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Mounir Arbach

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DHAMĀR‘ALĪ YUHABBIR

THEMATIC DICTIONARY OF ANCIENT ARABIA,

(DIR. J. SCHIETTECATTE), 2023.

Ḥimyarite ruler who reigned in the middle of the 2nd century CE (ca. 135-165 AD).

Dhamar‘alī Yuhabirr (*Dmr‘ly Yhbr*), son of Yāsir Yuhaṣḍiq, ascended the Ḥimyarite throne amidst clashes between [Saba‘](#) and [Ḥimyar](#) ([Kh-al-Na‘īmīya 12, 13](#)). The newly-ended Ḥimyarite rule over the kingdom of Saba‘ had lasted for more than a century.

The earliest mention of Dhamar‘alī Yuhabirr appears in an inscription dated to AD 136-137 ([Kh-Umayma 1](#)). Its author is a “commander” (*mqtwy*) of Dhamar‘alī Yuhabirr [dhū-Raydān](#). Here, the latter does not bear the royal title.

No later than 159 CE, at the end of a troubled period during which all of the South Arabian kingdoms fought each other ([Ja 629](#), [lr 4](#), [MAFRAY-Sāri‘ 6](#), etc. — Robin 1992, Bron 2002), Dhamar‘alī Yuhabirr ascended the throne of Ḥimyar ([al-Ḥadā‘ 2017-1](#), [Arbach et al. 2021](#)).

At a certain point during their reign, Dhamar‘alī Yuhabirr and his son Tha‘rān Ya‘ub Yuhan‘im controlled Sabaeen territory. This period is not precisely dated. Inscription [RES4775 + 4776](#) mentions that hydraulic works in the [oasis](#) of [Ma‘rib](#) were undertaken by these kings. Four more inscriptions show members of the Sabaeen aristocracy pledging allegiance to the Ḥimyarite king Dhamar‘alī Yuhabirr alone ([Jabal Riyām 2006-19](#); [CIH365](#)), or together with his son Tha‘rān ([lr 6](#); [CIH 457](#)). It is not possible to determine whether this corresponds to one or two different periods of the control of Saba‘ by Ḥimyar. In the second century CE, the sharing of the Sabaeen throne by the main Sabaeen tribes of the northern highlands had clearly stirred up tensions between them. A reversal of alliances occurred, including temporary allegiance to the Ḥimyarite kings, going so far as to grant temporary control of part of the Sabaeen territory by Ḥimyar. This episode did not appear to last. Two periods were particularly favourable to this reversal: either the end of the reign of Sa‘dshamsum Asra‘ and his son Marthadum Yuhaḥmid (ca. 155 CE) or the interregna between Wahab‘īl Yaḥūz, Anmarum Yuha‘min, and Karib‘īl Watar Yuhan‘im, a period of frequent conflicts in Ma‘rib ([al-Jawf 04.15](#), [Ja 564](#)).

Dhamar‘alī Yuhabirr associated his son Tha‘rān Ya‘ub with the throne. The latter succeeded him around 165 CE.

Mounir Arbach

References and suggested reading

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Alternate spellings: Dhamār'alī Yuhabir, Dhamar'ali Yuhabbir, Dhamar'ali Yuhabir