

## **Socio-economic complexities during the Iron Age in the Central Iranian plateau based on Qom-Kashan Archaeological Surveys and Excavations**

The Iranian Central Plateau is one of the most important and well-known regions in Iron Age culture of Iran. Qom province is located in Central Iranian Plateau, between Tehran plain (in North), tepe Sialk (in South) and as well as the Khorasan road (in East) to Ecbatana (in West), the capital of the Median empire. Therefore, this region was geographically located on the main cultural and commercial communication roads.

Four sites named Shalmut A, Shalamut B, Sarm Graveyard and Shamshirgah are considered for study in Qom Province that all of them are close together.

Shalmut A has cultural materials of the cemetery, which according to the burial goods obtained from it belong to the simple level and the general society. In Shalamut B have been identified several mudbricks structures with stone foundations, which was probably a platform for performing religious ceremonies for the deceasedes. Therefore, this site had been used for burial rituals. Instead, seals were found in the Sarm Graveyard, which indicates the high social status of its deceased, who were probably involved in regional or extra-regional trade. Shamshirgah area could be recognized as a developed urban area.

It can be assumed that there were one of the clear examples of class distinction in this region, the cemetery of rich people is different from the cemetery of other people and they were buried in a different place.