



EDITORIAL



The City of Shiraz and Fars Province, the Root of Medical Sciences in the History

Shiraz is the center of Fars province in current Iran. This province (formerly called Pars) has a long history in politics and science from antiquity until now. This land is famous for its great political role in ancient Persia, so called from the beginning of the Persian history to the end of the Sassanid dynasty by Muslim Arabs in 637AD.¹ Persepolis was the main symbolic capital (from their four capitals) of Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BC) which ruled most of the ancient civilized world between India and Macedonia.² Also, it was the birth place of Sassanid dynasty (334-637 AD). It was one of the two powers of the bipolar world: Iran and Rome. The kings of Sassanid dynasty were from Pars.³ The name of Persia was narrated from Pars because of its critical role in ancient Persian politics. Furthermore, Pars had an important role in promoting science in this era. An advanced medical school was located in Parseh (Persepolis) from Achaemenid period until the end of ancient era.⁴ Later, in Islamic and medieval period, the importance of Fars and especially Shiraz as the center of this province shifted from politics to science. Abumaher Shirazi (10th century AD), for example, the

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1- Mohagheghzadeh et al: 18-23.

2- Wiesehöfer, 1998.

3- Christensen, 2005.

4- Zargaran et al, 2011: 103-10.



great Persian physician founded the Shiraz medical school (doctrine). Or the great doctor, Haly Abbas (949-982 AD), grew in this school during medieval times.⁵ Later, graduates of this school went to India in Indian Mughal court, contributing greatly to the development of medical sciences in this era (about 16th century AD).⁶ In sum, Shiraz, playing a special role in medical sciences, was called “dar al-elm”, meaning “the house of science” at least from Ilkhanid dynasty (13th century). Even when, Islamic and Persian medicine, in the 18th century, lost their position, Shiraz kept its medical statue in Iran. Nowadays, Shiraz is considered as one of the most important medical centers in Iran. Shiraz University of medical sciences, Namazi hospital, Khodadoust hospital for ophthalmic diseases are some examples of medical centers in Shiraz important in medical education and treatment both in Iran and in the Middle East.

5- Golshani (a), 2012: 17-9.

6- Golshani (b), 2012: 47-50.

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