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An Archaeological landscape of Sharif Abad (Solgi) settlement area in the Gamasi-Ab River Basin in Central Zagros

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Abstract: *Solgi or Sharif Abad tepe (A&B) is one of the larger settlement sites of the Gamasi-Ab river basin in Nahavand plain. This site lies at the intersection of old ancient roads that go from Sahne, Harsin and Kangavar to Nihavand and the other eastern regions. In the study of this area, pottery from the Early Bronze Age (Godin IV-Yanik, Kura-Araxes), pottery related to Godin III, II and pottery of the historical period were obtained. The examination of these pottery artefacts reveals extensive cultural exchanges of the inhabitants of the region with the northwestern and neighboring areas in the Bronze and Iron Ages. In addition, a closer examination of the lifestyle in this settlement area gives us a complete view of these people's use of biological resources and their interaction with the environment. Among the reasons for the location and development of this settlement in the Bronze and Iron Age the main one was easy access to water resources and fertile agricultural lands. This article provides a brief overview of the geographical situation of the region and the history of archaeological research conducted in Nihavand and then focuses on the natural landscape of Sharif Abad. The next part of it describes the archaeological data from this location and analyzes its chronology. The article is concluded by a succinct summary.*

Key words: Central Zagros, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Nihavand Plain, Solgi (Sharif Abad) tepe

Introduction

Nihavand County is one of the districts in Hamedan province which is located 125 km south of Hamedan. Nihavand city lies on the northern slope of Green Mountain and the Gamasi-Ab River[1] passes 2 km south and 1 km west of it.[2] In the north, there are Kuh-e-Sefid, Molusan, Borjak, Ardisho, Gheitel Barudab, Ashvand and Kaleh-e-Kho, and in the south, there is Garou (a sequence of Shahoo, Paveh, and Ravansar

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[1] Green Mountain – in the part overlooking the source of Gamasi-Ab – with a height of 3188 meters and the lowest point of Nihavand, which is also the lowest point of the province, is the exit of the Gamasi-Ab River from Hamedan province with an altitude of 1420 meters above sea level.
[2] *Geographical culture*…, 2001/1380: 455.

Biston mountains, which are parallel to Kabir kuh).[3] The fertile Nihavand plain stretches between these mountains, its width varying from 4 to 12 km.[4]

This plain is delimited by Malayer and Tuyserkan in the north, Kangavar valley in the west and Lorestan province in the south. Along this plain, there are many permanent and seasonal springs, the most important of which are sarab e Gamasi-Ab and Sarab-e Giyan, which constitute the main source of the Gamasi-Ab River waters. After leaving the Nihavand plain, the river flows west and enters Kangavar. Then other streams such as Qarasu and Razavar join it near Ilam province, and later the Kashkan and the Sehzar rivers with other streams flow into it.

Most of the villages in this area are located in the river basin as the river plays an important role in the drainage of the Nihavand plain, having always been the cause of prosperity in agriculture and horticulture. It is also abundant in a variety of freshwater fish and oysters, which even today constitute staple food for local villagers. Understandably, therefore, this river played an important role in the formation of prehistoric and historical cultures of the Central Zagros.[5]

Additionally, the river has a great impact on the climate of Nihavand and moderates the winter cold and the summer heat of this plain to a large extent. For this reason, the climate of this area is considered as a mountainous temperate. For the same reason among the cities of Hamadan province, the shortest glacial period occurred in this region.

Archaeological excavations and research in this area date back to more than a century ago. The first excavations were carried out by Naser al-Din Shah Qajar on Baba Qasim hill in the east of Nihavand and caused irreparable damage to this area. In 1928 some pottery and bronze objects of the tepe Giyans, smuggled from excavations sites whose exact location was unknown at the time, attracted the attention of Hertzfeld who wanted to discover the origin of these artefacts. He managed to identify it as tepe Giyan.[6] A few years later, from the fall of 1931 to early 1932, the site was excavated in two seasons by Georges Contenau and Roman Ghirshman, French archaeologists commissioned by the Louvre Museum in Paris, whose final reports were published in 1935.[7]

Tepe Giyan is 350 meters long and 150 meters wide and its height is 19 meters above the ground. The excavation of this area was done by metric method, during which 122 tombs, five cultural floors, four architectural stages, all kinds of intact and broken pottery, all kinds of metal tools and objects, various ornaments, etc. were discovered. The explorers created five trenches in this area and named each

[3] Seydan, 2000/1379.
[4] Afrasiabpour, 2002/1381.
[5] Nourallahi, 2015a/1394a; Oberlander, 1965.
[6] Herzfeld, 1929.
[7] Contenau & Ghirshman, 1935.

of them in Latin letters. The pristine soil was identified at a depth of 19 meters from the surface of the area.[8]

In 1938-1940 Sir Aurel Stein identified two sites of Chegha Sifal and Jamshidi in this area.[9] Ms. Clare Goff surveyed the area and introduced the pottery of the region.[10] Judith Pullar also limitedly surveyed the region and neighboring plains to identify Neolithic settlements[11] and excavated tepe Abdul Hussein.[12] In 2000 Mahmoud Irandoost studied this area to identify the site of the Sasanid period.[13]

Due to the problems of the Giyan stratification, this was done by metric method. Its layers were not clear. In the summer and autumn of 2003, it was excavated by Mehrdad Malekzadeh. During it, the Giyan range was determined, its scope measured, sounding for stratigraphy in the center of the site was carried out and the chronology of the site was established. Remains belonging to the Iron Age III (Assyrian-material pavilion from 900 to 600 BC) were identified.[14]

Then, this area (Khezzel and Firoozan section) was re-examined by Yaghoub Mohammadifar and Abbas Motarajem in 2003, during which 44 sites related to prehistoric to Islamic periods were surveyed and introduced.[15] Mohammad Reza Saeedi Harsini surveyed Nihavand plain in 2005, during which 36 sites were visited, the traces of which ranged from the Stone Age to the Islamic period. Among them, 16 sites contained the works of the Bronze Age in the region.[16] In the same year (2005), the Laodicean Temple and Do khaharan were excavated by Mehdi Rahbar.[17] In 2005, Ali Nourallahi (as a colleague) and Nematullah Soraghi surveyed the entire Nihavand plain. The results of their study identified 124 sites related to prehistoric, historical and Islamic periods.[18]

Also in 2012 Ali Khaksar carried out a project to determine the area and propose the tepe Giyan area, during which 27 experimental soundings were excavated[19] and a Middle Bronze Age burial (Giyan IV and Giyan III was obtained in excavations).[20]

This site is very wide and consists of two parts, southwest and northeast. The southwestern part (A) is 5 meters higher than the other part (B). Therefore,

[8] Contenau & Ghirshman, 1935: 4-7.
[9] Stein, 1940.
[10] Goff, 1971.
[11] Pullar, 1975.
[12] Pullar, 1990.
[13] Irandoost, 2000/1379.
[14] Malekzadeh, 2004/1383.
[15] Mohammadifar & Motarjem, 2003/1382.
[16] Saeedi Harsini, 2005/1384; TALAEI *et al*., 2006/1385.
[17] Rahbar & Alibaigi, 2011/1390.
[18] Soraghi, 2006/1385.
[19] Khaksar, 2012/1391.
[20] Hemati Azandaryani & Khaksar, 2013; Khaksar, 2013/1392.

these two parts of the site were studied separately in this article. However, in terms of pottery and surface data, these two parts belong to the same period and various examples of pottery finds from both sections are similar and indicate simultaneous settlements in different periods.

In this article, while presenting a brief geographical and natural situation of Nihavand and the history of studies and excavations in this area, I have studied the Sharif Abad settlement area and its landscape in the north basin of the Gamasi-Ab River, and then introduced the collection of pottery obtained from the field study in 2005 and during my visit in the winter of 2014. Then the pottery is analyzed and its chronology established. Finally, the paper presents a summary of all the studied material.

Sharif Abad tepe (Solgi)

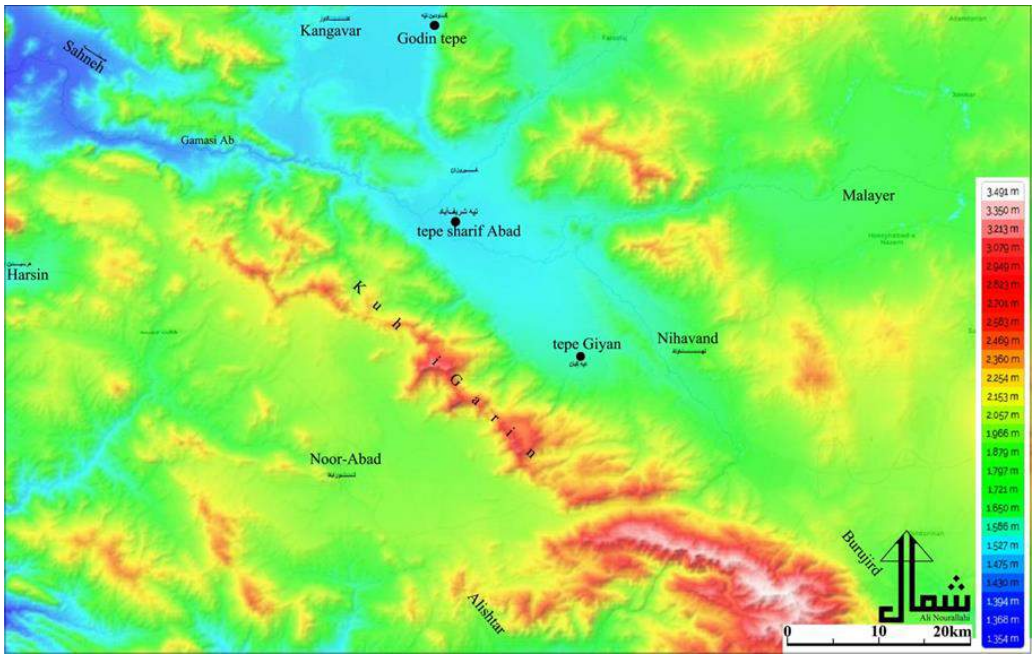

Fig. 1. Topography of Nihavand and the location of Sharif Abad tepe (A. Nourallahi)

Geographical Location: 34 ° 18'26.83 "N, 48 ° 5'55.52" E
Altitude: 1470 meters

Sharif Abad village is located 28 km west of Nihavand, in Khazal section [Fig. 1]. The inhabitants of this village are of Khezzel tribe called Solgi and Khazaei and its people have agricultural (irrigated and rainfed) and livestock livelihood. This village has changed a lot during the past one hundred years, so that the old village

on Sharif Abad hill has been abandoned and a new village has been created and developed on the eastern slopes of the hill.

Tepe Sharif Abad or Solgi is located on the western side of the present-day village of Sharif Abad, 400 meters north of the Gamasi Ab. This area is located 20 km northwest of tepe Giyan and 22.5 km south of Godintepe Kangavar, and it lies almost at the beginning of a small corridor that connects Nihavand to Kangavar plain.

This site has a length (east-west) of 400 meters and a width (north-south) of 390 meters and consists of two parts, southwest and northeast. The southwestern part (A) is conical in shape and 5 meters higher than part (B). In total, nowadays this site amounts to the area of about 4.2 to 4.5 hectares. The site was probably larger in the past but has now decreased due to human and natural factors [Figs. 2a; 2b; 2c].

Sharif Abad A

Sharif Abad village, which is locally known as Sharif Abad or Solgi tepe and is located at an altitude of 1470 meters above sea level, leads to the surrounding lands in a conical shape with a relatively steep slope, which has an oval cross section with a length of 280 meters and width 190 meters. Its height, measured from the surface of the dirt road next to, is 17 meters and from the surface of the small tepe Sharif Abad (B) it is 5 meters. On the western side of this section, a lot of soil is harvested every year by farmers with tractors in order to level agricultural land for better irrigation. Remains of the harvested soil amount to tens of tons every year. They are seen as deep and wide trenches. In addition to enriching and fertilizing the land, the villagers use the soil to build houses and mud walls. In different places of the north and south sections of the site holes have been dug by unauthorized diggers [Figs. 3-9]. Access to this site is possible through an asphalt road, which stretches from Kahriz Jamal village to Sharif Abad village. In the summer, the Torkkashvand nomads, who return from the tropics, live among the farmland near the area with their livestock until mid-autumn.

Sharif Abad is one of the settlements in the Gamasi-Ab River basin, with the river flowing in the south-north direction, 400 meters west of it. One of the reasons for the formation of this area is that the flow of the Gamasi-Ab River decreases at this point. In addition, the river changes its direction to the southwest with a curvature and the water flow at this point is very slow, making it easy for agriculture to separate the streams and canals from it. These streams and water canals which branch from the Gamasi-Ab supply the required water from 1.5 km southeast of the area to the village and arable lands, and these canals are dredged every year by the residents. These water supply canals are probably very old and are thought to have been created by the inhabitants of this site in the Bronze and Iron Ages and to have been later developed and expanded in historical periods. They are still exploited by the villagers

today. About 350 meters southeast of the site, there is crescent-shaped alluvial sediment that belongs to the old bed of the Gamasi-Ab River. This shows that in the past, the river at this point changed its course many times during severe floods. It is believed that the early inhabitants of this site were aware of this issue and, therefore, they took into account the flood area of the river when locating the village. The distance between 300 and 400 meters was deemed suitable to be safe from sudden floods of this river [Figs. 2-5].

Pottery data analysis

The Old Bronze Age pottery (Godin IV): The paste of this pottery is gray with soft sand tempera. These pottery items can withstand a high baking temperature and they were wheel made. These potteries are burnished and in thickness terms are fine and medium. They include a bowl with a protruding rim with an ovoid body [Figs. 10a: 8; 10a: 9; 10a: 10; 10a: 11], a flat cup [Fig. 10a: 5], and bowls with handles [Fig. 10a: 12]. These pottery items are comparable in form and shape to the pottery obtained from Yanik Tape,[21] Goy Tepe,[22] eastern Lorestan[23] and the IV period of Godin Tepe Kangavar.[24] In Nihavand plain, 16 sites with this type of pottery (Yanik-Kura Araxes) have been identified, most of which are located in the western part of the plain.[25] These potteries may indicate a presence of a nomadic community in this area in the period of Godin IV. Petrographic studies on this type of pottery have strengthened the hypothesis that people with this type of pottery had a nomadic life.[26] Nowadays, Torkkashvand nomads after returning from the tropics (from northern regions of Khuzestan), stay west of Nihavand plain all the time. One of the reasons is the availability of abundant water in the fields and suitable vegetation, which is more favorable and richer than in other parts of Nihavand.[27]

The Middle and Late Bronze painted pottery (Godin III_{2-6}) includes buff common ware with soft sand tempera. These pottery artefacts are wheel made and are resistant to baking temperature. In thickness terms these items are fine, medium and rough. The designs on them are drawn in black and brown on the buff background. The decorations include wide and narrow horizontal stripes on the inner and outer rim and the body of the vessels [Figs. 10a: 7; 10b: 13, 10b: 18, 10b: 19], concentric circles [Fig. 10b: 15], narrow and wide horizontal stripes with wavy lines [Fig. 10a: 4], narrow and wide stripes on the inner and outer rim with intersecting lines on the body

[21] Burney, 1964.
[22] Burton Brown, 1951.
[23] Young & Smith, 1966.
[24] Rothman, 2011; Henrickson, 1989.
[25] Talaei *et al*., 2006/1385.
[26] Mason & Cooper, 1999.
[27] see Nourallahi, 2012/1390 and Talaei *et al*., 2015/1393.

of the vessels [Fig. 10b: 14], circular embossed motifs [Fig. 10a: 6], and crescent-shaped reliefs under the fine rim [Fig. 10a: 2].

The forms of these pottery sherds include simple bodies [Figs. 10a: 4; 10b: 15], an outward rim with an ovoid body [Figs. 10a: 2; 10a: 7; 10b: 14; 10b: 18; 10b: 19], a flat rim with an oblique body [Fig. 10b: 13] and a piece of handle containers [Fig. 10a: 6]. These pottery finds are comparable to Godin III,[28] Babajan Lorestan,[29] and Giyan tepe[30] and pottery found from Mahidasht, Khuzestan, Mesopotamia. And Susa IVA and IVb,[31] Noorabad tepe of Lorestan,[32] Tuyserkan, Asadabad and Kangavar plain,[33] and Malayer plain[34] and tepe Bara faraq Nihavand[35] and Bronze Age pottery of Eznahri tepe.[36]

A number of pottery sherds with a thick red clay slipped and burnished was also collected, which had sand tempera. Their cores had turned black due to the low firing temperature of the pottery, and signs of heat were seen on some of these items, which may indicate that the pottery was used for cooking in the open kiln. This pottery was found in Godin III_{4-6}.[37] Such pottery forms and bowls which were burnished and red slipped were also common in the Godin II period and continue to be made,[38] but their rim shape is somewhat different from that of Godin III_{4-6} red burnished pottery, which in turn is different from that of a bowl known as Triangle Ware pottery.[39] Such pottery ware was also common in the Achaemenid period until the early Parthian period.[40]

The Iron Age pottery sherds (Godin II)[41] include pottery sherds of buff ware with soft sand tempera. The temperature heat they can withstand is sufficient for baking and they were wheel-made. In thickness terms they are medium. These pottery forms include open-mouthed bowls [Figs. 10a: 1; 10a: 3; 10b: 16; 20b: 17] and vertical

[28] Young, 1969; Young & Levine, 1974; Henrickson, 1984, 1985, 1986.
[29] Goff, 1971.
[30] Contenau & Ghirshman, 1935.
[31] Henrickson, 1987.
[32] Seyed Sajjadi & Samani, 1999/1378.
[33] Mohammadifar & Motarjem, 2003/1382.
[34] Stronach *et al*., 1979: 156-157.
[35] Henrickson,1986.
[36] Mirghaderi & Hozhabri, 2013/1392.
[37] Henrickson 1987.
[38] Gopnik, 2011.
[39] see Khatchadourian, 2018.
[40] Dyson, 1999.
[41] Later, studies by Dyson's students and a review of the data from Hasanlu's Layer V excavations, which was reviewed by Michael Danti. As a result of Dyson's carbon-14 (C-14) Chronology at Hasanlu, previous histories have changed. According to the revision, the Hasanlu V period is no longer considered the Iron Age I and is related to the Late Bronze Age. Therefore, the start date of this course in Hasanlu area is 1250 BC. It was found to be the basis for Iron Age chronology throughout the Iranian plateau (Danti & Cifarelli, 2015; Danti, 2013a; 2013b).

rims [Fig. 10a: 3].[42] These pottery sherds are comparable to Goy tepe A,[43] Hasanlu IV,[44] Dinkha II,[45] Haftavan IV,[46] Babajan III,[47] Noorabad, Mahidasht, Holeylan, Romeshkan and the neighboring areas.

The pottery sherds of the Islamic period were collected from the surface of the site and included pottery with green glaze (base cups) and pottery with painting under glaze (painted by the horizontal lines formed in brown color under green glaze).

Sharif Abad B

Sharif Abad section (B) is a continuation of the southern part of Sharif Abad (A). It is known locally as the small site of Sharif Abad (B) forming, in fact, a continuation of it. It is located at an altitude of 1470 meters above sea level. In terms of topography, the site has a gentle slope in all directions and its base surface is almost oval, measuring from east to west 360 meters in length and from north to south 160 meters in width. Its height above the road amounts to 12 meters.

Today, there are remnants of residential houses in the old village of Sharif Abad on this site, which were probably destroyed by the earthquake of 1958. These buildings are all made of clay and stratification can be seen in layers of pottery sherds in the mud bricks and mud walls.

Since every year farmers harvest soil from various places of this site to fertilize and level their land, one of the reasons for the low height of this section, in comparison to section A, may be due to the effect of such soil displacement. The extent of the soil removal is easily discernible in the form of trenches left behind, whose depth amounts to about 4-5 meters and the width to more than 10 meters. The issue of soil extraction for the purpose of local agricultural and construction activities indicates the degree of the destruction of this site that occurs every year.

In addition, traces of illegal excavations can be seen on this site, which has caused the destruction of well-preserved or less damaged parts of it [Figs. 5-9]. Moreover, during the survey, among the displaced soil, there were found some rocks that probably belonged to the foundations of residential houses destroyed by excavation.

Access to the above site is possible through an asphalt road that leads from Kahriz Jamal village to Sharif Abad village. The road is stretched on the eastern side of the hill in a north-south direction. A rural dirt road also passes through this

[42] see Gopnik, 2000; 2011: 285-311.
[43] Burton Brown, 1951.
[44] Dyson & Muscarella, 1989.
[45] Muscarella, 1974.
[46] Burney, 1973.
[47] Goff, 1971.

area. It is used by the villagers to access their lands in the west of the area. In the east, there is a low sedimentary hill with a length of 380 meters and a width of 95 meters (in the widest part) in a west-east direction. It is 3 to 4 meters higher than the surrounding lands. On the western part of this hill there is a residents' cemetery. The study of the surface of the hill has revealed no indication of settlement. Its formation was probably due to the Gamasi Ab sediments during floods [Figs. 2; 5-9].

Pottery data analysis

The Middle and Late Bronze Age painted pottery (Godin III_{2-6}) includes buff everyday vessels with soft sand tempera. The heat temperature was enough to bake in this pottery and they were wheel-made. The sherds display some black and brown motifs on the buff background.

These decorations include horizontal stripes on the body [Fig. 11a: 1], stripes painted on the rims [Fig. 11a: 2], crescent-shaped motifs below the rim [Fig. 11b: 6]; striped and wavy patterns with hatched triangles [Fig. 11b: 8], striped and wavy patterns with feathering motifs [Fig. 11b: 11], narrow striped patterns with feathering motifs and wavy lines, plant motifs on the body [Fig. 11b: 9], stylization of a goat with stripes and wavy motifs, stripe motifs and wavy lines with concentric circles, animal motifs (including birds with their heads to the left), wavy lines with stripe motifs, ladder motifs on the handle, wide stripe motifs and narrow horizontal and vertical wavy lines.

The pottery sherds forms include simple bowls with vertical rims [Figs. 11b: 10-13], an outward turned s rim with an ovoid body [Fig. 11b: 7] and some, mostly broken, bodies with a horizontally placed relief [Fig. 11b: 6]. These sherds are comparable to Haftvan IV,[48] Layer IV of Dinkha,[49] Giyan tepe,[50] Godin III,[51] tepe Noorabad of Lorestan,[52] the central site of Babajan Lorestan,[53] and sherds found in survey of Assadabad and Tuyserkan, Kangavar,[54] Malayer plain[55] and neighboring areas.[56]

[48] Hamlin, 1973.
[49] Hamlin, 1974.
[50] Contenau & Ghirshman, 1935.
[51] Young, 1969.
[52] Seyed Sajjadi & Samani, 1999/1378.
[53] Goff, 1976.
[54] Mohammadifar & Motarjem, 2003/1382.
[55] Stronach *et al*., 1979: 156-157.
[56] Henrickson, 1985, 1986.

This pottery is in the form of burnished and red slipped buff ware with soft sand tempera. They may be insufficiently resistant to baking temperature. They were wheel-made, burnished and in thickness terms are fine.

These pottery forms include protruding rims with an ovoid body, flat rims with a vertical body [Figs. 11b: 10; 11b: 12-13], flat rims with a vertical handle [Fig. 11b: 9], pottery sherds with a thick burnished red slips that include openings bowls with the rim turned inwards. They have turned black due to insufficient baking temperature. This group of finds is similar to the chigha Maran phase[57] burnished red slipped pottery and Godin III_6 in Tepe Godin.

This well-made burnished red slipped pottery first appears in layer Godin III_5[58] and continues until the Godin III_4 period[59] and is concurrent with the period of Susa A.[60]

The Iron Age pottery (Godin II) includes ware with a turned rim at a soft angle to the body and with two small handles attached to the body [Fig. 11a: 5].

These pottery finds are concurrent and similar to the Iron Age pottery of Babajan III[61] and the pottery of Mahidasht,[62] Holeylan and Romeshkan,[63] Malayer plain,[64] Godin II in Godin tepe,[65] Dinkha II,[66] Goy tepe A,[67] Haftvan IV.[68]

The historical period pottery includes buff pottery sherds with sand tempera with calcareous grains. They resist the temperature high enough to bake in them and they are wheel made. The pottery forms include food storage pithos [Fig. 11a: 3-4] and items with a slightly outward rim at a soft angle to the body [Fig. 11b: 7].

The Islamic period pottery includes buff common ware with sand tempera. They can withstand the temperature enough for cooking in them and they are wheel made. The decorations include stripe ridge on the body or shoulder. The forms include simple bodies and handles added to the body of the vessels.

[57] These potteries were obtained for the first time in the Chigha Maran site excavations of Kermanshah.
[58] Henrickson, 1987: Fig 59: 7, 9, 12.
[59] Henrickson, 1987: 414, 416; 1984, 1991, 2011; Nourallahi, 2015b /1394b.
[60] Voight & Dyson, 1992: 163.
[61] Goff Meade, 1968.
[62] Mayesht in Kurdish.
[63] Henrickson, 1985, 1986.
[64] Stronach *et al*., 1979: 156-157.
[65] Young, 1969; Young & Levine, 1974.
[66] Muscarella, 1974.
[67] Burton Brown, 1951.
[68] Burney, 1973.

Fig. 2a. View of Sharif Abad area (A. Nourallahi)


Fig. 2b. Sharif Abad area, works of the old village (A. Nourallahi)

Fig. 2c. Landscape of Sharif Abad area, village, water supply canals and surrounding area (A. Nourallahi)


Fig. 3. Western facade of Sharif Abad A, the place where its soil was harvested by farmers (A. Nourallahi)

Fig. 4. South side view and smuggling excavation artifacts (A. Nourallahi)

Fig. 5. General view of the area and traces of excavated soil and brick buildings of the old village of Sharif Abad (A. Nourallahi)

Fig. 6. View of the upper surface and its eastern landscape (A. Nourallahi)

Fig. 7. Eastern view of the yard and modern houses of the village on its eastern slope (A. Nourallahi)

Fig. 8. Soil harvest by farmers and the southern landscape of the area (A. Nourallahi)

Fig. 9. North view of the yard and the relics of the old village houses and Kuh-e-Garou (Gareen)

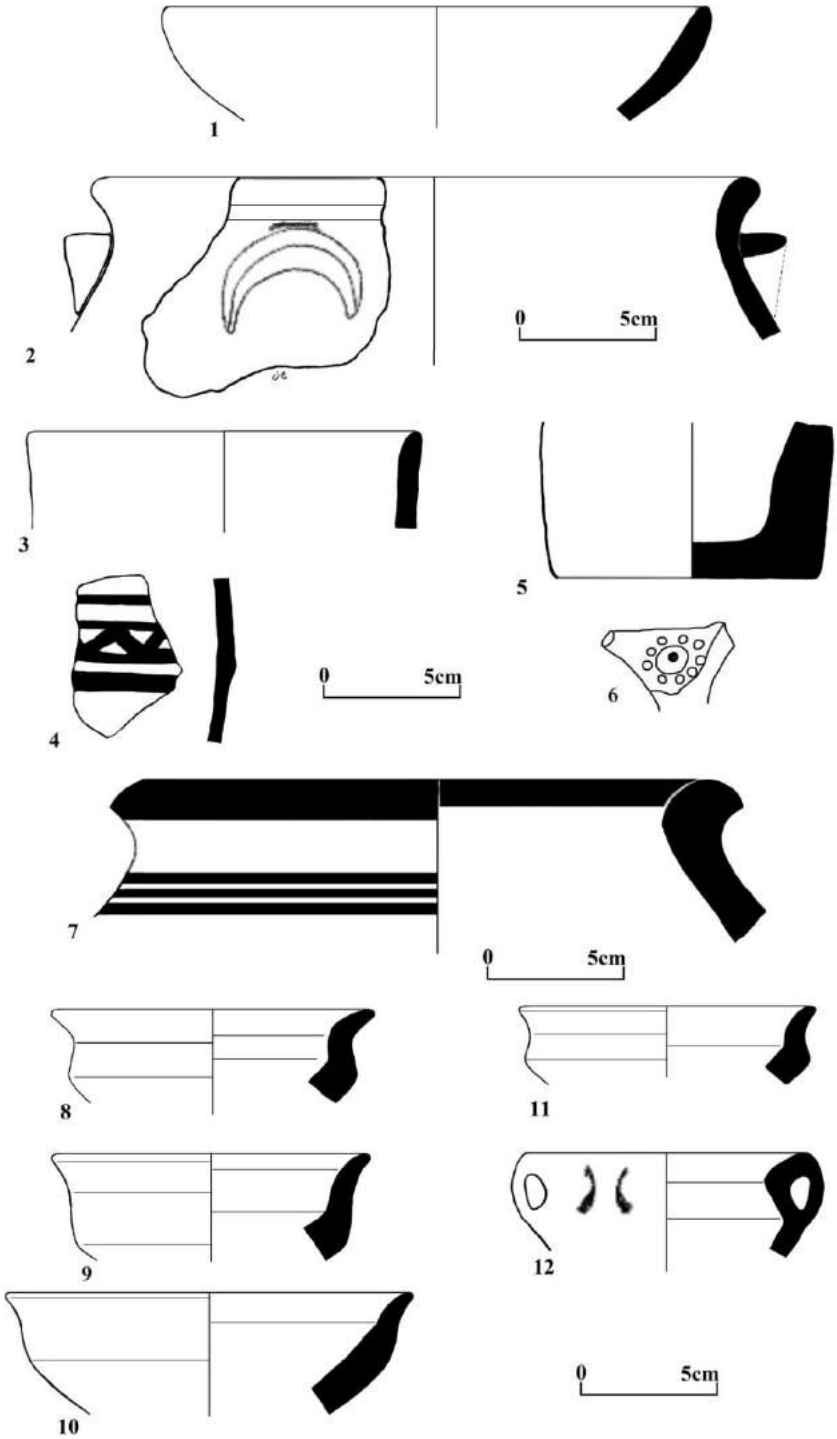

Fig. 10a. Surface pottery design of Sharif Abad section A (A. Nourallahi)

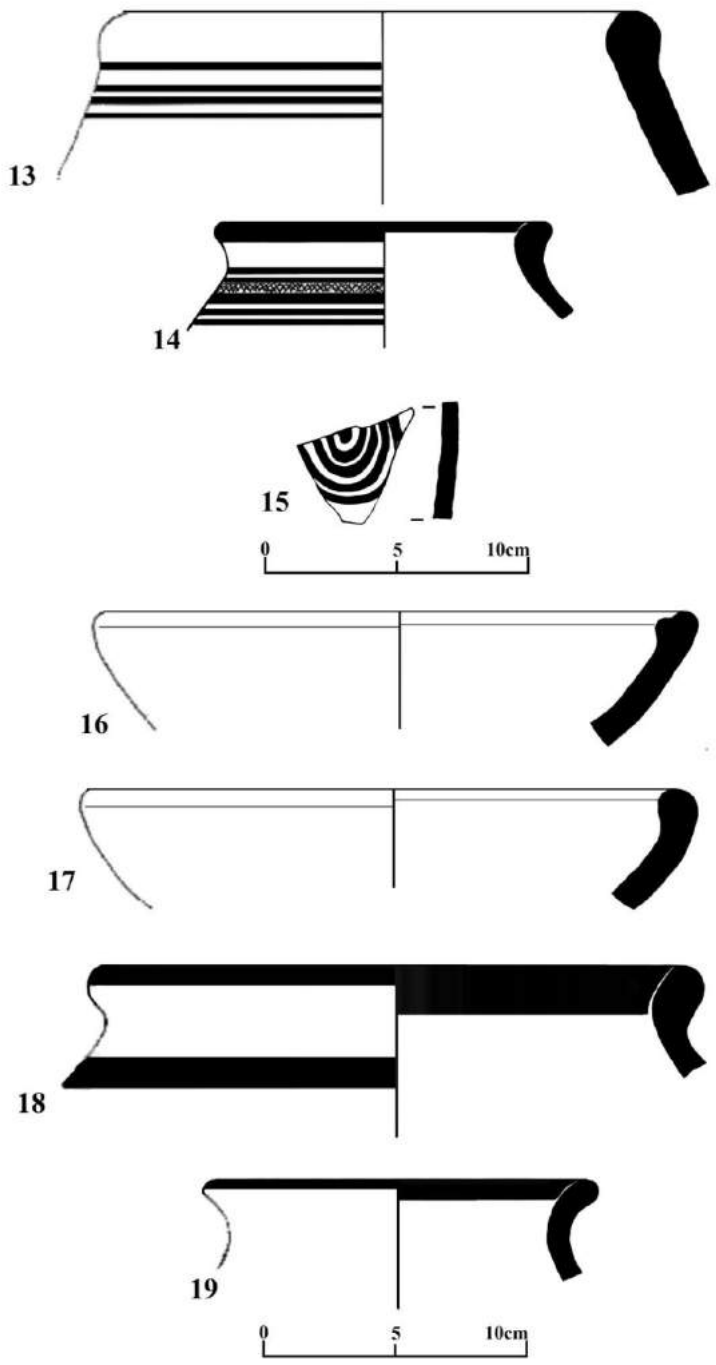

Fig. 10b. Surface pottery design of Sharif Abad A (A. Nourallahi)

Tab. 1. Description shreds of the Site of Sharif Abad A (A. Nourallahi).

№	color dough, tamper, made method (wheel or hand), heat for baked, thickness	Chronology
1	buff - soft sand - wheel made - enough heat - simple - medium -rim	GII
2	buff - soft sand - handmade -enough heat - simple - fine - rim (cooking ware)	$GIII_6$
3	buff - soft sand - wheel made - enough heat - simple - fine - rim	GII
4	cream - soft sand - wheel made - enough heat - painted (geometric motif by black color) - fine - body	$GIII_{4-6}$
5	buff - soft sand - wheel made - sufficient heat - simple - coarse - base	$GIII_4$
6	buff - soft sand - wheel made - enough heat - simple - medium - handle	Islamic period
7	buff - soft sand - tournette - painted -enough heat - coarse - rim	$GIII_{4-6}$
8	gray black - soft sand - handmade - high heat - simple – medium-rim with body	GIV
9	gray black - soft sand - handmade - high heat - simple – medium-rim with body	GIV
10	gray black - soft sand -handmade - high heat - simple – medium- rim with body	GIV
11	gray black - soft sand - handmade - high heat - simple – medium- rim with body	GIV
12	buff-coarse sand-wheel made-enough heat-simple -medium-rim by handle	GIV
13	buff - soft sand - tournette - enough heat - engraved - fine - rim	$GIII_{2-6}$
14	buff - soft sand - tournette - enough heat - painted-fine - rim	$GIII_2$
15	cream - soft sand - wheel made - enough heat - painted-medium - rim	$GIII_{2-6}$
16	buff - soft sand - wheel made - enough heat - simple-medium - rim	GII
17	cream- soft sand - wheel made - enough heat - simple-medium - rim	GII
18	cream- soft sand - wheel made - enough heat - painted-fine - rim	$GIII_{2-6}$
19	buff- soft sand - wheel made - enough heat - painted-medium - rim	$GIII_{2-6}$

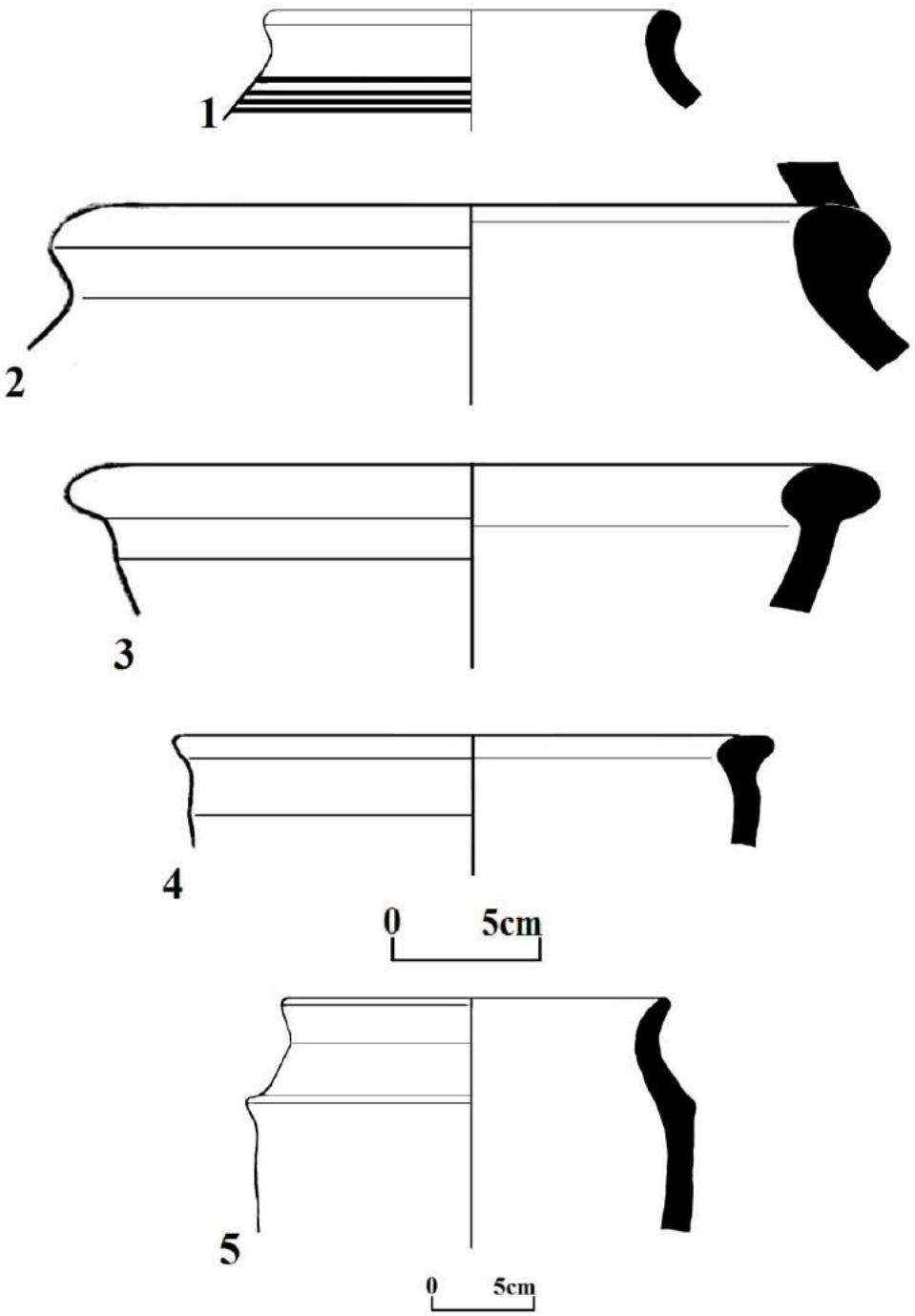

Fig. 11a. Surface pottery design of Sharif Abad section B (A. Nourallahi)

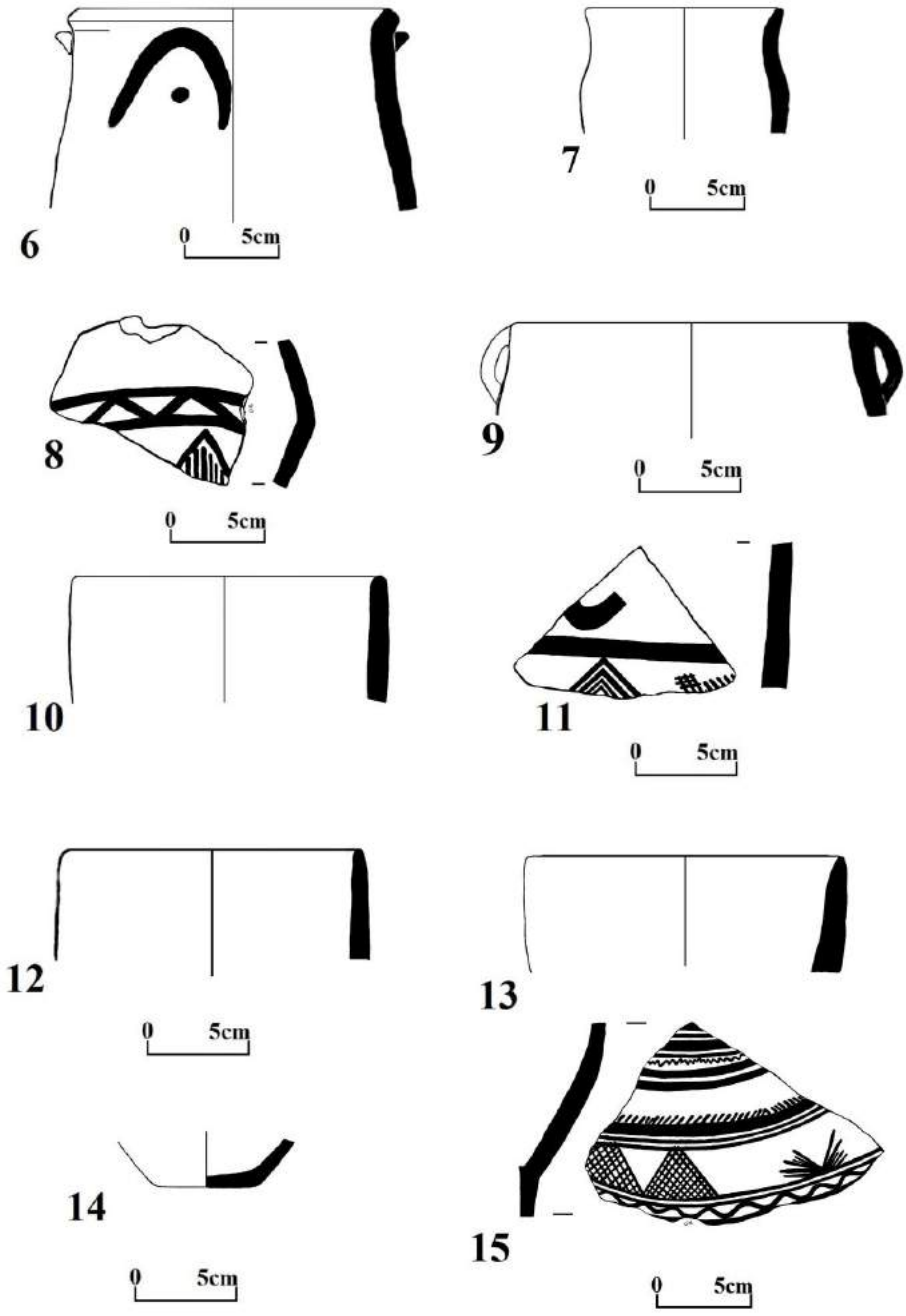

Fig. 11b. Surface pottery design of Sharif Abad section B (A. Nourallahi)

Table 2. Description shreds of the Site of Sharif Abad B (A. Nourallahi).

№	color dough, tamper, made method (wheel or hand), heat for baked, thickness	Chronology
1	buff - sand with lime particles - wheel made enough heat - clay slipped - painted - fine - rim	$GIII_{4-6}$
2	brick red - powdered pottery with lime particles - wheel made - enough heat - clay slipped - painted - medium - rim	$GIII_{4-6}$
3	buff - soft sand - wheel made - enough heat - simple - medium - rom	Historian period
4	buff - sand, lime particles - wheel made - insufficient heat - clay slipped - simple -fine - rim	Historian period
5	brick red - powdered pottery with lime particles - wheel made - enough heat - clay slipped - simple – medium - rim	GII
6	brick red - powdered pottery with lime particles - wheel made - enough heat - clay slipped - simple - fine - rim with crescent handle	$GIII_{4-6}$
7	brick red - powdered pottery with lime - wheel made - enough heat - clay slipped - simple - fine - rim (cooking ware)	Historian period
8	buff - powdered pottery with lime particles - wheel made - insufficient heat - clay glaze - painted - fine - body	$GIII_{4-6}$
9	burnished red - soft sand - handmade - enough heat - clay slipped- simple - medium - rim with handle	$GIII_{4-6}$
10	burnished red - soft sand - handmade - enough heat - red slipped - simple - fine - rim	$GIII_{4-6}$
11	buff - soft sand - tournette - enough heat - painted - medium - rim	$GIII_{4-6}$
12	burnished red - soft sand - wheel made - enough heat - red slipped - simple - fine - rim	$GIII_{4-6}$
13	burnished red - soft sand - handmade - enough heat - red slipped - simple - medium - rim	$GIII_{4-6}$
14	buff - soft sand with mica - wheel made - enough heat - simple- fine - rim	$GIII_{4-6}$
15	buff - soft sand - tournette - enough heat - clay glaze - painted (geometric motif by dark brown) - fine -body	$GIII_{4-6}$

Chronology

Due to the distortion of Giyan stratigraphy and the fact that its excavators used the metric method to record the layers changes, unfortunately, the cultural sequence and chronology. Thus such methods are unreliable and cannot be used to date the archeological finds of Nihavand plain.

So far, various proposals have been suggested to reinstate the Giyan chronology, the most important of which is the chronology made by Henrickson based on Godin's stratigraphy and archaeological data.[69]

[69] Henrickson, 1984; 1991.

The chronology of Godin III period in Godin tepe is based on the historical sources of Mesopotamia and then the cultural sequence of Khuzestan plain.[70] This issue is well reflected and confirmed in pottery documents,[71] from the end of Godin IV around 2700 BCE[72] and Godin III over a period of 2600-1400 BCE.[73] Godin III is divided into six phases, Godin III_6 (2600-2300 BC), G III_5 (2250-2150 BC), G III_4 (2100-2000 BC), G III_3 (during this time Godin is interrupted several times, so a definite chronology is not suggested for it), G III2 (which represents the peak of cultural standardization and reflects the economic growth and formation of integrated political organizations in the Central Zagros),[74] G III_1 has also been identified and excavated to a limited extent in Godin.[75]

In the surface survey of tepe Sharif Abad A and B pottery from Godin IV and III period and Iron Age[76] was obtained. In addition to these pottery finds, pottery sherds belonging to the historical period (Parthian-Sasanid) and the Islamic period were also sporadically collected in these sections of the site.

Due to the sediment accumulation, the archeological site may probably be larger, part of which is covered by sediments. What is more, pottery sherds belonging to the historical or Islamic periods are scattered all over the surrounding agricultural lands. Based on the survey, this area has had settlements since the early Bronze Age to the contemporary (there are traces of mud brick walls and houses and stratification clay of villages , as well as some residential houses). However, in reference to some periods, no data have been found. It is possible that at times , the area was abandoned and the settlement was interrupted. This issue can only be solved by further scientific archeological excavations.

Conclusions

Sharif-Abad site (A and B) is located 400 meters from the north Gamasi-Ab basin among alluvial sediments.

Due to its size, this site was studied in two separate parts, although the data collected from the surface of both parts are the same and no standardization is observed between the surface data.

Part A is higher than part B. The height difference may be attributed to architectural activities in historical and Islamic periods. Considering the height of Part A, it may be hypothesized that there was a citadel for this settlement area there.

[70] Weiss & Cuyler Young, 1975.
[71] see Henrickson,1987.
[72] Potts, 2013: 207; Rothman & Badler, 2011.
[73] Henrickson, 1985: 570.
[74] Henrickson, 1983; 1985; 1986; 2011.
[75] Henrickson, 1984; 1987: fig. 64.
[76] see Levine, 1987: fig. 68.

The formation and location of this settlement area was due to access to water from the Gamasi-Ab River. Although today the river flows 400 meters southeast of it, in the past it probably passed near the settlement. Also here the river changes to the southwest and to Kangavar. The high levels of sedimentation have caused the fertility of the land while a slower current at this location made irrigation of the agricultural lands easier. On the other hand, the settlement was located in a safe distance from the river to avoid damage caused by floods and inundations.

This settlement area lies at the junction of roads from Kangavar plain, Harsin plain and Sahneh to Nihavand and its eastern regions. Today, it is located on the side of the old exchange and communication route that goes from Nihavand to Kangavar. In the past it was a major political and economic center benefiting from trade, which is reflected in the homogeneity of the pottery data of this site with Godin II and III.

In addition to what has been said, this site also had cultural exchanges and connections with the northwest and the site of Lake Urmia, especially in the period of Godin IV, which is known as the Yanik or Kura Araxes culture in the northwest. On the whole, the surface data show the continuity of settlement in this site from the early Bronze Age (Godin IV) to the Iron Age and the historical and Islamic period. In some of these periods, this continuity may have some gaps. However, whether this is so, indeed, will hopefully be clarified in the light of future scientific archaeological excavations.

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