Urartu ve Günlük Yaşamından Kesitler

Urartuats and Its Daily Life

Prof. Dr. Kemalettin Kürkülü

The Urartu civilization began in the Iron Age. Above all, Dur in the present-day Van region was the capital of the kingdom. The Urartians left behind a rich legacy of cultural achievements, including architecture, art, and literature. Their capital was a large, fortified city with numerous palaces and temples. The Urartian Empire was one of the most powerful in the region, and its influence extended far beyond its borders.

With the foundation of the Urartian Empire, which lasted for approximately 350 years, different architectural styles emerged across the region. The capital, Van, was located on the eastern shores of the Lake Van, in the 8th-7th centuries BC. Some of the most elaborate structures in the Urartian Empire can be found in and around Van. These include the Yerevan Palace, the Ani Cathedral, and the Ani Bridge. The Urartian Empire was also known for its advanced engineering and architectural skills, with buildings often constructed using large stone blocks.

The Urartian Empire was not only known for its political power but also for its religious beliefs and practices. The Urartians were followers of a polytheistic religion, with gods and goddesses associated with various aspects of life. The most important deity was the god of the sun, Anahita, who was revered as a bringer of prosperity and fertility.

The economic and social aspects of Urartu society were also advanced. The Urartian Empire was a major producer of copper and iron, and its trade networks extended throughout the region. The Urartians were skilled at metalworking, and their products were highly valued. They also had a sophisticated system of writing, called Urartian script, which allowed them to record their history and culture.

Despite their rich legacy, the Urartian Empire eventually fell to the Assyrians in the 7th century BC. The fall of the Urartian Empire marked the end of a major power in the region and paved the way for the rise of other civilizations, such as the Hittites and the Elamites. The Urartian Empire was a significant period in the history of the region, leaving a lasting impact on the development of later civilizations.