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Dahs

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► **To cite this version:**

| Mounir Arbach. Dahs. Thematic Dictionary of Ancient Arabia, 2023. hal-04672226

HAL Id: hal-04672226

<https://hal.science/hal-04672226v1>

Submitted on 17 Aug 2024

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DAHS

THEMATIC DICTIONARY OF ANCIENT ARABIA,

(DIR. J. SCHIETTECATTE), 2023.

Region and tribe in the southern highlands of Yemen (modern Yāfi‘) and name of a small kingdom in the 8th-7th cent. BCE.

In the 8th cent. BCE, the name Dahs (Sab. *Dhs^{1m}*) refers to a small autonomous kingdom. The [Sabaic](#) inscription [DAI Sirwāh 2005-50](#) reports a Sabaeen military expedition on its territory, ending with the execution of its king Yaqum and 6000 men (Nebes 2016). The contemporaneous inscription [RES 3916](#) refers to the assignment of Dahs to [Almaqah](#), the tutelary deity of [Saba](#). In the early 7th cent. BCE, the Sabaeen ruler [Karib’il Watār](#), son of Dhamar‘alī Dhāriḥ, led another expedition against Dahs and the neighbouring territory of [Tubnā](#). Both cities were burned and 2000 men were killed and 5000 taken prisoner. Dahs was incorporated into the Sabaeen orbit and was granted the territories of ‘Awd ([RES3945/7](#), 10). In the early 6th cent. BCE, Dahs, then allied to the kingdom of [Qatabān](#), was once again the target of a Sabaeen military expedition ([RES 3943](#)).

From the 5th-4th cent. BCE, Dahs lost all political autonomy, and became a [tribe](#) under the authority of the kingdom of Qatabān, as evidenced by the title borne by its rulers from the reign of Shahr Ghaylān, son of Abīshibām ([CSA/I, 5](#)): ‘king/mukarrib of Qatabān, of the descendants of ‘Amm, of [Awsān](#), [Kahad](#), Dahs, Tubnā. In the 2nd cent. BCE, the name Dahs disappears from the royal titulary of Qatabān ([RES 3854](#)) and from the epigraphic record.

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References and suggested reading

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