

**ARDESHIR III (CE 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 628 - 27<sup>th</sup> April 629)**  
**7 year old son of Qobad II**  
**Ruled six and a half months**

(Silver Drachm)



***Obverse:*** 'ARTa(k)HshaTR AFZUN' (*Ardeshir, the bestower of prosperity*)

Beardless boy-king wearing the modified capped crown of Khusru II with a fourth turret added to the tiara in front. Star and Crescent in front of crown. Crescent over left shoulder. King richly bedecked with necklaces of two rows of pearls and pendant and earrings of large gemstones. Pearl-hemmed border of Cape is open in front. There are 3 Star and Crescent motifs outside the Rim.

***Reverse:*** Narrow Altar shaft. The ribbons hang downwards. The Fire attendants are King and Prince with the features of the Crown on their heads. **Mint** is 'AT' (*Atzerbaijan*) and **Regnal year** is 'AIOKI' (*One*)

The 7-year-old heir was placed under the direction of a regent, ***Mir-Hasis***, once the chief purveyor of Qobad II. He ruled with justice and discretion. The commander, ***Shahrbaraz***, here saw an opportunity to seize the throne. He negotiated with ***Heraclius***, **promising to return all the conquered lands to Rome**. With 60,000 of his own troops and a large Roman army he laid siege to and captured Ctesiphon. He murdered the 7 year old King, ***Mir-Hasis*** and all the guardians of the child-king and seized the throne.

**SHAHRBARAZ (CE 27<sup>th</sup> April - 9<sup>th</sup> June 629),  
army commander**

**Ruled 6 weeks**

After Shahrbaraz seized the throne he rewarded Heraclius by giving away Egypt, Palestine, Syria and the whole of Cappadocia to the Romans. Convenient personal arrangements, then, followed. Heraclius, in return, first conferred on **Shahrbaraz's son, Nicetus**, the title of 'Patrician of the Roman Empire'. In addition, he consented to a marriage between **Shahrbaraz's daughter, Nike** and his own son, Theodosius and accepted Shahrbaraz's grand daughter (**Nicetus' daughter**), **Gregoria** as a wife for Constantine, his elder son, heir to the throne.

Before Shahrbaraz could ratify the Treaty he was brutally killed by his own army Commanders (by order of the Council of Nobles) for this deception and the fact that he did not possess the Royal '**Khvaar Kayaanik**' of the House of Ardeshir Papakan. His body was tied to chains and dragged through the streets of Ctesiphon. **No coin** of his is known.

**PURANDUKHT (CE 9<sup>TH</sup> June 629-mid Oct 630),  
daughter of Khusru II  
Ruled 16 months**

(Silver Drachm - Courtesy of the British Museum)



***Obverse:*** 'BURaNU AFZUTU' (*Buran, the bestower of prosperity*). Queen Buran wears the modified crown of Khusru II, her plaits of hair falling front and back of shoulder. The tiara is decorated with gemstones and topped with a stiff bejeweled High Hat. Star and Crescent in front of crown and on right shoulder. Star behind crown and Crescent over left shoulder. Double necklace bearing a large gemstone adorns her neck.

Purandukht's mother was a Roman lady from the House of Heraclius. She, hastily, ratified the Treaty with Heraclius, which her late husband, Shahrbaraz had agreed upon but was unable to sign. Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Cappadocia were given to Rome but Airan was to hold on to Nisibis, the commercial capital. The treaty made her very unpopular. Also, she (along with her husband, Shahrbaraz) was held responsible for the murder of the Ispahabad of Khorasan. She was, in turn, eliminated by the Ispahabad's son, Rustom, Commander of the army.

**KHUSRU III (CE mid Oct-early Nov 630)**

**Son of Hormazd IV**

**Ruled 3 weeks. He was assassinated. No coin is known.**

**GUSHNASP BANDEH (CE early Nov-mid Dec**

**630), son of Hormazd IV**

**Ruled 5 weeks. He was assassinated. No coin is known.**

**AZARMIDUKHT (CE mid Dec 630-mid March**

**631), daughter of Khusru II**

**Ruled 3 months. She was assassinated. No coins, but medallions are known. Some coins with the *Obverse* showing the name 'AChRMIDAHTI' and the bust of a bearded adult king - Hormazd V (whom she may have been married to) have been attributed to her.**

**KHURRAZAD (CE mid March-mid April 631),**

**grandson of Khusru II**

**Ruled 4 weeks. He was assassinated. No coin is known.**

**FARROKHZAD** (CE mid April-mid May 631),  
grandson of Khusru II

Ruled 4 weeks. He was assassinated. No coin is known.

**HORMAZD V** (CE mid May 631-early Jan 632)  
grandson of Khusru II

Ruled about 7 months. He was assassinated.

(Silver Drachm)



**Coin:** *Obverse:* 'AUHRaMZDI AFZUT' (*Hormazd, the bestower of prosperity*). He was probably married to Azarmidukht. He reluctantly took the throne. The crown is that of Khusru II, without modifications. Crescent over left shoulder. The word 'Afid' and 3 Star and Crescent motifs outside Rim  
*Reverse:* Mint is 'NIHc' (*Nishapur*) and Regnal year is 'TaLIN' (*Two*). Note this coin is marked year two since it was minted after 16<sup>th</sup> June 631.

**KHUSRU IV** (CE early Jan-mid March 632)  
grandson of Khusru I

Ruled 9 weeks. He was assassinated.

**PIRUZ II (CE mid March-mid April 632)  
grandson of Khusru I  
Ruled 4weeks. He was assassinated.**

(Silver Drachm)



Although no coin of Piruz II has been recorded (as minted or known) we seem to have it in our collection. The crown is that of Khusru II (like the crowns of all rulers, who followed Khusru II). The coin cannot be attributed to Piruz I as crown is not that of Piruz I.

**Obverse:** *'PIRUCHI AFZUT' (Piruz, the bestower of prosperity)*. The crown is that of Khusru II modified with a high hat. Crescent over left shoulder.

**Reverse:** Star to Left and Crescent to right of Fire. Narrow Altar Shaft with upturned decorative ribbons. The Fire attendants are King and Prince wearing their high hat Crowns. Both are facing forwards with their hand resting on sword halters in front. **Mint** is *'NIHCh'* (*Nishapur*). **Regnal Year** is *'AIOKI'* (*One*)

## **KHUSRU V (CE mid April-mid June 632)**

### **3 year old Baby King, Son of Khusru I**

The only brother Qobad II did not murder in CE 628. He was not yet born.

(Silver Drachm)



**Khusru V was, however, assassinated 8 weeks after ascending throne.**  
**Obverse:** *'KHUSRUI AFZUT' (Khusru, the bestower of prosperity).* The crown is that of Khusru II unmodified. The bust shows a beardless boy-king. This appears to be a fake coin with an attempt made at erasing the beard to make the ruler look like a boy-king. Crescent over left shoulder  
**Reverse:** Mint is *'NIHc' (Nishapur)* and **Regnal year** is *'TaLIN' (Two) minted on or after June 16.*