

has given in his edition the whole literature on this "Vita" to which I refer. Other additions in the direction of comparative literature were made by me, on the occasion of my Roumanian edition of it.¹ Still more Western parallels were adduced by *R. Koehler*, in his review of the Spanish edition of St. Eustathius.²

I have still to mention also some parallels from the romantic literature of the middle ages, such as the central episode in *Buovo d'Ancona* or *Sir Bevis of Southampton*³ and last, not least, the chapbook "Valentine and Orson."

M. GASTER.

2. TEIMOURIS.

*H.B.M. Consulate,
Malaya.*

June 13, 1893.

SIR,—Perhaps some of the readers of the R.A.S. Journal can help me to find out something about the history and origin of this evidently Arab tribe settled in Khorassān, and generally as to the Chehār Eimāks.

The origin of the Eimāks would appear to be Syrian. They claim themselves to be of Arab descent, and Malcolm (vol. i. ch. ix. p. 239) tells us on the strength of the "*Tuarikh Guzedah*" (sic) that "he (Hazar Asp) invited a large body of his own tribe of Eimāks from Syria, and their settlement in Laristān added greatly to the strength of his government."

Every Teimouri to whom I spoke claims Arab progeniture, and of external evidence there remains the wearing

¹ Revista p. Istorie Archeologie și Filologie, vol. iv. București, 1885, pp. 629-645.

² Zeitschrift für Romanische Philologie, iii. pp. 272-277.

³ *K. Nyrop*, Storia dell'epopea francese, Firenze, 1886, pp. 204-205.

of the red Fez and Turban by the men, and of the white *Isār* (*Chādūr*) by the women, and their peculiar pronunciation of the ض such as I heard nowhere else in Persia: One of the subdivisions is called *Arab*.

They say of themselves that they were brought to Khorassān by the Emir Teimour (whence their name) on the complaint of his mother that her caravan had been attacked by them on her way to Mecca. Malcolm says (vol. i. ch. xi. p. 292), "while he (Teimour) was employed in these operations one of his generals subdued the mountain chief of Laristān, who had rendered himself particularly obnoxious to good Mohamedans by plundering a caravan of pilgrims to Mecca." Their own tradition goes on to say that they to the number of 12,000 families were removed to Bokhara, where they for a time settled at a place called *Tarmeez*. So far for the rank and file. But all the chiefs of the Teimouris are Seyeds or Mirs. They claim descent from Meer Seyed Kelāl—whose real name was Meer Seyed Qāssim—a descendant of the Imām Hussein, and a great friend of Tamerlane, whose daughter he married, and to whom the whole of these, so to speak, captives were given as his wife's dower. Their son, Meer Shumseddun Mohamad, either during the lifetime of Emir Teimour or after his death, brought his family and tribe to Herāt and occupied the lands now known as Bekvā, Zemeendāver, and Bādkeis up to Gulrān. Tombstones at the later place are said to testify to these facts. Meer Shumseddun lies buried at a place to the East of Herāt called Khojeh Tāq. From him was descended the father of Qeleej Khān, who brought half the tribe to Khāff, whence they have spread over various parts of Khorassān.

Originally the Teimouris are said to have had four chiefs, after whom the four principal sections are named:

1. Surboozi.
2. Sālehhi.
3. Mohamad Husseini.
4. Khālesseh.

I. From the SURBOOZI come the following subdivisions, who when I was in those parts in 1884 were said to have :

1. Turbooz	500 families.
2. Avāz korbāni	200 "
3. Siāhmoozeh	150 "
4. Kāli	100 "
5. Roghāni	100 "
6. Shah Pussundi	200 "
7. Ali Gunji	100 "
8. Morādi	50 "
9. Ali Mohamadi	50 "
10. Fāzeli	200 "
11. Ali Khūrđi	100 "
12. Dāmen Reegi	200 "
13. Tāh Yoorti	100 "
14. Sheikhi	200 "
15. Shākh Būland	100 "
16. Mahd (Mohamad) Reegi	100 "
17. Kelb Sādi	150 "
18. Tuk Ali	200 "
19. Sheerkūsh	100 "
20. Meer Hāfizi	100 "
21. Siāh Kelleh	50 "
22. Siāh Joul	50 "
	<u>2600</u>

II. SĀLEHHI. 16 subdivisions.

1. Sālehhi	200 families.
2. Yakoob Khāni	300 "
3. Sheer Khāni	200 "
4. Mureezi	100 "
5. Shahbāzi	100 "
6. Barooti	150 "
7. Khaleeli	200 "
8. Ali Khurđi	200 "
9. Murd Shāhi	200 "
10. Sur Koohi	200 "
11. Sekunderi	50 "

12. Saboori	200 families.
13. Eel i Mahdi	100 "
14. Lashkari	50 "
15. No Amad	100 "
16. Katt' Sur	200 "
	<u>2500</u>

III. MOHAMAD HUSSEINI. 20 subdivisions.

1. Mollah Hussein	200 families.
2. Kohdāni	500 "
3. Sālāri	300 "
4. Kachul	200 "
5. Lagheri	200 "
6. Khosroï	100 "
7. Dah Mardeh	50 "
8. Qāri	100 "
9. Bāzgeer	50 "
10. Tukhali	100 "
11. Mohib Ali	100 "
12. Dārdāri	50 "
13. Mirza Doosti	200 "
14. Samandooki	100 "
15. Chelmeh	100 "
16. Zulfi	50 "
17. Yakoobi	50 "
18. Sūrkh Kamāl	200 "
19. Kolāh Derāz	200 "
20. Sangchooli	1000 "
	<u>3850</u>

IV. KHĀLESSEH. 14 subdivisions.

1. Ali Khājah	300 families.
2. Angāreh	100 "
3. Gulkhātūn	200 "
4. Gūl Bāf	200 "
5. Goorchi	100 "
6. Kāli	100 "
7. Kelātehgi	300 "

8. Mukhtabāz	200 families.	
9. Qala'akāhi	200	„
10. Sakhāvi	100	„
11. Meeshmust	100	„
12. Tāheri	200	„
13. Arab	100	„
14. Zoori	100	„
	<u>2600</u>	<i>i.e.</i>

Surboozi	2600 families.
Sālehhi	2500 „
Mohamad Husseini	3850 „
Khālesseh	2600 „
	<u>11,550</u> or at an average

of five to each family, 57,750 Teimouris spread over parts of Khorassān and Afghanistān. Sometimes half of a family live on one side of the frontier and the other half on the other, but the actual number of *Teimouris* said to be in Khorassān in 1884 were :

Under Ali Merdān Khān (from Khāff to Chenarān)	4000 families.
Under Atā-ullah Khān (in Sangbust and Sur Jām)	500 „
The Siāh Khānehs and Sefeed Khānehs (those living in tents or houses) of Khāff under Derveesh Ali Khān	4500 „
(500 lately came to Jām)	
Under Shukrullah Khān at Berdoo	<u>100</u> „
	9100 families
	or 45,500 persons.

The rest are said to be in Herāt under the (then) governorship of Serdar Abdullah Khān Teimouri.

It is curious to remark how little Arabic there is to be found in the names of these tribes.—Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER FINN.