

## Nabada (cree baydar)

Tal Baydar (Nabada) is located in the western section of the Khabur Triangle in the upper reaches of Mesopotamia, on the road between Darbasiyah and Hasaka. Al-Tal is about 30 km northwest from Al-Hasaka, and 66 km southwest from Qamishlo.

Napada is one of the first city-states in northern Mesopotamia. Its importance lies in its strategic location and its location on the ancient trade route of the East, and its main role as a control and reception station for caravans traveling between the countries of Khati and Sumer on the one hand, and between the countries of the Pharaohs and the regions of Subartu on the other hand.

The city consists of a circular hill, similar to a fortress Troy, topped by Akerbol, covering an area of 25 hectares and rising from the surrounding plain by 28 meters, and from a low city extending over an area of 2 km, bringing the total area of the city to 120 hectares.

The city went through various phases, from the fifth millennium BC to the late Hellenistic period.

The city developed during the previous stages until it reached the height of its prosperity at the beginning of the third millennium (2900 BC) BC. During this period, the city was known as Nabada and was considered the first city-states that appeared in northern Mesopotamia.

During this period, a huge clay facility appeared that included palaces, temples, and administrative buildings, as well as the appearance of the oldest cuneiform writings, clay figures and seals that reflected an aspect of the social, administrative and religious life of the city, stressing its important role in the early Bronze Age.

With the beginning of the second millennium BC, the Hawari influence began to expand in the areas of the Khabur Basin. During the seventeenth and sixteenth centuries BC, they were able to contain all of the region, and Nabad was among those cities.

The Hurrians worked on the rebuilding of Nabada and concentrated their presence beside the abandoned palace and out in the Low City to the west. Several residential buildings were found with 80 cm thick walls and flat roofs, in addition to pottery vessels, including a ceremonial vase decorated with lamb heads, as well as a group of prominent figures with animal drawings (lions and bulls) that were used as decorations.

**Excavations:** Excavations began in al-Tal since 1992 by a joint European-Syrian mission under the direction of Mark Lebeau and Antoine Suleiman. The mission reached important results that revealed the ancient name of the city, its heritage and its historical role in the areas of the Khabur Basin and northern Mesopotamia.

**Cuneiform number:** In Nabada, 141 cuneiform inscriptions were found buried under the floors of some residential rooms, and another 230 written documents were found, most of which were found in private homes, in addition to the presence of some of them in the upper palace and one of the administrative buildings, and they are written in Sumerian

letters and in an ancient language dating back To about 2400 BC. These writings and documents are considered the oldest in northern Mesopotamia up to this point.

This number and writing were used for administrative purposes related to recording local business operations, as well as recording quantities of food distributed to workers, payment processes, and livestock accounts. Also found on the site were Marian texts dealing with mythical subjects.

**Seals:** More than 1500 cylindrical seals of various designs and high quality were found on the site. 85% of these seals date back to about 2300 BC, in addition to finding many prints of seals that were found on some vessels, doors, warehouse rooms, the entrance to the temple and the throne halls. These seals belong to the official local family and deal with economic and administrative issues such as active traffic on trade routes, scenes of wars and diplomatic activities, in addition to issues related to daily activities such as celebrations.

A festive vase decorated with lamb heads from the Hur-Mitanni period.