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**An archaeological  
expedition to  
the upper Tigris  
region of  
southeastern  
Turkey**

Ziyaret Tepe, the ancient city of Tušhan, was a provincial capital of the Assyrian empire, in its day the greatest empire the world had ever seen. The excavations described here uncovered the palace of the governor, mansions of the elite and the barracks of rank-and-file soldiers, charting as they did so the full history of the Empire, from its expansion in the early 9th century BC through to its final downfall.

The many exceptional finds include elaborate wall paintings, a clay tablet written in cuneiform script hinting at the existence of a previously unknown language, and a hoard of luxury items burned in a cremation ritual performed 2,800 years ago.

The story of the dedicated archaeologists and other specialists who have put years of their lives into the project is vividly told and provides insights into the daily lives of the Assyrian elites and commoners who once inhabited this ancient city.

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