

The chapter of the Jayhani-tradition on the Pechenegs

István Zimonyi

Al-Jayhani's geographical compendium has been lost, it can be reconstructed from Arabic, Persian and Turkic works. The following authors wrote their books in Arabic: Ibn Rusta who composed his work in the 10th century; the Andalusian al-Bakri of the 11th century, the court physician of the Saljukid Malik Shah (1072-1092) and his descendants i.e. al-Marwazi; and Abu-l-Fida' who lived in Syria between 1273 and 1331. The latter copied the book of al-Bakri. The Persian version of the Jayhani-tradition is represented in the *Hudud al-'Alam*, whose author is unknown and it was composed in 982 and the work of Gardizi written in 1052. The latter has preserved the most detailed description of the Hungarians.

The reconstruction of the original passage is based on the texts of al-Marwazi, Ibn Rusta and Gardizi. It can be supplemented by the parallel description of al-Bakri in the first half of the Hungarian chapter and the slightly rephrased version of the *Hudud al-'Alam*. Al-Marwazi's compendium was popular, because it was translated into Persian in the 13th century by 'Aufi. It was copied in the 15th century by Shukrallah and the latter was put to Turkish. The late Turkish authors used this version as their source.

During the study I used the latest critical editions of the parallel texts of the Jayhani-tradition, and moreover I took the manuscripts into consideration apart from the works of al-Bakri, Abu-l-Fida', Muhammad Katib and Haji Halifa.

The paralel texts of the Pecheneg chapter:

Al-Marwazī

والبجناكية قوم سيارة يتبعون مواقع القطر والكلاب

وطول ارض بجناك مسيرة ثلثين يوما في ثلثين يوما

قد احاط بهم من كل جهة امم كثيرة ففي ناحية الشمال منهم بلاد خفجاق وفي ناحية الجنوب في المغرب بلاد الخزر ومن ناحية المشرق بلاد الغزية ومن ناحية المغرب بلاد الصقالبة وهذه الامم يغزون البجناكية والبجناكية تغزوهم

والبجناكية ثروة ودواب و غنم و اثاث وذهب و فضة و اسلحة و اعلام و طرادات

وبين البجناكية والخزر مسيرة عشرة ايام في مفاوز و مشاجر وليس بينهم طريق مسلوک انما يقطعونه بالكواكب والعلامات والاعتساف

2. The Pechenegs are a wandering people, following the rainfall and pasturage.
3. Their territory extends a distance of thirty days in either direction,
4. And they are bordered on all sides by many peoples; to the north are the Kipchaks, to the southwest the Khazars, to the east the Ghuzz, and to the west the Slavs. These peoples all raid the Pechenegs, who /likewise/ raid them.
5. The Pechenegs are wealthy, having beasts, flocks, household property, gold, silver, weapons, ensigns, and lances.
6. Between the Pechenegs and the Khazars there is a distance of ten days, the country being steppes and forest. There is no beaten track between the two territories, and they travel over (the distance) by means of the stars, landmarks or at random. (Minorsky 942, 32-33)

Gardīzī

اما راه او از گرگانج بیرون آید تا بکوه خوارزم و ازین کوه خوارزم و ازین کوه سوی بجناک شود و بحیره خوارزم پیش آید بحیره را بر راست بگذارد و از انجا بگذرد بزمینی خشک رسد و بیابان و نه روز همیشه هر روزی یا دو روزی بچاه رسند که بریسمان فرود آیند و ستوران را آب دهند چون روز دهم باشد به چشمه ها و آب رسند و صید باشد آنجا از هر نوعی از مرغ و آهو و اندک مایه گیا باشد اندرین شانزده روز راه چون روز هفدهم بخیمه های بجناکیان رسند و وادی ولایت بجناکیان سی روزه راهست

از هر ناحیتی امتی بدیشان پیوسته اند از ولایت خفچاخ و از جنوب مغرب خزر و از مغرب سقلاب و این همه قوم بغزو اند و بجناکیان را غزوه کنند و برده کنند و بفروشند

و این بجناکیان خداوندان مال باشند و خداوندان ستوران و گوسپندان فراوان و اوانیهای زرین و سیمین بسیار باشد ایشان را و سلاح بسیار دارند و کمرهای سیمین دارند علمها و طراده ها دارند که اندر حربها بر دارند و ایشانرا بوقها بود از سرون گاو که اندر حربها زنند

و راههای بجناک سخت الوان و ناخوش است هر که خواهد که از انجا بناحیتی بیرون رود اسپان باید خرید که از هیچ سو بیرون نتوانند رفت الا بر پشت ستور از منکری و الوانی راههای او و بازرگان از راه بی راه روند که آنجا شوند زیرا که همه راه او درختان است و آن راه بعلامات ستاره شناسند

1. As for /the country of/ the Pechenegs, the road to it starts out from Gürgench. /Thence/ it goes to the mountain/s/ of Xwarazm, and from the/se/ mountain/s/ it goes on to the Pecheneg /country/. The Lake of Xwarazm appears /along this route as it/ skirts along /the South-West/ of that lake. Once /the route/ passes on from there it arrives at a dry desert land. /This/ it /traverses/ for nine days, coming to a well every day or every two days. One descends /into these wells/ by means of a rope /in order to bring up, and/ give water to the beasts. When it is the tenth day /the road/ arrives at /various/ springs and /then/ a river. Here there is a game of every variety of fowl and deer /as weell as/ a small quantity of grass. /It is/ a sixteen- day journey through this /fair country/ and when it is the seventeenth day one arrives at the tents of the Pechenegs
3. The length of the country of the Pechenegs is a thirty-days' journey.
4. On every side a /different/ people borders on them: <on the north/ern side/> is the land of the Kipchaks, on the south-west/ern side are/ the Khazars, <on the east/ern side is/ the country of the Guzz,> and on the west/ern side are/ the Saqlabs. /The Pechenegs/ incite all these people/s/ to raid /one another/, and so they go marauding for the Pecheneg and taking captives and sell /these/.
5. These Pechenegs are possessors of /great/ wealth, /for/ they are possessors of abundant horses and sheep. They have many gold and silver vessels. They have many weapons. They hace silver belts. They have flags and pennants which they raise in battle, /as well as/ bugles /made/ from the horns of oxen which they sound in battle
6. The roads of the Pechenegs country are very desolate and disagreeable. Whoever wants to go out from there into any /neighboring/ country must purchase horses, while they cannot go out in any way except on the back/s/ of camel/s/, owing to the odiousness (or uncertainty) and abandoned state of the roads. The merchants who go there /easily/ go astray of the roads, because all of/that country's/ road/s/ are /through/ wood/ed lands/. These road/s/ are made out from bearings /indicated by/ the star/s/. (Martinez 1982, 151-152)

Behğet üt-tevārīh

التينجي قبيله يه بجناكيان درلر بو قوم دخي متصل يلك اون ايكي آي يخسول و بايله سفر ايدرلر و هر قنده كم زياده باران ياغوب جانب آسمانن ابواب غنيمت و احسان فتح اولوب عباد الله اوزرنه نعمت بي كران و غنيمت بي قياس و بي پايان بخش اولنه لاجرم آنده وارب اقامت ايدرلر و بونلرك مملكتلري طولاً و عريضا و بسطاً و عريضا اوج كونلك يولدر و ناديه لري شمال جانبنن زمين قبقاق در اما ناديه غزبي لاري و لايت حزر و صقلاب در و بو قومك مال و نعمت و مكننت و قدرتلري بي حد و بي كران و بي قياس و بي پاياندر و بو قوم حشم صاحب
طبل علم لر در

Altıncı kabîleye Becenekiyân derler. Bu kavm dahi muttasıl yılın on iki ay yoksul ve bayle sefer ederler ve her kanda kim ziyâde bârân yağup cânib-i âsmândan abvâb-i ganîmet ve ihsân feth olup ibâd allâh üzerine nîmet-i bî-kerân ve ganîmet-i bî-kiyâs ve bî-pâyân bahş oluna lâ-cerem anda varıp ikâmet ederler. Ve bunların memleketleri tavlan ve arızan ve basîtan ve arızan üç günlük yoldır. Nâhiyeleri şimâl canibinden zemîn-i Kıpçak dır ama nâhiye-i garbîları vilâyet-i Hazar ve Saklâbdır. Bu kavmin mâl ve nîmet ve miknet ve kudretleri bî-hadd ve bî-kerân ve bî-kiyâs ve bî-pâyân ve bu kavm-i haşem sâhib-i tabl alemlerdir

The sixth tribe is called Pechenek. This tribe also moves continually with his poor and reach people during the 12 months of the year. Wherever abundant rain falls from the heaven, the doors of abundance and benevolence are opened, and immense benefiction and endless and infinite abundance are granted to the servants of God, consequently they go there and stay there. Their country is three days in length and in wide. Their region is terminated by the land of the Kipchaks to the north, but the land of the Rus' and Slavs lies to the western fringes of the country. The wealth and benefiction and power and might of this people are boundless, immense, endless and infinite. It is a nomadic people and they have drums and flags.

التينجي قبيله يه بجناكيان درلر بو قوم دخي متصل يلك اون ايكي آي يخسول و بايله سفر ايدرلر و هر قنده كم زياده باران ياغوب جانب آسمانن ابواب غنيمت و احسان فتح اولوب عباد الله اوزرنه نعمت بي كران و غنيمت بي قياس و بي پايان بخش اولنه لاجرم آنده وارب اقامت ايدرلر و بونلرك مملكتلري طولاً و عريضا و بسطاً و عريضا اوج كونلك يولدر

و ناحیه لری شمال جانبدن زمین قباچ در اما ناحیه غزبی لاری ولایت خزر و صقلاب در

و بو قومک مال و نعمت و مکنت و قدرتلری بی حد و بی کران و بی قیاس و بی پایاندر و بو قوم حشم صاحب طبل علم لر در

Bahgat ut-tavarīh

قبیله ششم بختاکیان اند و ایشان پیوسته سفر کنند در زمین خود و هر جا که باران بسیار بارد
انجا روند و زمین ایشان سه روزه راهست در سه روزه و ناحیه ایشان از سوی شمال زمین
قفجاق است و ناحیت غربی ایشان ولایت خزر و صقلاب است و ایشانرا مال و نعمت بسیار
است و سلاح و طبل و علم باشد...

The sixth tribe is the Pechenek. They move continually within their territory. Wherever abundant rain falls they go there. Their country is three days in length and in wide. Their region is terminated by the land of the Kipchaks to the north, the land of the Rus' and Slavs lies to the west of the country. They have abundant wealth and benefiction. They have weapons, drums and flags.

Hajji Khalifa

بری دخی بختاکن قبیله سیدر بونلر بر یرده قرار ایلمز اوتوز مرحله قدر یرلری وارد قونر
کوچر طائفه در بر طرفی دشت قباچ غربی بلاد خزر و صقالبه در

One of their tribes is also the Pechenek. They do not settle down in a place (i.e. move continually) they move in a territory up to thirty days' journey. They are nomads. The Steppe of the Kipchaks is one of their border, the land of the Khazar and Slavs lies to the west.