Matthew P. Canepa. “Dynastic Sanctuaries and the Transformation of Iranian Kingship between Alexander and Islam”

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Electronic version

URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/44081>

DOI: 10.4000/abstractairanica.44081

ISBN: 1961-960X

ISSN: 1961-960X

Publisher:

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Electronic reference

Luca Colliva, « Matthew P. Canepa. “Dynastic Sanctuaries and the Transformation of Iranian Kingship between Alexander and Islam” », *Abstracta Iranica* [Online], Volume 37-38-39 | 2018, document 3, Online since 30 December 2018, connection on 28 September 2020. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/44081> ; DOI : <https://doi.org/10.4000/abstractairanica.44081>

This text was automatically generated on 28 September 2020.

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- 1 The interpretation of the so-called Dynastic Sanctuaries created by "Iranian-speaking" or "Iranian-influenced" dynasties between the Hellenistic period and the Islamic conquest is a long debated subject. In this article M.P. Canepa takes into consideration some possible sanctuaries, located in a vast area stretching from Commagene to Kushan India. The examined sites, which include Nemrut Dağı, Old Nisa, Šāmī, Surkh Kotal, Māt and Naqš-e Rostam, are emblematic for their links with the ruling dynasties. According to the author, they were erected to honour the sovereign, his relatives and ancestors, and render cult to the gods, sometimes also in conjunction with funerary monuments, thus establishing a clear connection between the king and the divine.
- 2 The study of these sites and the comparison with the Hellenistic tradition, mainly vehiculated by Seleucids, suggest to the author that the origin of these sanctuaries can be traced to the birth of a new pan-Iranian conception of kingship forged by the union of Hellenistic and Iranian traditions.

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