

Ursula Weber, Josef Wiesehöfer. *König Narsehs Herrschaftsverständnis*

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- 1 The authors reconsider the historical context of Narseh's reign, a king often portrayed as an usurper. An analysis of the Paikuli inscription, Shapur's *Res Gestae* and the royal genealogy serve to prove that Narseh, instead of Wahram, the elder son, stood next in line to the throne when his brother Hormizd I died in 273 AD. For twenty years however, he would remain loyal to Wahram I and II and serve as king of Armenia. According to the Paikuli inscription, Narseh was chosen as King of Kings by the assembled Persian nobility after he defeated Wahram III, whose rise to power in 293 AD was not in line with the traditional protocol. The emphasis given to this is evidence that Narseh wanted his reign to be seen not as an usurpation but as a continuation of the royal bloodline. The authors briefly discuss two reliefs of Narseh: the investiture scene at Bishapur (an usurped relief of Wahram I) and the family scene from Naqsh-i Rostam. The latter, erroneously seen by some as an investiture by Anahita, dates back to the end of Narseh's reign.

AUTHORS

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