

Bronze Weapons of Toll-e Shoqa, Marvdasht Plain, Fars: National Museum of Iran Collection

Azizi Kharanaghi, M. H.¹

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Abstract

The correct position and the determining role of the second and first millennium BC cultures in the Fars region (Marvdasht plain) which we know as the Shoqa/Timuran cultures and the importance of this culture in the transition from the prehistoric to the historical period (Achaemenid) are still not well known. Despite of extensive archaeological research that has been done in the Marvdasht plain and the presence of significant sites of this period, due to the limited and generally very old excavations in these sites, it is still difficult to understand these developments. During that time, huge developments were taking place in Khuzestan and Fars regions; Changes usually created many conflicts between native cultures and southwestern cultures origin (Elamite). Some archaeological findings, such as weapons, are signs of the height of such conflicts in the past. This paper will study and introduce the collection of weapons of Toll-e Shoqa, which were obtained from the excavations of Mahmoud Rad in 1942 and Vandenberg in 1950 in that site, those are now kept in the National Museum of Iran. These collections have been studied recently in the inventory project in the National Museum of Iran archives. So far, few cultural materials from Toll-e Shoqa have been published and more emphasis has been placed on its pottery; the pottery is the basis of the relative chronology of this period in the Fars region. Unfortunately, the results of the archaeological excavations in Shoqa were never fully published and all its cultural materials were not introduced. In the organizing project of the National Museum of Iran which will be described and analyzed in this paper.

Keywords: Toll-e Shoqa, Weapon, Arrowhead, Spearhead, Elamite, National Museum of Iran.



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1. Assistant Professor, Department of Prehistoric Archaeology, Iranian Center for Archaeology (ICAR), Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, Tehran, Iran (RICTH).

Email: m.azizi@richt.ir

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Introduction

Archaeology, due to its nature and limitations, is only able to recognize and study the material aspects of ancient societies. Explanation of archaeological evidence limitation, resulting from archaeological excavations and analysis regarding to the ancient events, is a task that archaeologists perform by studying cultural materials from excavations or studies on historical monuments. According to the silent nature of the cultural materials from archaeological research, the need to explain the hypothesis and theorize, and then try to confirm or reject the proposed hypothesis, lead to the formation of archaeological research. During the Shoqa period, end of the second millennium and the beginning of the first millennium BC, which is the subject of this research, huge changes were taking place in the Fars region. The prehistoric cultures of Fars are in relation with the Elamite civilization, and after Anshan formation in the Marvdasht plain (Tepe Malyan), interaction/conflict. it reaches a peak between native cultures and newcomers. Unfortunately, because of the lack of report publication of the excavations which were carried out in the diagnostic sites of this period, including Toll-e Shoqa, it is not possible to explain how these encounters took place; but the study of cultural materials from the old excavations of this site can be the beginning of questions in this field.

Museums, as an accumulated treasure of cultural-historical materials, can play a very important role in providing researchers access to cultural materials from old excavations. The National Museum of Iran keeps huge and unique collections of cultural-historical materials from old and unpublished archaeological excavations in Iran, this paper also focuses on the findings of Toll-e Shoqa excavation which was led by Mahmoud Rad in 1942 (Moštafari, 1951: 29) and Vanden Berghe in 1950 (Vanden Berghe, 1954).

As mentioned, unfortunately, a complete report of the excavations in Toll-e Shoqa was never published, only short reports in the publications of other researchers have mentioned this site (Jacobs, 1980; Sumner, 1972; 1994). these few publications have described and classified the characteristic pottery of Shoqa culture, other archaeological findings have not been considered. In the project of organizing the archives of the National Museum of Iran, a collection of Bronze arrowheads and spearheads of Toll-e Shoqa was identified, which have not been introduced so far. The significant number of such weapons in the limited excavations carried out on this site indicates significant events in the period, which this research will try to explain.

Different types of social interactions between societies and settlements have taken place from the past until now. War and warfare were part of these interactions. In archaeological findings, such evidence as the remains of large fires, major destructions, and the sudden abandonment of the site by residents are related to military conflicts. Another piece of evidence that indicates a military encounter or a military threat is the discovery of a large number of weapons in the excavated area. The number of detected weapons and the only type of projectile weapons from Toll-e Shoqa indicate conflicts in a certain period, which may be more defensive nature.

Objectives and Necessity of the Research

The main objective of the current research is to introduce the bronze weapons obtained from Toll-e Shoqa excavations, which have not been introduced so far and were identified in the organizing archives project in the National Museum of Iran. The publication of the findings from the excavation provides the possibility for researchers to exploit the cultural findings from the archaeological excavations that have not been published and are stored in the museums. The publication of numerous and different findings of a site provides the possibility of knowing more about the studied culture and provides a more comprehensive picture of past developments. Toll-e Shoqa has a very important position in the studies of the second and the beginning of the first millennium BC in the prehistoric cultures of Fars and southern Iran, due to the lack of publication of the former excavation is still not well known. Research on this site is undoubtedly very important in the archaeological studies of Fars in this period.

Question and hypothesis: What does the discovery of a large number of What does the discovery of a large number of projectile weapons, arrowheads, and spearheads, in the limited excavations carried out in Toll-e Shoqa mean? Have there been conflicts between the residents of this site and the surrounding settlements?

Considering that in the second millennium BC, the influence of Elamite culture reached its peak in Fars and Marvdasht Plain and the rapid development and growth of the city of Anshan (Malyan), different relations have been between Elamite cultures and the native inhabitants (Sumner introduced the residents of The Shoqa as a native inhabitant (Sumner, 1994: 103) which is perhaps these relations were not very friendly in some cases). The discovery of a large number of projectile weapons, which are usually used more defensively than offensively, indicates the occurrence of conflicts during this time.

Research method: This research is based on the typology study of cultural artifacts in the National Museum of Iran, documentation of the research findings (Bronze weapons of Toll-e Shoqa) and making a database of the studied materials. Also, using publications based on research carried out in Toll-e Shoqa and Dasht Marvdasht in the desired period, we tried to explain and provide more knowledge of the cultural materials and the position of Toll-e Shoqa in archaeological studies in this region.

Research background

Shoqa is a high mound with more than 12 meters height and about 5.5 hectares dimension (unfortunately, the core and buffer zone of the site have not yet been determined). The site has an east-west direction and is located in the middle of the Morvdasht plain, 10 kilometers southeast of Persepolis with Geographical coordinates (E: 52°56'22.01"- N: 29°51'17.87"), 12 km east of Marvdasht town and 1594 meters above the sea level, 50 km southeast of Toll-e Malyan (Fig. 1). The first person who conducted excavations at Toll-e Shoqa in 1942 is Mahmoud Rad from the General Directorate of Archaeology,



Fig. 1: Geographical location of the aerial photo of Toll-e Shoqa in Marvdasht Plain (Barani, 2017).

according to the brief report published in the Archaeological Reports in 1952 by the Takht Jamshid (Persepolis) Scientific institute, he spent two months in the spring of 1942 in Toll-e Shoqa and found some pottery and copper objects above and below the heads of the burial (Moštofi, 1964; Moštofi, 1951: 59). Then, in 1950, Louis Vandenberg excavated some trenches in Shoqa (Vanden Berghe, 1954: 404), unfortunately, none of the two excavators published the report of their activities in this site. Various researchers have visited and mentioned this site in their studies in Marvdasht Plain (Abdi, 2003, Jacobe, 1980, Alizadeh, 2006; Zaidi, 2004). The most recent survey in Toll-e Shoqa has been conducted by Mr. Vahid Barani, an archaeologist at the Persepolis World heritage site (Fig. 2) (Barani, 2014)

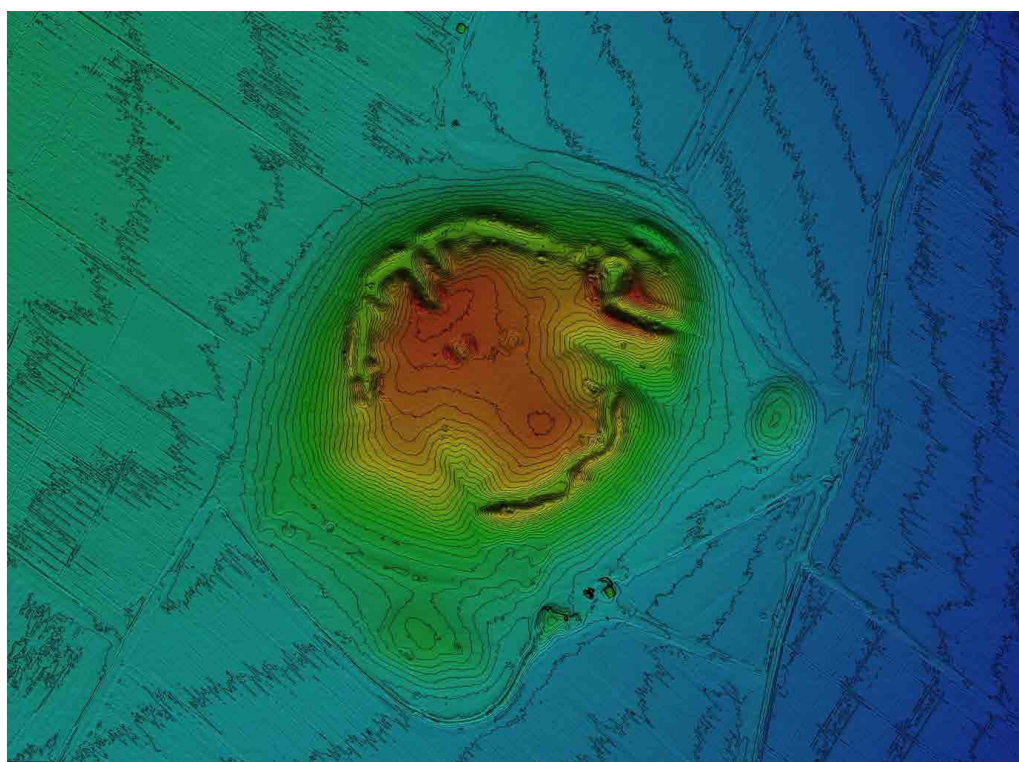


Fig. 2: Topography and 3D model of Toll-e Shoqa (Barani, 2017).

Shoqa's chronology

Despite the survey (Sumner, 1972) and subsequent excavations in this area, including in Toll-e Darvazeh (Nicol, 1970; Jacobs, 1980) and Toll-e Qala (Haerinck and Overlaet, 2003), due to the ambiguities of stratigraphy and chronology, the temporal relationship between the Timuran and Shoqa periods and the impossibility of temporal separation of these two pottery traditions, which were located between the Qala period and the Achaemenid period, researchers still use the term Shoqa/Timuran to introduce this period (Jacobs & Sumner, 1980; 1994). In the framework of Fars chronology, there is a phase that in historical studies coincides with the Middle Elamite and the beginning of the New Elamite period from the middle of the second millennium BC to the beginning of the first millennium BC (900 BC). This phase, known as the Shoqa-Timuran phase (Carter and Stolper, 1984), is an important period in the cultural sequence of the southern parts of Iran; Because on the one hand, it sheds light on the features of the Elamite period of the Fars region, centered on Anshan (Toll-e Malyan) and on the other hand, the local cultures in the same period, such as Toll-e Darvazeh, Toll-e Shoqa and Toll-e Timuran (Barani et al., 2018: 596).

Vandenberg is the first archaeologist who presented the chronology of the prehistoric cultures of the Fars region and considered the Shoqa period to be 1600-2000 BC (Vanden Berghe, 1959: 14). Nicol, with carbon 14 dating of 32 charcoal samples from the Toll-e Darvazeh suggested 500-640 to 2140 BC for the Shoqa/Timuran period (Nicol, 1969) and Jacobs, with a review of 28 datings of former C14 analyzed has been suggested

900-1800 BC for the Shoqa/Timuran phase at Toll-e Darvazeh (Jacobs, 1980: 54). In the middle of the second millennium BC, with a sudden decrease in the number and size of sites throughout the Morvdasht plain, the Kaftari pottery in the southeastern part of the plain was replaced by the Shoqa/Timuran pottery (Overlaet, 2007). The most recent absolute dating for the Shoqa/Timuran period based on carbon 14 dating of three charcoal samples from Toll-e Timuran suggests a date between 1550-1100 BC (Emadi and Niknami, 2020: 67).

Shogha weapons

Shoqa Bronze weapons from the National Museum of Iran include 363 objects divided into Spearheads (162) and arrowheads (divided into three categories: simple tanged arrowheads (11), two-sided tanged arrowheads (190), and trilobed socketed arrowheads (1) (Fig. 3). These two types are projectile weapons, and no other war weapons from this site, including swords, daggers, etc., are in this collection, which raises more questions, It shows that we will discuss it further. The objects of this collection are probably made of Bronze which is badly damaged (scientific analysis has not been done to determine the type and metal composition of Shogha's bronze objects which are discussed here). The metal core of some objects are completely destroyed and only a green patina without a metal core remains. Considering the location of the discovery of the bronze weapons among many objects several graves and the high humidity in the Marvdasht plain, this amount of erosion seems to be normal. Considering the characteristics in most cases, spearheads and arrowheads are molded and polished in one piece and in some cases cast on in two stages, and there are no fasteners or rivets.

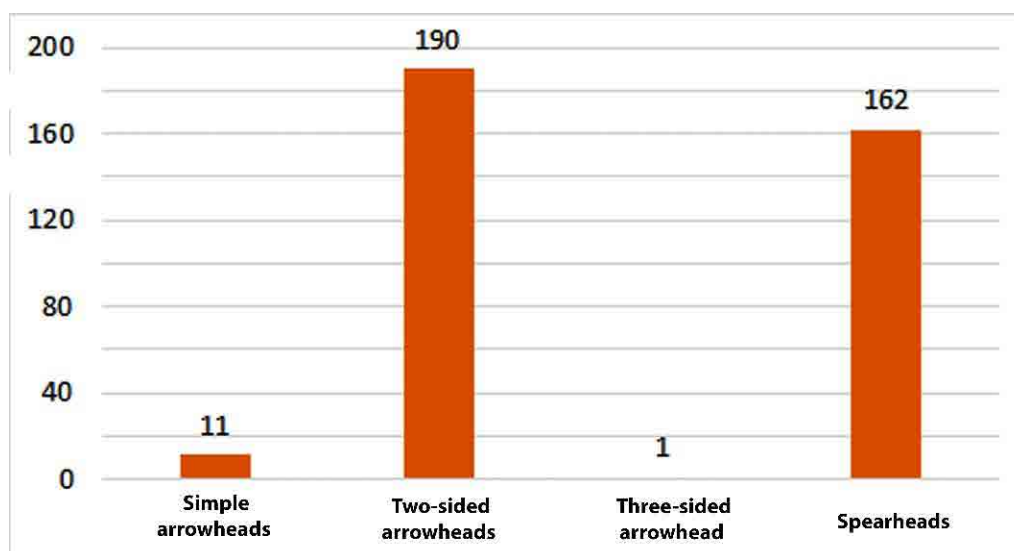


Fig. 3: Chart of different types of Shoqa weapons (Authors).

- **Spearheads:** There are 162 Bronze spearheads, whose length varies between 10 to 14.4 cm (Fig. 3), which are generally simple/flat and produced by a molding technique. Their lower pointed part is placed inside the handle, only one example has a perforated handle and the handle is inserted into the spearhead (Fig. 4).

- **Arrowheads:** Arrowheads based on their appearance have been divided into three groups (Fig. 3). Simple arrowheads, two-sided arrowheads, and trilobed arrowheads. Arrowheads have the same conditions as spearheads. The arrowheads are also Bronze and damaged, in some cases, their metal cores are also lost.

- Simple tanged arrowheads are in flat heads or simple rod head forms (Fig. 5) and are integrally molded as a one-piece and there are no fasteners or rivets. their sharp tang was placed in the middle of a wooden shaft and was probably attached and strengthened with bitumen or plant fibers. 11 arrowheads with a length between 3.8 to 7.7 cm are in this category.

- Two-sided tanged arrowheads have the largest number and include 190 pieces (Fig. 7). Unlike simple arrowheads that are integrally molded, it seems that in some cases, in order to create more strength, first the middle bar was made and then the side blades were created in remolding. The length of this type is between 1.6 to 6.7 cm. Like other samples, the tang of this arrowhead type is also placed in the middle of the hole in the wooden shaft and attached by bitumen or plant fibers.

- Trilobed arrowhead, which is the one example among Toll-e Shoqa's collection in the National Museum of Iran (Fig. 6). The length of this sample is 2.8 cm, it has three blades. This piece is also very damaged and its metal core has been lost. It was probably produced by molding in two stages and, unlike other arrowheads; the arrowhead is socketed.

Comparative study of the Toll-e Shoqa Bronze weapons types

For the purpose of a more detailed comparative study, the Bronze weapons of Toll-e Shoqa were compared with sites from different periods and different geographical areas, sites such as Bard Nashandeh (Ghirshman, 1976), Susa (Jequier et al., 1905), Amlesh (Azizi Kharanghi and Mojezati, 2021), Sialk (Ghirshman, 2000), Hesar (Schmidt, 1937), Khorvin (Vanden Berche, 1964), Ozbaki (Majidzadeh, 2010), Choghamish (Delougaz and Kantor, 1996), Malyan (Pigott et al., 2003), Gesser (Alizadeh et al., 2014), Deillman (Fukai and Ikeda, 1971; Egami et al., 1966), Bakun (Alizadeh, 2006), Hassanlou (Schauense, 2011) and Shahdad (Azizi Kharanghi et al., 2017). The studied sites have many geographical distributions and different periods, but according to such weapon's function, their general form and shape in different periods and different geography, did not change significantly and arrowheads or spearheads during the course of history were produced and used with a similar function and shape (Table 1).



Fig. 4: Examples of Toll-e Shoqa spearheads in the collection of the National Museum of Iran (Authors).

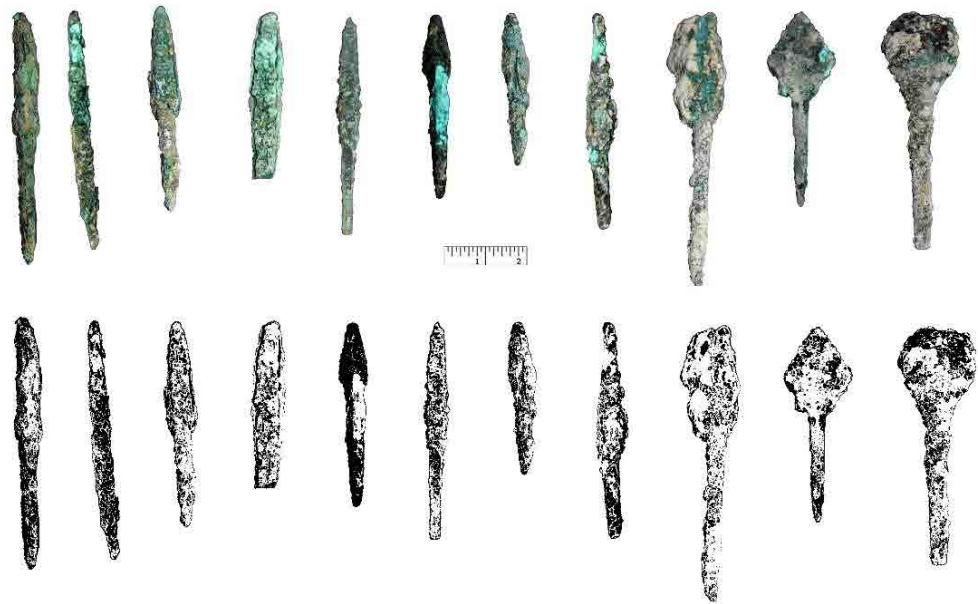


Fig. 5: Examples of the simple tanged arrowheads of Toll-e Shoqa in the collection of the National Museum of Iran (Authers).



Fig. 6: An example of the trilobed arrowheads of Toll-e Shoqa in the collection of the National Museum of Iran (Authers).

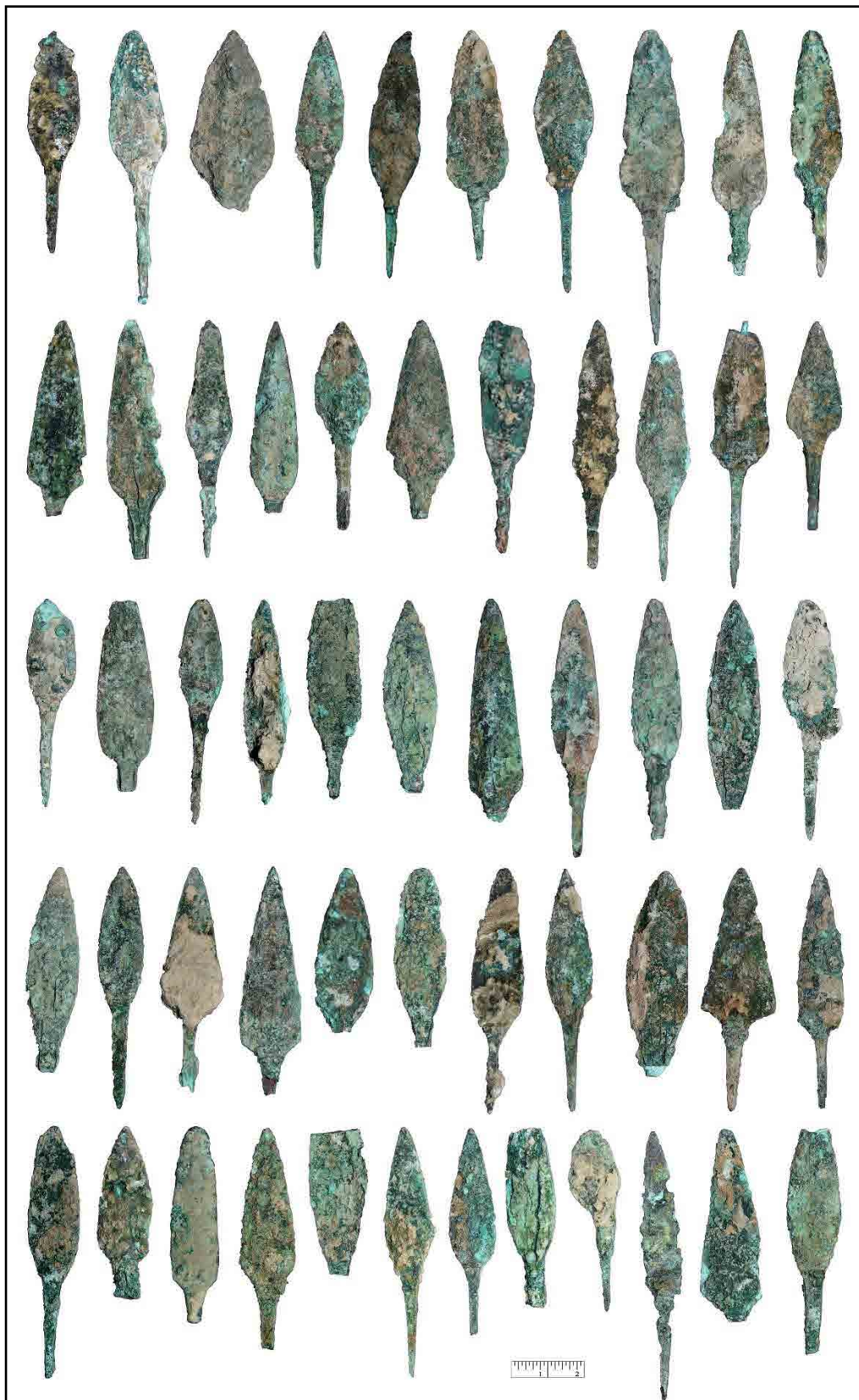


Fig. 7: Examples of two-faced tanged arrowheads from Toll-e Shoqa in the collection of the National Museum of Iran (Authors).

Tab. 1: Copmrative chart of Shoqa weapons with other sites (Authers).

NO.	Shoqa	Bardneshandeh	Susa	Amlash	Sialk	Hessar	Khorvin	Ozbaki
1	Tanged triangular arrowhead 	 1		 8			 18	
2	Tanged trilobe arrowhead 	 2						
3	leaf-shaped arrowhead 	 2a	 3	 9		 13	 19	 24
4	Two-sided arrowhead 		 4		 11	 14		
5	Two-sided arrowhead 		 5		 12	 15		 25
6	Simple arrowhead 		 6			 16	 20	 26
7	Two-sided arrowhead 		 6a	 10		 17	 21	

8	Simple arrowhead 						 22	
9	Tanged chisel-head arrowhead 							
10	Spearhead 		 7				 23	
11	Two-sided arrowhead 							
12	Three-sided arrowhead 	 27					 42	
13	Two-sided arrowhead 				 33		 46	
14	Two-sided arrowhead 				 34		 47	

15	Two-sided arrowhead 				 35	 39	 48	
16	Simple arrowhead 		 29	 31	 36	 40	 43	
17	Two-sided arrowhead 	 28			 37			
18	Simple arrowhead 			 32			 44	
19	Simple arrowhead 		 30			 41		
20	Spearhead 				 38		 45	

Conclusion

Despite the past decades since the beginning of archaeological studies in the Fars region and especially the Marvdasht Plain, numerous surveys and excavations that have been carried out in this area, the cultural characteristics of the settlements of the second millennium BC in this region are not clear. Limited absolute chronology has been done and logical connection between the presented dates has not been done well. Landmark sites have been given less attention or limited archaeological studies have been carried

out on that site¹. Most of the sites were excavated in the past, pottery is the only cultural material that is considered due to the possibility of providing a relative chronology and other cultural materials are mostly neglected.

Toll-e Shogha is not an exception to this rule, despite its size and importance in the middle of the Marvdasht plain and the richness of cultural materials, long sequences of cultural deposits, it has not been subjected to stratigraphic excavation with modern methods. Our knowledge of this site is only from the excavations which were conducted many years ago in 1942 and 1950 (more than seventy years ago). Unfortunately, the detailed report of those excavations was never published. The short published reports only attention to introduce Shoqa potteries. There is no chronology of Toll-e Shogha itself, the presented chronology (1550-1100 BC) is related to the Shogha-Timuran period from other site excavations.

In the project of organizing in the National Museum of Iran archives in 2018, a significant number (363) of spearheads and arrowheads of Toll-e Shoqa were found, which have rarely been published in archaeological reports. Arrowheads and spearheads are among the projectile weapons that are also used in defense, due to the lack of discovery of other types of offensive weapons, such as swords, daggers, etc., it seems in the middle of the second millennium BC in Marvdasht plain and the expansion of the presence of the Elamites in this region (formation and increasing development of Anshan (Malyan), the conflicts between the native cultures living in the region have risen and the discovery of such artifacts in several graves in Toll-e Shogha indicates this issue. Unfortunately, no detailed scientific study has been done so far to identify the elements and the exact type of these metal objects, but it seems that they are all Bronze. Before conducting detailed archaeological studies on this site and especially without stratigraphic excavation and studying the cultural sequence of the site, absence of absolute dating into it, it is not possible to comment more precisely.

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End Note

1. Toll-e Malyan is an exception and there are extensive scientific researches and publications about it. However, the sites of the same period as Malyan in Fars province and Marvdasht Plain have been less studied, and there is no possibility of creating a chronological and archaeological connection except for the pottery samples.

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سلاح‌های مفرغی تل شغا، دشت مرو دشت، فارس (مجموعه موزه ملی ایران)

محمدحسین عزیزی خرائقی^۱

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چکیده

جایگاه نقش تعیین‌کننده فرهنگ‌های هزاره دوم و اول پیش‌ازمیلاد در فارس (دشت مرو دشت) که آن را با عنوان «فرهنگ شغا/ تیموران» می‌شناسیم و اهمیت این فرهنگ در گذار از دوران پیش‌ازتاریخ به دوران تاریخی (هخامنشی) به خوبی شناخته شده نیست. در این دوران تاریخی تحولات عظیمی در خوزستان و فارس در حال انجام بود؛ تغییراتی که قاعدتاً تعارض‌های زیادی را میان فرهنگ‌های بومی و ساکن با فرهنگ‌هایی با خاستگاه جنوب غربی (ایلامی) ایجاد می‌کرد. برخی از یافته‌های باستان‌شناسی، همچون سلاح‌های جنگی، نشانه‌هایی از اوج‌گیری چنین کشمکش‌های در دوران گذشته هستند. در این پژوهش به مطالعه و معرفی مجموعه ابزارهای جنگی تل شغا که از کاوش‌های «محمود راد» در سال ۱۳۲۰ ه.ش. و «واندنبگ» در سال ۱۹۵۰ م. در تل شغا به دست آمده و اکنون در موزه ملی ایران نگه‌داری می‌شود و در پروژه ساماندهی مخازن این موزه مورد بازبینی قرار گرفته بود، پرداخته خواهد شد. در پروژه ساماندهی موزه ملی ایران در سال ۱۳۹۸ تعداد ۳۶۳ قطعه سلاح‌هایی از جنس مفرغ شامل سرپیکان و سرنیزه شناسایی گردید به توصیف و تحلیل این بقایای فرهنگی از تل شغا خواهیم پرداخت.

کلیدواژگان: تل شغا، سلاح، سر پیکان، سرنیزه، ایلام، موزه ملی ایران.

۱. استادیار گروه باستان‌شناسی پیش‌ازتاریخ، پژوهشکده باستان‌شناسی، پژوهشگاه میراث فرهنگی و گردشگری، تهران، ایران.

Email: m.azizi@richt.ir

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میراث فرهنگی و گردشگری، تهران، ایران

ناشر: پژوهشگاه میراث فرهنگی و گردشگری
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مقدمه

در دوره فرهنگی شغا و اواخر هزاره دوم و اوایل هزاره اول پیش از میلاد، تحولات عظیمی در منطقه فارس در حال وقوع بوده است. فرهنگ‌های پیش از تاریخی فارس با در حال آشنایی با تمدن ایلامی هستند و با شکل‌گیری انشان در دشت مرو دشت، بی‌شک تعامل/ تعارض؟ میان فرهنگ‌های بومی و تازه‌واردان به اوج می‌رسد. متأسفانه به دلیل عدم انتشار گزارش کاوش‌های صورت گرفته در محوطه‌های شاخص این دوره، از جمله تل شغا، امکان تبیین چگونگی این برخوردها وجود ندارد؛ ولی مطالعه مواد فرهنگی حاصل از کاوش‌های قدیمی این محوطه می‌تواند آغازگر پرسش‌هایی در این زمینه باشد.

موزه ملی ایران دربردارنده مجموعه‌هایی عظیم و منحصربه‌فردی از آثار و مواد فرهنگی-تاریخی از پژوهش‌های قدیمی و منتشر نشده باستان‌شناسی در ایران است که این پژوهش نیز با تمرکز به یافته‌های کاوش تل شغا توسط «محمود راد» در سال ۱۳۲۰ ه.ش. (Mostafavi, 1951: 29) و «واندبرگ» در سال ۱۹۵۰ م. (Vanden Berghe, 1954) سعی در معرفی و تبیین آنان دارد. در پروژه ساماندهی مخازن موزه ملی ایران، مجموعه‌ای از سرپیکان و سرنیزه‌های مفرغی از تل شغا شناسایی شد که تاکنون معرفی نشده‌اند. تعداد قابل توجه چنین سلاح‌هایی در کاوش‌های محدود صورت گرفته در این محوطه، بیانگر وقایع قابل توجهی در دوره موردنظر است که این پژوهش سعی در تبیین آن خواهد داشت.

هدف اصلی پژوهش حاضر معرفی سلاح‌های مفرغی حاصل از کاوش‌های تل شغا است که تاکنون معرفی نشده و در پروژه ساماندهی موزه ملی ایران، شناسایی شده است. انتشار یافته‌های حاصل از کاوش، امکان بهره‌برداری دیگر از پژوهشگران از یافته‌های فرهنگی حاصل از کاوش‌های باستان‌شناسی که منتشر نشده و در مخازن موزه‌ها نگه‌داری می‌شوند را فراهم می‌نماید.

پرسش‌ها و فرضیات پژوهش: کشف تعداد زیادی سلاح‌های جنگی پرتابی، سرنیزه و سرپیکان، در کاوش‌های محدود صورت گرفته در تل شغا به چه معنی است؟ آیا تعارضاتی میان ساکنین این محوطه با استقرارهای پیرامون وجود داشته است؟

با توجه به این‌که هزاره دوم پیش از میلاد، نفوذ فرهنگ ایلامی در فارس و دشت مرو دشت به اوج خود می‌رسد و با توجه به توسعه و رشد سریع شهر انشان (ملیان)، قاعدتاً روابط مختلفی بین فرهنگ‌های ایلامی با ساکنین بومی («سامنر» ساکنین شغا را مردمان بومی منطقه معرفی کرده است (Sumner 1994: 103) و محلی محل وجود دارد که شاید در مواردی این روابط چندان دوستانه نیز نبوده است. کشف تعداد زیادی سلاح جنگی پرتابی که قاعدتاً بیشتر مصرف دفاعی دارد تا تهاجمی، نشان دهنده بروز تعارضاتی در این دوره بوده است.

روش پژوهش: این پژوهش متکی بر مطالعه مواد فرهنگی در موزه ایران باستان، مستندنگاری کامل یافته‌های تحقیق (سلاح‌های مفرغی تل شغا)، ایجاد بانک اطلاعاتی و گونه‌شناسی مواد فرهنگی مورد مطالعه است. هم‌چنین با مطالعه کتابخانه‌ای و اسناد موجود و منتشر شده از پژوهش‌های صورت گرفته در تل شغا و دشت مرو دشت در دوره زمانی موردنظر، سعی در تبیین و ارائه شناخت بیشتر از مواد فرهنگی و جایگاه تل شغا در مطالعات باستان‌شناختی در منطقه موردنظر، شده است.

پیشینه پژوهش

شغا، تپه‌ای بلند به ارتفاع بیش از ۱۲ متر و مساحت حدود ۵/۵ هکتار (متأسفانه هنوز عرصه و حریم این محوطه شاخص، مشخص نشده است) با جهت شرقی-غربی در میانه دشت مرو دشت، ۱۰ کیلومتری جنوب شرق تخت جمشید و ۵۰ کیلومتری جنوب شرقی تل ملیان قرار دارد (شکل

۱). محمود راد از اداره کل باستان‌شناسی وقت نخستین فردی بود که تل شغا را در سال ۱۹۴۲م. مورد کاوش قرار داد، طبق گزارش مختصر منتشره از کاوش بهار ۱۳۲۰ه.ش. به مدت دو ماه در تل شغا، مقداری ظروف سفالی و آثار مسی؟ (مفرغی) بالا و پایین سر مردگان به دست آورده است (مصطفوی، ۱۹۵۱: ۵۹)؛ سپس لویی واندنبرگ در سال ۱۹۵۰م. گمانه‌هایی را در شغا کاوش کرد (Vanden Berghe, 1954: 404).

گاهنگاری شغا

باوجود بررسی (Sumner, 1972) و کاوش‌های بعدی در این منطقه ازجمله در تل دروازه (Nicol 1980; Jacobs, 1970) و تل قلعه (Haerinck & Overlaet, 2003) به دلیل ابهامات لایه‌نگاری و گاهنگاری، ارتباط زمانی بین دوره تیموران و شغا و عدم امکان تفکیک زمانی این دو سنت سفالگری که حدفاصل دوره قلعه تا دوره هخامنشی قرار می‌گرفتند، پژوهشگران از اصطلاح «شغا/ تیموران»، برای معرفی این دوره استفاده می‌کنند (Jacobs & Sumner, 1980; 1994). در چارچوب گاهنگاری فارس، مرحله‌ای وجود دارد که در مطالعات تاریخی هم‌زمان با دوره ایلام میانی و اوایل دوره ایلام نو از اواسط هزاره دوم پیش‌ازمیلاد تا اوایل هزاره اول پیش‌ازمیلاد (۹۰۰ پ.م.) را دربر گرفته است. این مرحله که اصطلاحاً به مرحله شغا - تیموران معروف است (Carter & Stolper, 1984) دورانی مهم در توالی فرهنگی بخش‌های جنوبی ایران به‌شمار می‌آید؛ چراکه از یک طرف در بردارنده شاخصه‌های دوره ایلامی منطقه فارس به مرکزیت انشان (تل ملیان) و دیگرسو فرهنگ‌های بومی هم‌دوره منطقه ازجمله تل دروازه، تل شغا و تل تیموران را روشن می‌کند (بارانی و همکاران، ۱۳۹۷: ۵۹۶). واندنبرگ نخستین فردی است که گاهنگاری فرهنگ‌های پیش‌ازتاریخ فارس را ارائه کرده و دوره شغا را ۱۶۰۰-۲۰۰۰ پ.م. دانسته است (Vanden Berghe, 1959: 14). «ماری نیکول» با تاریخ‌گذاری به روش کربن ۱۴ برروی ۳۲ نمونه زغال از کاوش تل دروازه، بازه زمانی ۶۴۰-۵۰۰ تا ۲۱۴۰ پ.م. را برای دوره شغا/تیموران (Nicol, 1969) و «لیندا یاکوبس» با بازیابی ۲۸ مورد از تاریخ‌گذاری‌های پیشین، تاریخ ۱۸۰۰-۹۰۰ پ.م. را برای مرحله شغا/تیموران در تل دروازه در نظر می‌گیرد (Jacobs, 1980: 54). در اواسط هزاره دوم پیش‌ازمیلاد با کاهش ناگهانی در تعداد و اندازه محوطه‌ها در سرتاسر دشت مرو دشت، سفال‌کفتری در بخش جنوب شرقی دشت جای خود را به سفال‌های شغا/ تیموران می‌دهد (Overlaet, 2007). جدیدترین تاریخ‌گذاری مطلق برای دوره شغا/ تیموران که براساس تاریخ‌گذاری کربن ۱۴ از سه نمونه زغال تل تیموران ارائه شده، تاریخی بین ۱۵۵۰-۱۱۰۰ پ.م. را پیشنهاد می‌کند (عمادی و نیکنامی، ۱۳۹۹: ۶۷).

سلاح‌های شغا

سلاح‌های مفرغین شغا که در موزه ملی ایران نگه‌داری می‌شود شامل ۳۶۳ عدد سرنیزه (۱۶۲) و سرپیکان (به سه دسته تقسیم می‌شود: سرپیکان ساده (۱۱)، سرپیکان دو وجهی (۱۹۰) و سرپیکان سه وجهی (۱) است (شکل ۳). این دو گونه، جزء سلاح‌های پرتابی است و هیچ‌گونه سلاح جنگی دیگر از این محوطه شامل شمشیر، خنجر و ... در این مجموعه دیده نمی‌شود؛ این خود سؤالات بیشتری را مطرح می‌نماید که در ادامه بدان خواهیم پرداخت. آثار این مجموعه احتمالاً مفرغی بوده و به شدت فرسوده شده‌اند. مغز فلزی برخی کاملاً از بین رفته و صرفاً پاتین سبز رنگی بدون مغزه فلزی از آن باقی مانده است. با توجه به محل کشف آثار مذکور از چند گور و رطوبت بالای دشت مرو دشت، این حجم فرسایش طبیعی به نظر می‌رسد. با توجه به ویژگی‌های ظاهری در بیشتر موارد سر نیزه‌ها و سرپیکان‌ها به صورت یکپارچه و در مواردی در دو مرحله قالب‌ریزی و پرداخت شده‌اند و در آن‌ها بست یا پرچی دیده نمی‌شود.

نتیجه‌گیری

باوجود گذشت دهه‌ها از آغاز مطالعات باستان‌شناسی در استان فارس و به‌خصوص دشت مرو دشت و بررسی‌ها و کاوش‌های متعدد صورت گرفته در این منطقه، ویژگی‌های فرهنگی استقرارهای هزاره دوم اول پیش‌ازمیلاد دشت مرو دشت به‌خوبی شناخته شده نیست. ثل شغا از این قاعده مستثنی نیست و باوجود وسعت و اهمیت آن در میانه دشت مرو دشت و غنای مواد فرهنگی و توالی طولانی نهشته‌های فرهنگی، مورد کاوش لایه‌نگارانه و گسترده علمی با شیوه‌های نوین حفاری، قرار نگرفته است. شناخت ما از این محوطه صرفاً از کاوش‌های سالیان دور در آن سال‌های ۱۹۴۲ و ۱۹۵۰ م. (بالغ بر هفتاد سال پیش) است. هیچ‌گونه گاهنگاری از خود ثل شغا در دست نیست و گاهنگاری ارائه شده (۱۵۵۰-۱۱۰۰ پ.م.) نیز مربوط به دوره شغا-تیموران و حاصل کاوش در محوطه‌های دیگر است و هیچ تاریخ‌نسی یا مطلق‌ی از لایه‌های فرهنگی خود ثل شغا وجود ندارد. در پروژه ساماندهی مخازن موزه ملی ایران در سال ۱۳۹۸ ه.ش. تعداد قابل‌توجهی (۳۶۳) سرنیزه و سرپیکان از این محوطه شناسایی شد که کمتر در گزارش‌های باستان‌شناسی منتشر شده، آن هم به‌صورت بسیار کلی و گذرا به کشف مقداری آثار مفرغین در گورهای کاوش شده، بدان اشاره شده بود. سرپیکان و سرنیزه جزء سلاح‌های پرتابی است که بیشتر در امر دفاع از آن استفاده می‌شود و به دلیل عدم کشف دیگر گونه‌های سلاح‌های تهاجمی از جمله شمشیر، خنجر و... به نظر می‌رسد در اواسط هزاره دوم پیش‌ازمیلاد در دشت مرو دشت و گسترش حضور ایلامیان در این منطقه (شکل‌گیری و توسعه روزافزون آنشان (ملیان)، تعارضات فی‌مابین فرهنگ‌های بومی ساکن بالا گرفته و کشف آثاری این‌چنینی در چند گور در ثل شغا حاکی از این موضوع است.