

Ahranjan Tepe: A Settlement of Rural Neolithic Farmers and Ranchers in the Northwest of Lake Urmia

Afrasiab Garavand^{1*}, Ardeshir Javanmard Zadeh², Akbar Abedi³, Fatemeh Malekpour⁴

Ahranjan Tepe is one of the most prominent Neolithic sites located in the northwest of Iran which was speculated with making 30 speculations to recognize the extent of historical monuments around there, determine the area, compile a map of the width of the area, and organize the area to consider it as work of a museum park. The results showed that despite the apparent area of the area remaining an area of 1300 m², the actual area of the area was 2.6 hectares, a large part of which was destroyed because of wind erosion, rainfall, farmers' contravention, construction of residential houses, and so on. One of the most important questions related to this area is how it communicates and interacts regionally and transregionally with neighboring areas, which will be discussed. It is assumed that due to the location of the area in a strategic position and a highway connecting it, on the one hand, with the South Caucasus and eastern Anatolia and, on the other hand, with the central plateau and south of Lake Urmia, has been formed for commercial and cultural exchanges. Obsidian stones and their diversity in seven different colors and mother stones on their surface reinforce this claim. In this study, the findings of speculating are studied and topologized. Therefore, it shows that, in this area, the most primitive human community is formed, and inventions and innovations in fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, tool industries, and commerce are formed with neighboring regions. Regarding, most of the speculations which have been made near Ahranjan Neolithic layers the area of 2.6 hectares of this area in the Neolithic period testifies to the existence of one of the most important Neolithic centers in this part of northwestern Iran, along with Qarah Tappeh form areas before Haji Firuz.

Keywords: Northwest of Urmia Lake, Ahranjan Tepe, Neolithic, Cultural findings.

Citation: Garavand A., Javanmardzadeh A., Abedi A., Malekpour F., 2022. Ahranjan Tepe: A Settlement of Rural Neolithic Farmers and Ranchers in the Northwest of Lake Urmia. Journal of Iran's Pre-Islamic Archaeological Essays. 6(2): 1-16.

1. PhD Student in Prehistoric Archeology, Mohaghegh Ardabili University, Iran

2. Assistant Professor, Department of Archeology, Mohaghegh Ardabili University, Iran

3. Associate Professor, Faculty of Cultural Materials Conservation, Tabriz Islamic Art University, Iran

4. Master of Archeology, Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Khoy city, Iran

*Corresponding author: garavand.afra@gmail.com

Received: 2022/12/18 Accepted: 2022/04/16