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Mounir Arbach

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# YARĪM AYMĀN

THEMATIC DICTIONARY OF ANCIENT ARABIA  
(DIR. J. SCHIETTECATTE), ONLINE 2023

*Yarīm Aymān was a prince of the tribe of Ḥāshid. He was the first of a dynasty of kings of Saba' from the lineage of Bata' -and-Hamdān (second half of the 2nd cent. CE).*

The long political career of Yarīm Aymān (Sab. *Yrm ʿymn*) is well documented by [Sabaic](#) inscriptions. Born in the first quarter of the 2nd century CE, during the reign of Ilīsharaḥ Yaḥḍub king of [Saba'](#) and [dhū-Raydān](#) ([Gr 184](#)), this member of Sabaeen tribal aristocracy was from the banū [Hamdān](#) lineage. In the 130s, he became a prince (*qayl*) of the tribe of [Ḥāshid](#), centred on the city of [Nā'it](#), in the northern highlands of Yemen ([lr 4](#)).

During the following two decades, South Arabia was ravaged by incessant epidemics and conflicts between all the kingdoms (Robin 1992, Bron 2002, Arbach et al. 2021). It is in this context that Yarīm Aymān managed, around 155-159 CE, to negotiate a truce between the belligerents ([CIH 315](#)).

Around 160, he fought Ḥimyar and the Arab nomads with the king of Saba', Wahab'īl Yaḥuzz ([Ja 561 bis](#)).

In a game of musical chairs in which the princes of Sabaeen tribal aristocracy succeeded each other on the throne, Yarīm Aymān was associated with the throne by Karib'īl Watār Yuhan'im king of Saba' ([Ja 565](#), [RES 4190](#)), then reigned alone, probably in the 170s. For the next four to five decades, the throne of Saba' remained the prerogative of the princes of the lineage of Hamdān allied with those of Bata'.

In the 10th century, the Yemeni encyclopaedist Abū al-Ḥasan al-Hamdānī preserved the memory of Yarīm (Aymān), whom he says descended from the prince Dhū al-Mari' (Hamdānī/Fāris 1938: 96).

Mounir Arbach

## References and suggested reading

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