

# Goddess of Halil River: The Roots of Geometric Thought and its Achievements in Ancient Cultures of the Near East<sup>1</sup>

Azhideh Moqaddam<sup>2</sup>

Similar to other large rivers, Halil River or Halil Rud has greatly affected the agricultural communities developed in its vicinity. Although the name of the guardian of this huge river has not been mentioned in any text, the author believes that it has been derived from the word *Harīr* (velvet). This Persian loanword in Arabic is the short form of *Harī[r]-Rūd* and is used as an adjective to describe the delicate and wavy nature of Chinese silk. Abundant crops, which led to the permanent settlement of early agricultural populations over time, provided prehistoric human beings with the chance to use their spare time more efficiently. In the light of this new opportunity, they managed to reflect more profoundly on their surrounding world, which resulted in some achievements in relation to living a better life. These achievements appeared faster over time. From the beginning of agriculture until the fourth and third millennia BC, there were noteworthy developments in the realm of culture. The increase in Man's knowledge demanded serious thought regarding the ways to record and preserve the ever-increasing information. At this point, scripts with a geometric basis functioned more efficiently because geometry is linked to calculation. Through examining the signs of linear Proto-Elamite script used in the mudbrick inscriptions of southern Konar Sandal mound in Jiroft, the author reconstructed the original pattern of an integrated geometric system which is capable of recreating some signs that share the same structural foundation with the signs of the most ancient scripts of the neighboring cultures of the ancient world such as proto-Sumerian script and the Indus script. The theory of the Master Grid takes the beginning of writing in the region further back in history and highlights the fundamental role of Iran not only in the realm of script invention but also in founding some other important cultural achievements more than ever before.

**Key Terms:** Halil River, *Harīr* (silk), geometric writing system, master grid, proto-Elamite script, linear Elamite script, Konar Sandal.

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<sup>1</sup>. Some parts of this paper have been derived from a speech by the author in the unveiling ceremony of the book of *System of Geometric Writing in the Tablets of Southern Konar Sandal Mound in Jiroft* on 18 January 2020 at the Institute of Archeology, University of Tehran.

<sup>2</sup>. PhD in Ancient Cultures and Languages, University of Tehran, [duraesuka@gmail.ir](mailto:duraesuka@gmail.ir)