

## **Absolute Dating and Study of Iron Age / III II Pottery in Girdi Ashoan tepe, Northwestern Iran Based on Archaeological Excavation**

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### **Abstract**

Girdi Ashoan tepe is located on the eastern edge of Piranshahr plain, and on the eastern side of Lavin river. The site is within the boundaries of the modern village, flanked by its buildings. It is a mound with a circular base of about 55 m in diameter. Measuring about 55m north-south and 50m east-west, it occupies a total area of *ca.* 2750 sq. m. The east and south slopes gently descend against the walls of the villagers' houses. Archaeological excavations of Girdi Ashoan hill led to the identification of cultural materials of the Iron Age II-III. Northwestern Iran has been very important due to its special strategic position and has had a great cultural impact from the Caucasus, Anatolia and Mesopotamia since the fifth millennium BC. In later periods, especially in the Iron Age, the region was strongly influenced by political issues. Recent studies in new archaeological sites expand our knowledge of Iron Age II/ III. As a result of archeological excavations in this hill, three cultural periods were identified. Phase I- Islamic Cemetery. Phase II - Iron Age III, Phase III, - Chalcolithic period. According to the preliminary results of the Iron Age III, it is considered as one of the important cultural periods of Girdi Ashoan. Therefore, in this article, the results of the study of cultural materials of the Iron Age III are presented. This article tries to answer the question of how the cultural relations of the area with the neighboring areas have been by descriptive / analytical method and by studying the cultural materials of Girdi Ashoan. The results of studies and relative chronology of pottery showed that the most interactions and cultural influences were with areas of Anatolia, Bukan, zandane Suleiman and parts of Kurdistan. The present study is based on archaeological excavations and then chronology of cultural materials. During this excavation, it was found that the cultural basin of Mana government is known in the southern region of Lake Urmia (lesser Zab basin of Piranshahr).

**Keywords:** Northwest of Iran , Iron Age III ,lesser Zab river, Girdi Ashoan.

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