

## **Luristan Cultural Landscape: a Glance at the Capital of Historical Bridges in Iran (Sasanian and Early Islamic Periods)**

**(By: The materials and technologies of bridges – the heritage of form and function consideration)**

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Communities, constantly, are in social, cultural, economic and political exchange with each other. Geographical situation can be as a connector element. Exchanging can be under the influence of this factor. Bridges are connector between two different geographical points; by any kind of materials, structures, shapes and sizes they could be the cause of progress and development. The existence of a bridge in an area can be denoted by economic and strategic importance of that area. Luristan is situated in Zagros Mountains, between Iran Plateau and Mesopotamia. This area according to archaeological remains and due to geographical and strategic situation always tries to kept its autonomy and main role in communication in the area, as well as. During Assyrian, Elamite, Persian, Sasanian and Islamic periods, Luristan was an important connector point. The most of Sasanian and Early Islamic Periods' bridges are in Luristan. The existence of more than 60 historical bridges in Luristan can show the principal role of this area during the history. Each one of these bridges, by geographical situation, has different technique, material, shape and size and represents specific architectural style and creativity. The location of bridges on maps show they have been built in important routes led to the capitals of different empires which were in north, south, east and west of Luristan. This paper is an attempt to introduce briefly the area and its numerous bridges, with different character from different periods, firstly; and then it will follow by study on structures, functions, technique and materials of bridges.

**Key words:** Luristan, Sasanian, Early Islamic Period, historical bridge, architecture.