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Rocks speak: Satellite imagery and the detection of a battlement in Rabat

During the first millennium BC, the Zagros region has seen numerous historical events. The central to the northern parts of the Chaîne Magistrale have often been associated with various cultural and political entities. Particularly, the upper parts of the Zagros, from the southern shore of Lake Urmia to Sanandaj, are often associated with Mannean culture. Our historical knowledge concerning the Mannea and other regional polities primarily relies on Assyrian textual sources alongside the archaeological explorations. Among the investigated handful of the Mannean sites, Rabat II has offered a considerable amount of fascinating archaeological findings. This site is located on the eastern bank of the Little Zab River, fifteen kilometres northeast of Sardasht. The discovery of glazed bricks and pebbled surfaces early on tempted the archaeologists to pursue the site as a temple. Although this assumption might have been partially aligned with the material for a ritual space, it appears, the site's inherent character based on its geographical context might have been neglected in the broader scope of analysis. The author has recently inspected the site as part of a field survey as well as a remote-sensing analysis of historical declassified satellite imageries. The field investigation and remote-sensing analysis resulted in the discovery of architectural remains surrounding the sites.