more than 13 meters high, which gives an indication of the size of the building. The black capitals resembled bulls, griffins, lions, and horses. The first three types are also known from Persepolis



Modern reconstruction of Palace S



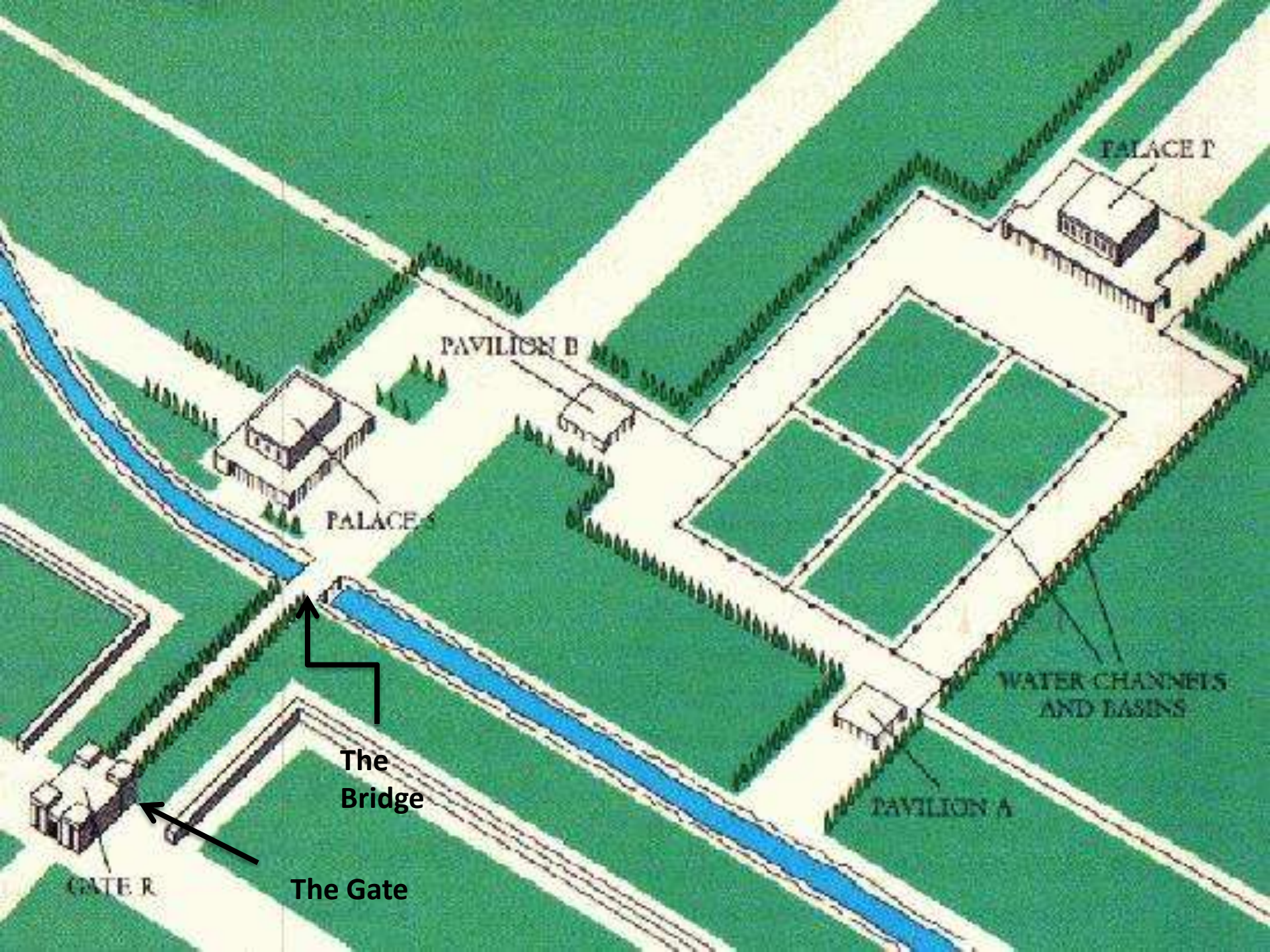
5. PALACE P

This is **Palace P** (Tall-i Takht in the distance again), usually regarded as the residence of the great king. It is rather curious that the remains of the columns -five rows of six pillars- all reach the same height. Probably, only the lower parts of the columns were made of stone; the upper parts were made of wood.



6. THE GARDEN AND THE BRIDGE

- ❖ The bridge had five rows of three stone columns
- ❖ It was probably wooden
- ❖ Two pavilions set in a park-like setting
- ❖ Traces of an extensive set of water courses → irrigation
- ❖ A jar with thirty-seven different kinds of precious objects: gold bracelets, earrings, bells, silver spoons, and pearl beads
- ❖ The objects date between 350-450 B.C → hidden when Alexander sacked Pasargadae?
- ❖ Persians were the first to develop the so-called paradise or royal park



PALACE I

PAVILION B

PALACE II

WATER CHANNELS AND BASINS

PAVILION A

GATE R

The Bridge

The Gate

Interesting Fact...

Latest research on Pasargadae's structural engineering has shown the Achaemenid engineers constructed the city to withstand a severe earthquake, at what would today be classified as a '7.0' on the Richter magnitude scale

