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NARTICA I: THE HISTORICAL SATANA REVISITED

Within the huge scholarly oeuvre of Vasili Ivanovič Abaev, investigations into the tradition and the interpretation of the Ossetian Nartic tales, have always played an outstanding role. Continuing the work of Vsevolod Miller who had laid the foundation of scientific Nartology in the eighties of the 19th century with his "Ossetic Studies", Abaev's contribution has consisted not only in the edition of unpublished texts² but also in countless books and articles concerning folkloristic, ethnological, or linguistic aspects of the great Caucasian epic3. The Nartic epic4, like many other oral traditions of its kind, has for long instigated scholars to search for its historical background. Given that for the Ossetes as well as the other peoples of the Northern Caucasus who share the Nartic tradition, there are hardly any autochthonous written sources available that might reliably witness to their prehistory⁵, the task of unveiling the historical reality concealed in the mythological or folkloristic contexts of the epic is all the more important. And indeed, it has become widely accepted that many traits of the social life as represented in the Nartic tales find their counterparts in Herodotus' reports about the Scythians (IV, 64 ff.)6, thus suggesting an unbroken tradition which links the modern Ossetes (and their neighbours) with antiquity.

¹ MILLER (1881-7).

² E.g., ABAEV (1939).

³ Cf., among others, ABAEV (1949) and (1958-89); for his selected writings, cf. ABAEV (1990).

⁴ For a concise summary of the Nartic tradition as spread among the Caucasian people cf. GIPPERT (1999).

⁵ For the Ossetes, the medieval inscription from the river Zelenčuk may be claimed to be the oldest extant written document of their language (cf. ZGUSTA 1987).

⁶ Cf. the detailed study by G. DUMÉZIL (1930: 151 ff.).

Today, there is hardly any doubt that the Ossetes represent the last remnant of the Iranian-speaking tribes who occupied the South Russian steppes in older times and who were referred to by contemporary writers under the names of Scythians, Sarmatians, and, in medieval times, Alans.

Beyond that, several attempts have been made to identify Nartic figures directly with persons that are known from independent historiographical sources. The first identification of this kind was suggested as early as 1883 when D. Lavrov⁷ pointed out the similarity of the names of Satana, the central heroine of the Nartic epic, and of Sat^cenik⁸, an Alan princess, wife of a second century Armenian king named Artašēs, who is given a considerable account of in the Patmowt^ciwn Hayoc^c of the Armenian historiographer Movses Khorenatsi. The passage in question (book 2, ch. 509) which deals with an invasion of Armenia by joint Alan and Georgian forces and their defeat by Artašēs's foster-father, Smbat son of Biwrat, was soon after this studied in great detail by Vs. Miller¹⁰ who regarded it as a proof of the Alans being ancestors of the Ossetes¹¹; in his argumentation, however, the personal names in question played no role yet. It was the French scholar G. Dumézil, then, who in 192912 examined Movses Khorenatsi's testimony with respect to an identification of the historical Sat^cenik with the epic Satana. His observations may be summarized briefly as follows.

Although there is no account within Nartic tradition of an invasion of the neighbouring country of Armenia in the course of which Satana was married, for the sake of peace, by the enemies' king (this is what happened to Sat^cenik according to Armenian tradition), there are some common traits indeed in the depiction of Satana in the epic and of Sat^cenik in Khorenatsi's historical treatise. One of these consists in the fact that both ladies are renowned for having a special affection for her brother: The reason for Sat^cenik's meeting Artašēs is a plea for her (unnamed) brother who was captured

⁷ LAVROV (1883: 189).

⁸ For the variant forms of the name cf. below.

⁹ Hereafter, Movsēs Khorenatsi's History is quoted (as "MX") according to the edition Movsēsi Xorenac^cwoy matenagrowt^ciwnə, Venetik 1865 where the chapter in question ("Yarjakowmn Alanac^c i mez ew partowmn, ew xnamowt^ciwn Artašisi ənd nosa": "Invasion of the Alans in our [country] and [their] defeat, and Artašēs's alliance with them" is found p. 177 ff. For a French translation, cf. MAHÉ (1993: 203 ff.).

¹⁰ MILLER (1881-7: III, 25 ff).

¹¹ For the evidence brought about by a comparison of the Georgian chronicle, cf. p. 8 below.

¹² DUMÉZIL (1929: 41-53); reprinted in DUMÉZIL (1930: 167-178).

by the Armenians: Satana, in the Nartic epic, even marries her own brother, Wyryzmæg, after deceiving his legal wife, Elda¹³. Another common sujet is the two ladies being victims of rapts: According to Khorenatsi who quotes "singing storytellers" (vipasank^c yergeln iwreanc^c) for this "fabulous" (araspelabanelov) information. Sat^cenik was caught by Artašes riding on his horse and hurling a "rope made from leather, with golden rings" around her waist; the Nartic Satana is also rapted, by Pšy-Badinoko (in a Circassian variant) or by Wyryzmæg, with horse-back riding and a "magical whip" appearing as accessories. Khorenatsi, in another context (1,30) and again referring to "sung" tradition (ergk^c), connects Sat^cenik with one Argawan, a member of the descendants of Aždahak, the "brood of dragons" (višapazownk^c), who provides a deceitful (xardawanak) feast for Artašēs; the tradition is resumed in 2,52 where the adversary of Artašēs, named Argam now, is offended by Artašēs's sons who realize the betraval (dawel) going on. With this, Dumézil compares Nartic tales about Satana's adulterious liaison with Safa, the son of Vulcanus, and about a feast which the Narts provide for Wyryzmæg to kill him, with the latter being saved, on Satana's command, by his nephew, Batradz¹⁴.

Dumézil was certainly right, then, in assuming that the similarities sketched above can be taken as indications of legends about Satana having developed among Alans who were associated with Armenians, as early as the early centuries of our era – rather than a real historical person manifesting herself in them. This is all the more true since Movsēs Khorenatsi himself had to confess that most of the information about the deeds of Artašēs (and, consequently, of Satcenik) he could use, depended on bardic tradition and was thus hardly reliable, and he regarded it as his task to "turn allegory into truth" (zaylabanowtciwnn cšmartesccowkc) in this respect (2,49). But it is also true hat Dumézil's comparison was mostly based just on those elements that Khorenatsi declared as "fables", not on the ones he recognized as being historically "true" (and V.I. Abaev was certainly right in stating that the parallels

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¹³ For the variants of this episode, cf. DUMÉZIL (1930: 25 f.); for its background cf. FRITZ / GIPPERT (1984: 171-185).

¹⁴ Thus according to an Ossete tale published in 1925 (in: Pamjatniki narodnogo tvorčestva Osetin 1, Vladikavaz, 72-74); a similar story is contained in Narty (1975, 197-201). According to a Qarachay variant, Uryzmek is saved by Sosruko instead (Sbornik materialov dlja opisanija mestnostej i plemen, Kavkaza 1/2, 1881, 38-42).

¹⁵ This tradition was, according to Khorenatsi, localized in Gołtn, a canton of the province Vaspowrakan in the South-Eastern part of Great-Armenia; cf. HÜBSCHMANN (1904: 346, no. 106).

thus brought about are not equally convincing 16). What is more, it seems to have escaped Nartologists' notice so far that Movses Khorenatsi is not the only source available to us with respect to the Alan princess, Sat^cenik, so that a reconsideration of the identification and its historical background seems worth while being undertaken.

It must be stated right from the beginning that most Armenian authors who mention the marriage of Sat^cenik with Artašēs do not contribute very much to the question because it can be shown that their information depends, either directly or indirectly, on Movses Khorenatsi's account. This is true, first of all, for the historiographers Uxtanes (Urhayecci, ca. 10th-11th century)¹⁷ and Movsēs Dasxowranc^ci (/Kałankatowac^ci, 11th century)¹⁸ who give but a brief summary of the circumstances of Artašēs's marriage with Sat^cenik in their works; for easy comparison, the respective passages are reproduced below in a synoptical arrangement (note that Movses Dasxowrancei confused the Alans, alank^c, with alowank^c, Albanians, which was the obvious reason for his integrating the episode in his History of the State of the Albanians).

MX 2.50

177,13 Zaysow žamanakaw miabaneal 58,6 Zaynow žamanaks Alank^e lernakanok^en amenayniw, yin- lini paterazm Artašisi k^ceans arkanelov ew zkēs Vrac^c ašxar- ənd ark^cavin Alanac^c. hin' mecaw amboxiw taraceal ənd ašxarhs mer:

177,15 Žołovē ew Artašēs ziwrocc zōrac^cn bazmowt^ciwn, ew lini paterazm i mēj erkoc^cownc^c azgac^cn k^cajac^c ew ałełnaworac^c:

177,17 Sakaw inč^c teli tay azgn Alanac^c, ew gnacceal anccane and getn mec Kowr. ew banaki ar ezerb getoyn i Hiwsisoy.

UU 1,42

MD8

20,4 Zaysow žamanakaw miabanin wank^c lernakanōk^cn amenek^cowmbk^c masn inče 'i Vrace' ew mecaw amboxiw taracanin yerkirn Hayoc^c.

20,7 Žolovē ew Artašēs zzōrs iwr ənddēm nocca

20,8 ew banaki ar Kowr getov, sastkanay paterazmn

¹⁶ ABAEV (1935 / 1990: 247).

¹⁷ History of the Armenians, book 1, ch. 42, p. 56 f. of the edition Owxtanes Episkopos, Patmowt^ciwn Hayoc^c, Hatowac arajin, Valaršapat 1871 ("UU").

¹⁸ History of the State of the Albanians, book 1, ch. 8, p. 20 of the edition Movsesi V łankatowac^cwoy Patmowt^ciwn Ałowanic^c ašxarhi, T^ciflis 1860 ("MD"); cp. the English ' slation by DOWSETT (1961: 7) or the Russian translation by SMBATJAN (1984: 26).

177.19 ew haseal Artašēs banaki i Harawoy, ew getn ənd mēj nocca:

177,20 Bayce keanzi zordi Alanace arkeavin jerbakal arareal zōraccn Hayocc acen ar Artašēs' zxałałowt'iwn xndrēr ark'avn Alanac^c, tal Artašisi zinč^c ew xndresc^cē.

178.1 ew erdowms ew dašins asēr hastatel mštnjenawors, orpēs zi mi ews mankownk^c Alanac^c aspatakaw hinic^c elc^cen yašxarhs Hayocc:

178,3 EW i č^carnowl yanjn Artašisi ar i tal zpatanin' gay k^coyr patanwoyn yap^cn getoyn i darawand mi mec, ew i jern t^cargmanac^c javnē i banakn Artašisi. ...

178,12 ew teseal zkoysn gełeccik, ew loweal i nmanē bans imastowt^cean' ccankaccaw kowsin: Ew koccecceal zdaveakn iwr zSmbat' vaytnē nma zkams srti iwroy, arnowl zoriordn Alanacc i knowt^ciwn iwr, ew dašins ew owxts hastatel ənd azgi k^cajac^cn, ew zpatanin arjakel i xałałowtciwn:

178,16 Ew hačov t^cowec^cal Smbatay, yłē ar arkeayn Alanace tal ztikin oriordn Alanac^c zSat^cinik i knowt^ciwn Artašisi:

179,6 K^canzi patoweal ē ar Alans mort^c karmir' layk^ca šat ew oski bazowm toweal i varjans' arnow ztikin oriordn Sat^cenik: ...

179,15 Sa arajin eleal i kananc'n Arta- 58,7 ew hnazandec'ow- 20,11 Vasn aysorik šisi cnani nma zArtawazd ew zayls ba- ceal zna, arnow iwr zoriordn Sateineak arzowms, zors oč^c karewor hamarec^cak^c kin zSat^cenik dowstr now 'i kin Artašēs ew ayžm anowamb t^cowel.

ark^cayin.

20,9 ew əmb rni ark ayordin Ałowanic^c 'i jers Artašisi:

darnay' xałałowt^ciwn hastateal.

A translation may run as follows:

177.13 At that time, the Alans united with all the mountain peoples, integrating also half of the Georgian state, (and) with a huge army, they invaded our country.

177,15 Artašēs, too, gathered the mass of his troops, and a war between two tribes of heroes and archers arose.

177.17 The tribe of the Alans retreated a bit and transgressed the large river Kur and camped on the Northern riverside.

177,19 And Artašēs, having arrived there, too, camped on the Southern (side), and the river is between them.

177,20 But when they lead out the son of the king of the Alans, whom the Armenian forces had taken prisoner, before Artašēs, the king of the Alans asked for peace, (promising) to give Artašēs everything he would desire.

178,1 And he proposed to take oaths and (thus) make a treaty for eternity, according to which the sons of the Alans would never again enter the state of the Armenians for the sake of plundering.

178,3 And when Artašēs himself did not agree to render the boy, the boy's sister came forward to the river bank, on a high hillock, and with the help of an interpreter, she shouted towards the camp of Artašes: ...

178.12 And when (Artašēs) saw the beautiful maiden and heard the reasonable words she (spoke), he fell in love with the maiden. And he called upon his foster-father, Smbat, and he disclosed

58.6 At those times, a 20.4 At that time, the arose war Artašēs and the king of the Alans.

between Albanians (!) united with all the mountain peoples and parts of the Georgians, and with a huge army, they invaded the country of the Armenians.

> 20,7 Artašēs, too, gathered his troops against them

> 20.8 and camped on the river Kur. The battle intensified

> 20.9 and the son of the king of the Albanians was captured by the hands of Artašēs.

him the desire of his heart to marry the maiden of the Alans, to take oaths and make treaties with (this) heroic tribe, and to render the boy in peace.

178,16 And Smbat, to whom this appeared agreeable, sent out (a message) to the king of the Alans, (stating) that he should give Artašēs the maiden of the Alans, Satcinik, in marriage. ...

179,6 As the Alans regard red leather as precious, (Artašēs) gave lots of this and of gold as a recompense and obtained the maiden Satcenik. ...

179,15 She (Sat^cenik), having become the first of the wives of Artašēs, gives birth to Artawazd and many other (children), whose names need not be enumerated here now.

58,7 and after subduing 20,11 Because of this, him, he marries Satce- Artašēs nik, the king's daughter.

marries maiden Satcineak and returned (home) after having made peace.

It may be added that both Uxtanes and Dasxowranci refer to Movses Khorenatsi even explicitly in the given context. Uxtanes states that besides the building of the town of Artašat, "many more deeds of his (Artašēs) are reported by Movsēs" (ew darnay ew šinē zk^całak^cn, ew anowanē viwr anown' Artašat. ew or ayl ews gorck^c i nmanē patmi i Movsisē)¹⁹, and Dasxowranc^ci mentions "Movsēs, the father (of) writer(s)" (k^cert^cołahayrn Movsēs), referring to the war between the Armenian king Artawazd and the Romans which he deals with immediately before turning to Artašēs²⁰.

Another treatment of the marriage of Artašēs and Sat^cenik that is likely to rely upon Khorenatsi's, is contained in the poetic account of Armenian history by Nerses Šnorhali²¹ who compiled the information into six verses:

¹⁹ Cf. p. 58 of the edition named above.

²⁰ Book 1, ch. 8, p. 19 of the named edition. As to the epithet k^eerf olahayr which Dowsett (l.e.) translates as "father of literature", cf. SMBATJAN (1984: 181 f. n. 33).

²¹ "Šaradrowtciwn homerakan vipasanowtceamb saks haykazanccn seri ew Aršakowneacen zarms i skzbance minčew i vaxčan arasaceal Nersesi ełbor kateołikosi Hayocen ("Written account, in Homeric poetic style, about the race of the Armenians and the stock of the Aršacids, from the beginning to the end, told by Nerses, the brother, Catholicos of the Armenians"), p. 555 f. of the edition Tn. Nersesi Šnorhalwov Hayoc kat olikosi Bank čapaw. Venetik 21928 ("NŠ").

Ew zAlanac^c zōrsən hareal, Zark^cayordin jerbakaleal. Zč^cək^cnałagelən koys areal ∃zSat^cenikən dic^cazneal. ∃zharazatn iwr arjakeal, Ew ankapowt owxt hastateal: And (he, Artašēs) defeated the troops of the Alans, and captured the son of (their) king. Having acquired the beautiful maiden, the divine Sat^cenik, he set free her own (brother), and swore an unbreakable oath.

A second episode concerning Sat^cenik that is treated in detail by Movses Khorenatsi is the one dealing with her (unnamed) brother who is supported by Artašēs, again assisted by his foster-father Smbat son of Biwrat, when trying to occupy the throne left by his dead father (1, 52). This episode, too, is recapitulated with no further additions by Movses Dasxowrancci (1, 8); cf. the synoptical arrangement provided below.

MX 2, 52

182,1 Zi yet aynč^cap^c arowt^ceanc^c ōgnakan elbörn Satcinkan yašxarhn Alanac^c handeri zōrow ert^cay hramanaw Artašisi:

For (Smbat, endowed) with so much bravery, went, order of Artašēs, to the country of the Alans together with (his) army, to assist Satcinik's brother.

t^cagaworeac^c ašxarhin Alanac^c, ew halacēr zełbayrn Satcinkan.

182.4 zor azgin zełbayrn Sat^cinkan, ew zerkir hakarakordacen awere.

hayr Sat^cinkan, ew had died, and another Sat^cinkay ew ayl omn ayl omn brnacceal (man) had usurped brnacceal teagawore the throne of the ew zełbayrn halacē: country of the Alans had and banished Satcinik's brother.

rac^cowc^canē i veray him, and he appoin- zōrow mecaw vanē ted Satcinik's brother zbrnaccealn ew tirel as a ruler of the tay elborn hayreni (Alan) nation and de- at coroyn, vastated the land of (their) enemies.

MD 1, 8

182,3 Kcanzi meraw For Satcinik's father 20,13 Vaxcani hayrn Satcinik's father had

died. and another (man) had usurped the throne and persecuted (her) brother.

vaneal Smbat threw this one 20,15 Ew dayeakn And Smbat, the fosherk'e Smbat, ew ti- back and repelled Artašisi Smbat' ekeal ter-father of Artašes, came with a huge army, repelled the usurper and let (Satcinik's) brother ascend his father's throne.

182,6 zamenayn miahamowr ace geri sastik yArtašat:

He forcibly conto Artašat.

20,17 ew darnay meducted them all to- caw awaraw ew bagether as prisoner(s) zowm gereōk^c i Hays

And he returned with much booty and with many prisoners to Armenia

182,7 Ew hramayeal Artašisi bnakec^cowccanel znosa i harawoy yarewelic^c kowsē Maseacc, or koč^cēr Šawaršakan gawar, i veray pahelov zbnik anownn Artaz.

and Artašēs ordered 20.18 to settle them South- c^cowc^canē zgerealsn the district named vArtaz gaware. Šawaršakan, keeping (for them their) original name, Artaz.

ew East of the Masis, in 'i Šawaršan, ork' ēin the district of Artaz,

bnake- and settled the captives, who were from in Šawaršan.

minčcew žamanaki:

182.9 kcanzi ew ašx- For the country from gere- which they were c^cann' Artaz koč^ci taken prisoners has c^caysōr been named Artaz until the present day.

For both episodes treated so far, there is also a non-Armenian witness available, in the Georgian chronicle Kartlis cxovreba, a compilation of the 11th century. Astonishingly enough, the text provided by Leonti Mroveli²², albeit depicting the mission of Sumbat Bivritiani (= Smbat, son of Biurat) against the Alans (here named ovs-ni, i.e., Ossetes) in much greater detail than even Khorenatsi, and albeit naming two Alan princes explicitly, by the names Bazok and A(n)bazok, gives no account whatsoever of the later cooperation of Sumbat with the Alans and, what is more, of the Alan princess we are dealing with. We can quote but a short excerpt of Leonti's report here; note that the Armenian king, Artašēs, appears as Artašan in the Georgian text:

KC 1

45,5 mašin mokla Sumbat Bivrițiandeboda saxelad Artašan.

Then Sumbat, the descendant of Bivrit, killed Iarman Iarvand, mepe somexta, da dasva vand (Erowand), the king of the Armenians, and meped 3ma Iarvandisi, romelsa eco- installed his brother, who was called by the name Artašan.

45,7 mašin amat mepeta Kartlisata At that time, the kings of Kartli (Georgia), Azork Azork da Armazel mouçodes ovsta da and Armazel, summoned the Ossetes and the Leks lekta, da gardamoiovannes ovsta me- (Laks / Lezgians), and the kings of the Ossetes, two

²² p. 45 ff. in the edition by QAUXČIŠVILI (1955) ("KC").

peni zmani orni goliatni, saxelit Bazuk da Abazuk, spita Ovsetisata. da mat gardamoitannes tana pačan/ikni da tikni, da gardamovida mepe lekta da gardamoitanna durzukni da didoni. da amat mepeta Kartlisata šemokribnes spani twsni da šekrba ese goveli simravle uricxw.

45,12 da simaržwt parulad šekrbes, vidre šekrbebodes spani somextani. da ševides eseni Somxits da ugraneulad carmostquenes / Širakuani da Vanandi Bagrevanamde da Basianamde, da šeikces da čatquenes Dašti vidre Naxčevanamde, da agiges tique da natquenavi uricxw, da agivsnes qovlitave xuastagita, da gamovles gza Parisosisa.

45,17 mašin Sumbat Bivritianman moucoda spata Somxitisata, da šekrbes mscrapl somexni da devna ugves. xolo ese govelni črdiloni gansrul igvnes Mtkuarsa da misrul igvnes Kambečovans, da daebanakat Iorsa zeda, da ganigopdes touesa da natquenavsa. ...

46,9 mašin Sumbat Bivritianman ganvlo Mtkuari. da Bazok ovsta mepeman stxova mukara, miugzavna mocikuli da itxova tavis-tav brzola. xolo Sumbat agiçura da agida varsamatsa twssa da ganvida gançóobilta šoris. da munit gamoqda Bazok. da agizaxnes orta-ve da mietevnes. da sca Sumbat horolni sartgelsa zeda, da ganavlo zurgit corta erti, agigo exenisagan da dasca kue ganasa zeda.

46,14 mašin mieteva Anbazuk šuelad 3masa twssa, xolo moscuadna Sumbat

giant brothers by the names of Bazuk and Abazuk, came together with the army of Ossetia. And they brought with them the Pačaniks (Pechenegs) and the tiks (Dagestanians). And the king of the Leks came and brought with (him) the Durzuks (Avar) and Dido (people). And the kings of Kartli gathered their troops, and all this innumerable crowd came together.

And they succeeded in gathering secretly, (still) before the troops of the Armenians could gather. And they invaded Armenia and, unexpectedly, occupied Širak and Vanand up to Bagrewan and Basian, and they turned around and occupied Dašt up to Naxčewan, and they took prisoners and booty innumerable, and they filled (their bags) with all (kinds of) riches, and they marched on in the direction of Parisos.

At that time, Sumbat Bivritiani summoned the troops of Armenia, and the Armenians gathered rapidly and persecuted them. But the Northern (people) had transgressed the (river) Mtkuari (Kur) and had reached Kambečovani, and they had camped on the (river) Iori, and they were sharing the prisoner(s) and the booty.

Then Sumbat Bivritiani transgressed the (river) Kur. And Bazok, the king of the Ossetes, challenged him to a duel, sent out a messenger and asked for a personal fight. But Sumbat took his armour, mounted his long-maned (horse) and stepped between the battle lines. And Bazok came forward from the other side. And the two (of them) cried out (loud) and dashed at each other. And Sumbat hurled his spear(s) into (his enemy's) waist(band), and one ell (of it) came out at his back, (and) he lifted him off his horse, and he fell on the ground.

Then Anbazuk dashed out to help his brother. But Sumbat grasped his spear(s), turned towards him, hit horolni igi, miegeba da egret-ve mas- him as well, pierced him, lifted him off, and he fell ca sena da ganavlo, agigo da dasca the ground ... kueganasa zeda. ...

A few pages later, Leonti Mroveli's account agrees to a higher extent with that of Movses Khorenatsi (2.53), in telling about one son of the Armenian king, named Zaren / Zareh, being captured by the joint Georgian and Ossetian forces:

KC 1

ganamravles kart- the somexta.

mepeman šekribna spani, romelni šina darčomodes, da miscna zesa twssa Zarens, da carmogzavna kartvelta zeda

qunes da s3lies kartvelta da ovsta, da aotes Zaren, 3e somexta mepisa, miecivnes

48,20 ... rametu spani ... because all the somextani dovelni da troops of the Armeniorni zeni mepisani da ans and two sons of teiwn zorown and four as well. He left Sumbat igvnes brzo- the king and Sumbat č^cors. lad sparsta, da vitar were fighting against zorn t^cołow i veray Persians. velta da ovsta vneba when the Georgians rewmteann tay Tiand the Ossetes in- ranay, zHarawayinn creased the pressure i Smbat hawatay on the Armenians.

48,22 mašin Artašan Then Artašan the king 183,23 ew zhiwsigathered the troops which had remained Zareh er ayr seg ew in (his country), and yors ereoc nahatak, he gave them to his isk ar paterazmowns son Zaren, and he sent vat ew tałtowk. him against the Georgians.

xolo šekrbes But the Georgians and 183,2 zoroy zp^corj kartvelni da ovsni, da the Ossetes gathered areal miegebnes kueganasa and moved to the owrowmn 3avaxetisasa. da eç- country of 3avaxeti. And the Georgians c^cowc^canē zerkirn, and Ossetes drew up ew kaleal zZareh, i and triumphed and put banti dnē i Kawkas: da Zaren, the son of the mosres spa misi qo- king of the Armeniveli da sdevnes saz- ans, to flight, and they gvaramde Somxitisa; destroyed all his army Zarens, and persecuted him

MX 2.53

šēs ew zišxanow-And Artawazday, ew za-

sayinn i Zareh: Ew

K^carjamay ark^cavi Vracc, apstambe-

183,2 Bažanē Arta- Artašēs divided the rule over the troops by zarewelean the Eastern army to Artawazd and gave the Western one to Tiran: the Southern one he entrusted to Smbat.

> and the Northern one to Zareh. And Zareh was a man (who was) proud and passionate in deer hunting, but a coward and unfit for the war.

A certain K^carjam, king of the Georgians, who had experienced this (before), incited the country to rebellion, arrested Zareh and imprisoned him in the Caucasus.

зesa mepisasa. šeipares igi tbisa mis pirsa, romelsa rkwan Celi, da ukmoigvanes, xolo ovsta hnebvida moklya mis Zakartvelta cocxlebit ziebisatws sazgvarta mattasa, da dasues cixesa Darialanissa. ver zebnes somexta. rametu ucalo igvnes sparstagan.

da down to the border of Armenia; they reached Zaren, the king's son, and they captured him on the bank of the lake which is called renisi sisxlisatws me- Celi, and carried him peta mattasa, aramed back. And the Ossetes daicves wanted to kill Zaren (in revenge) of the bloodshed of their porobilad kings, but the Georgians kept him alive, caring for their borders, and they imprisoned him in the stronghold of Darialan. The Armenians could not search for him because thev were busy with the Persians.

49.9 mašin celsa mesamesa movida Sumbat Bivrițiani da orni zeni mepisani, Artavaz da Tigran, govlita spita Somxitisata. mašin mepeta Kartlisata ubr3anes kueganasa matsa šeltolva cixeta da kakalakni. xolo

Then, in the third year 183,2 3nd orowm Artawazd and Tiran (after this), Sumbat B. and the two sons of wazday ew Tiranay the king, Artavaz and handeri Tigran, arrived with the whole army of bayrn i mecē karak-Armenia. And kings of Georgia ordered (the inhabitants of) their country to lakta, / da mteuletta flee into the strongganamagrnes cixeni holds and cities, and the mountain people movides somexni da fortified the strongdadges Trial/ets. da holds and cities. And agdges mat šoris mo- the Armenians came cikulni da daizavnes; and stopped in Tri-

paterazmeal Arta-Smbataw' darjowc^canen zełthe mē:

together with Smbat made war upon this (king) and freed (their) brother from (his) big muddy (dungeon).

misces kartvelta 3e aleti. And they exmepisa šepċprobili ... changed messengers and made peace; (and) the Georgians rendered the captive son of the king ...

Neglecting the difference of style which in the case of Leonți Mroveli reveals a strong influence of medieval romance, it becomes well conceivable that the sources this author disposed of were related to, if not identical with, Movsēs Khorenatsi's treatise²³. The disaccount of Artašēs's wife, Sat^cenik, in the Georgian chronicle thus remains noteworthy indeed, all the more since the lady is likely to have been known to medieval Georgian Christian writers from another context. This is the hagiographical texts concerning the two Christian saints named Oski and Sukias (and their companions), two legends that were translated from Armenian models in the 9th or 10th century, as I. Abuladze pointed out who in his 1944 dissertation edited both the Armenian texts and their Georgian counterparts synoptically²⁴. For a short summary of the vitae of the saints which are closely interrelated with each other, we may refer to another Armenian writer, Yovhannes (Katcolikos =) Drasxanakertcci, who gives a short account of their fate in his 10th century History of Armenia²⁵. Yovhannēs begins with St. Oski whom he introduces as a pupil of the apostle Thaddeus; according to the legend, the saint's original name was Xriwsi26, i.e., Χρύσεος²⁷, of which Arm. Oski, lit. "golden", is a correct translation²⁸.

²³ Note that within Armenian tradition, no other account of this episode seems to exist.

ABULA3E (1944: 9-21 and 22-57). The Armenian texts ("Ban ew asowt iwn čšmarit srboc or Oskeanc koahanayic" = "LO" and "Vkayabanowt iwn srboc Sowk iasanc" = LS") were edited before in the series Sop erk haykakank, vol. 19, Venetik 1854, p. 59-66 and 33-56, the Georgian texts ("LOG" / "LSG"), in XAXANOV (1910: 62-65 and 10-24).

 $^{^{25}\,}$ p. 36 f. in the edition Maksoudian (1980); ch. 7, 4. in the translation by Maksoudian (1983).

²⁶ ABULADZE (1944: 10) notes the variae lectiones K^crīwsi, K^cərowsi, Hrowsi; in the Georgian version, the saint is called Krivsi.

²⁷ Cf. AKINEAN / TĒR-PŌŁOSEAN (1970b: 135).

²⁸ This is confirmed by the Georgian version of the Suk^ciasians' legend which explains: Oske, romeli itargmanebis kartvelta enita okro "(their leader was St.) Oski, which is translated in the Georgian language as 'gold'."

ark^cavi kertke srboy Arake- saint apostle loyn,

36,12 Isk yet k'ara- And 43 years after the 59,14 gti 'i čars I found in his writings sown ew erice amace death of the saint nora, ete arke omkatarman sowrb ara- apostle Thaddeus, in ankc orkc yašaker- had come from the k^celoyn T^cadēosi ya- the years of Artašēs, tac^c eleal ēin mecin wowrs Artašisi Ha- the king of the Arme- Teadēosi ara-keloy, aša- nians, pupils of the

that some men who pupils of the great apostle Thaddeus

36,14 orowm glxa- whose leader worin Oski č'iwr.

čana- known as Oski.

was 59.17 oroc^c anown whose glxaworin X riwsi, ayr yazgē Grik,

leader was Xriwsi by name, a man of Greek provenance.

toy'

yakowns Ep^crat ge- at the sources of the howan river Euphrat,

36.15 ew bnakeal ein and (who) had settled 60.1 ork yet maarak^celovn ert^ceal kronaworeccan 'i lerins owrēmn yakowns Ep^cratay ...

(and) who after the death of the apostle lived as hermits somewhere in the dark mocmakavins untains at the sources of the Euphrat ...

36.16 ašakerteal mkrtēin zars omans vAlanac^c 'i harazatowt^cenē Sat^cenkay tiknoj, or ēr kin Artašisi:

some of the Alans ceal ar arkeavn Ar- king, Artašes, Sat^cenik, the queen, Artašēs:

taught and baptised 60,8 Sok^ca matow- They approached the merjaworac^c nora eleal ēin yAlanacc ...

(who were) related to tases, canowc anein informed him about nma vasn K^cristosi Christ being God ... who was the wife of astowacowt eann ... (Their teachings) were zor loweal zays ew also heard by the meci relatives of the great tiknojn, ork^c zkni queen who had come with her from the (country of) the Alans

əst örē zmkrtealsn banin kenac^c.

baptised isk aged the hastatēin 'i hawats more and more every zmits nocca andowday in their faith in nel zbann kenacc: the Word of Life.

imastnac^covc^c

36,18 Ew vasn zi or And as they encour- 60,23 zor Astowac And God made their minds intelligent to accept the Word of Life:

nosa ordwoyn Sat^cenkay'

apa xandaceal ənd became upset about ordwocen this.

36,20 vasn aysorik the son of Sateenik 61,12 Zays loweal Having heard this, the Satcen- sons of Satcenik bekay, xandaceeal and came upset about this, irsn mecaw tesna- and he banished the

sowrbk^cn' Oski han- panions, ended their deri aylews anke- lives by the sword. rovken srbovke:

36,21 srov včarec^can and the saints, Oski 62,22 Isk sowrbn asti together with his com-

dranēn halacēin. ...

manōk^c zsowrbsn 'i saints from the court in great anger. ...

Xriwsi handeri ənkerōk^cn ... minč^c zi žamanel kotorec^cin znosa mōt 'i xrčit^cs iwreanc^c, sowseraw barjeal zglowxs nocca:

And Saint Χρύσεος and his companions appeared ... they massacred them near their cells, cutting off their heads with the sword.

Yovhannes immediately continues with the story of the saint named Sukcianos and his companions whom he identifies, in accordance with their legend, with the Alans baptised by Saint Oski:

YD 7.5

36.23 Isk Sat^cenkay, Sat^cenik kank^cn orke 'i K^cristos been mahowan hatowacealk^c jrabašxn lerin xo- content with grass as towcoy, tabowt čarakok^c ša- (their) food. tacceal:

who baptised towc^cealk^c imn vasn rassed by the death of bnakec^can 'i Sowkaw queen srboc^en, the saints, departed, lerinn ... xotačarak settled gna- went away and se- linelov ibrew zvay- Sowkaw c'in 'i bac' ert'eal cretly reunited on reni zōdeal t^cagowc^ceal 'i mount jrabašx, being tesč^cowt^cenēn

LS

yAłanac^c had gnac^cin oč^cxars As-

azga- And the relatives of 33.3 Nahatakk^c ork^c The nobles who had come from the gate in drane zhet Sat^cenkay of the Alans to Arəndos- Christ, rather embar- tiknoj 'i Hays ... eleal menia together with Satenik on mount ... (and) 'i became grass-eaters like wild sheep under the auspicies of God,

Hayocc,

anišxanac^caw erkirs by Anak and the zi unruled,

37,4 Ew vasn zi yet And as, after many 34,4 yams Šaphoy amac^c bazmac^c spa- years, Xosrov, the t^cagaworin: Ew k^cannaw ark^cayn Hayoc^c king of the Armeni- zi erkirn Hayoc^c yet Xosrov yAnakay ew ans, had been killed amac^c awereal liner, t^cagawor oč^c country of the Arme- ownēin. kcanzi spa- king after Artawan, nians had been left neal er zArtawan ordi the son of Valars.

in the years of king Sapowh: And as the country of the Armenians was ruined because they had no Vałaršow, ew zXos- and Xosrov, the king t^cagaworn of the Armenians, t^cagaworin had been killed by Parsic^c, ew 'i naxanj the king of the Per-

rowsanel Hayocc.

mteal hayreni vri- sians, and (the latter) žowc^cn, kamēr ko- was eager in revenge zašxarhn of his home country, he wanted to destroy the country of the Armenians.

37.6 apa Barlah omn ekeal vAlanace drane ew 'i xndir eleal grov vkayic^cn ew gteal znosa 'i jrabašxn koč^cec^ceal lerin, ew harce ew peori arareal znosa vasn ar 'i K^cristos hawatoc^cn' sowr 'i veray edeal kotorē:

a certain Barlah came 39,14 Ew ekeal zofrom the gate of the rown Parsic^c yerkirn Alans, and he started Hayocc, ew haseal 'i a written inquiry abo- learn Sowkawet, owr ut the martyrs, and he er bnakowteiwn erafound them in the neleacen called xosel mountain irabašx; and cross-examining sword.

... Sksaw zōravarn anown after orowm Barlaha them about (their) 51,4 ew dimeccin 'i Barlaha faith in Christ he mah brnaworin, orocc killed them with the sowr 'i veray edeal kotoreccin.

And the army of the Persians came into the country of the Armenians, and it reached mount Sowkawēt where the blessed men had settled ... A commander whose name began address (them) And (the saints) came to death by the (hand of the) commander, who killed them with the sword.

It is clear that the data given by Yovhannes and the two legends raise serious doubts as to the chronology involved. If Saint Χρύσεος / Oski was a pupil of Thaddeus, he might well have taught during the presumptive reign of Artašēs and his wife, Satcenik, at the end of the 1st century A.D.; but how, then, might his own pupils, the Sukciasians, have lived up to the time after Xosrov was killed by the Persians, i.e., the late 3rd century? This may be the reason why Xosrov is not mentioned at all in a later account of the saints' lives, viz. Uxtanes's, albeit this agrees to a large extent with the introductory chapter of the legend of St. Sukcias:

UU 1,42

LS

58,11 and ayn ža- In those times when 33,3 Nahatakk^c ork^c The nobles who had manaks' or ekeal ēin St. Sukcias and his gnaccin Sat^cenkay' (companions) and sowrbn Sowkeias ew with Satenik iwrk^cn.

yAłanac^c came drane zhet Sat^eenkay tiknoj 'i Hays

come from the gate of the Alans to Armenia together with queen Sat^cenik

58,12 ibrew lowan zBan kenac^c i srboc^c Oskeancen, orke ēin leal ašakertk^c sowrb arak eloyn Tadeosi,

Word of Life (taught) ealk 'i srboc aranc by the St. Oskeans ašakertac^c who had been pupils of the holy apostle, Thaddeus,

(and) listened to the 33,5 ew vardapetsrboy arakceloyn Tcadeosi, menaworealkc vakowns Ep^cratay, oroc^c arajinn sowrbn Oski.

and who had been taught by the holy men (who were) pupils of the holy apostle, Thaddeus, who were hermits near the sources of the Euphrat, (and) whose leader was St. Oski.

58,13 ew i nmanē and who had been zBann kenacen.

mkrteal ew owseal baptised by him and listened to the Word of Life.

33.9 'i soccane lowsaworealke baniwn kenac^c 'i K^cristos hawataccin, ew mkrtealke or əst ore yawelowin 'i hawats.

who, enlightened by the Word of Life, believed in Christ. and (who had been) baptised, increased more and more every day in (their) faith.

58,14 ew znoyn ow- they preached themsowceal soca araji selves before the king t^cagaworin ew Sat- and Sat^cenik, who cenkay ew hawa- were converted and tacceal mkrteccan i were noccanē.

baptised by them:

58,16 ew ert^ceal i and coming to Mt. 33,16 Ew nok^ca eleal And they came and Sowkawet^c, Sowkawet^c, they setbnakeccan and ams tled there for 44 kaw lerinn, or yakcarasown ew čcors: years.

bnakecean 'i Sownown iwreanc^c Sowk cias 'i Bagrewand gawari Bagrewand, gełj, ənddēm Npat wan, opposite lerinn.

settled on Mt. Sowkaw, which glxaworin named Sowkaw after their leader, Sowkočcecaw Sowkaw, kcias, in the district of facing yandiman Bagowan the village of Bago-Npat.

Uxtanes's closing information finds its counterpart in the Oskeans' legend:

UU

LO

58,18 Ew ēin sowrb And holy 60,1 ... orke yet ma- ... who after the death the Oskeanken bnakeal i Oskeans had settled howan arakceloyn of the apostle lived as sowrb lerinn' or kočci on the holy mountain ertceal Całkēotn: which is Całkēotn.

kronaworecalled ccan 'i lerins owrēmn cmakayins yaxarnowacs joroy ow- pool ijanen or kočci Całkē, anown šēnken kočein minč^cew c^cavsōr Całkov:

hermits somewhere in the dark mountains at the sources of the kowns Ep^cratay, 'i Euphrat, near a whirlof remn or skizbn areal which flow down. springing from (a ew mountain) called Calkē, by whose name Otn the villages (there) are still called Otn Całkoy today.

While Uxtanes's summary hardly yields any further insight as to the problem of chronology, there is yet another account of the saints available in Armenian tradition which shows an interesting deviation in comparison with the sources quoted above. This is ch. 8 of the History of the Arcruni House²⁹ the author of which, Thomas Artsruni, is considered to have been contemporary with Yovhannes Kat^colikos (10th century)³⁰. His treatise begins with the saints that had established themselves on Mt. (Jrabašx =) Sowkawēt, thus matching Yovhannes's introduction on the Sukciasians:

TA 1,8

Sowkawēt k^canzi ēin hamašxarhikk^c ew hawatarimk^c Sat^cinkay ekeal zkni nora

lerinn, (resided) on Mt. Sowkawēt, had come together teagowceal with her.

YD 7,5

54,9 Isk srbocen or i And the saints who 36,23 Isk azgakanken And the relatives of Sat^cenkay, ork^c 'i Sat^cenik being K^cristos mkrtec^can' ... been compatriots and loy- hatowacealke gnacein Christ, ... departed, als of Satcinik who 'i bacc' ertceal zodeal went away and se-Jrabašxn lerin ...

who baptised 'i cretly reunited mount Jrabašx ...

Then, however, he continues with the story of the attempt of converting the royal family, which according to both Yovhannes's history and the legends was the task of the Oskians rather than their pupils. And indeed, Keriwos = Χρύσεος is mentioned by Thomas in this context:

²⁹ T^covmay Artsrunwoy Patwmowt^ciwn, Peterburg 1887.

³⁰ Cf. INGLISIAN (1963: 180).

zanōgowt paštōnn,

54,11 yłen zomn i sent out one of the 60,8 Sokca matow- They approached the čgnaworacen ar ti- hermits to the queen, ceeal ar arkeayn Ar- king, Artašēs, kinn, zkrocen yandi- to blame the service tašes, canoweanëin informed him about manelov zsnoti ew of the idols as being nma vasn K^cristosi Christ being God, vain and useless.

astowacowteann' zkroc^cn vandimanelov ztkarowtciwn ...

blaming the idols of being powerless ...

54.12 orpēs as well as Keriwos sowrbn K^criwos ar (was sent) to Artašes. Artašēs:

bacc wocen.

54.14 Isk Sat^cinik But Sat^cinik, who had 60,21 ownkndir eleal xra- listened to the advise sowrbk^c znoyn bans resumed their speech tow srboc^cn' oč^c i of the saints, did not yet nora xōsēin ənd later again before the meržec^caw i overtly renounce the meci kroccn Astłkay anow- idolatry of the statue merj linelov ew ord- sons being near who aneal patkerin, kcanzi named Venus, for she woccn. zor loweal listened as well, and kaskacans ownelov i was in doubt about zays ew merjaworace t^cagaworēn ew yord- the king and (her) meci tiknojn, ork^c sons.

Isk yAlanac^c ...

arken And the holy men t^cagowhwoyn great queen, (her) the relatives of the great queen who had zkni nora eleal ēin come with her from the (country of) the Alans ...

54,16 manawand zi suspecting first of all 61,26 ew t^cagaworin nax the king to be conakn ownēr zdarnaln i verted from idolatry kroc^cn i pagowt^ciwn K^cristosi Christ, the true Lord. čšmartin Astowcoy.

yerkra- to the service of Vroyn šat ałačceal

zor zgac^ceal ordik^cn Artašesi Vnoyn ew zi 'i bac^c znosa, darjecin yerkrpagownowin yanjn darnal 'i convert to paganism. het canosowt ciwn:

ibrew When the sons of Artašēs, Vnoyn and Vroyn, realized this. they asked them many times to renounce the service of t^cenēn K^cristosi. oroc^c Christ, but they did oč^c hawaneal č^car- not agree to (re-)

Astonishingly enough, Artsruni's account closes with the statement that he was not informed about the saints' death, thus opposing himself to the legends of both the Oskians and the Sukciasians:

TA 1.8

54,19 bayc^c t^cē orpēs ełew katarowmn i bac^cn But how their death occured, is totally unclear mez č^cē yayt.

to me.

This remarkable divergence may well be explained by comparing the Georgian version of the Oskians' legend. Here, it is just the information about the sword being used to kill the saints which is missing.

LOG

63,34 xolo cmiday Krivsi mogvasebiturt twsit arga micevnul igo adgilad. senakebsa matsa.

But St. Χρύσεος and his companions had not yet gone to the site. Just when they mirayicvnes igini da arrived there, they mosrnes maxlobelad killed them near their znosa mot 'i xrčit's cells.

LO

Isk 62,22 sowrbn Xriwsi handerj ənkerōk^cn ekn, č^cew ews haseal 'i telin, minč^c zi žamanel kotorec^cin iwreanc^c. sowseraw barieal nocca:

And Saint Χρύσεος came with his companions, and they had not vet reached the site, and just when arrived. massacred them near zglowxs their cells, cutting off their heads with the sword.

Thus it is well imaginable that the source Artsruni disposed of was similar to the one from which the Georgian legend was translated³¹.

A second remarkable difference between Artsruni's treatise and the other witnesses consists in the fact that the historiographer does not mention the Alan origin of Sat^cenik and her compatriots anywhere. This is also true for the introduction of the present chapter which concerns the reign of Artašēs and the foundation of the city of Artašat. Here, Artsruni's account opposes itself to the

³¹ Another interesting parallel between Thomas Artsruni's history and the Georgian agiographical texts dealing with matters Armenian will be found in the identification of the Caspian town of P^caytakaran with Tbilisi, the Georgian capital (TA 3,9: 173, 26: hraman et hasanel i veray kealakein Tpelike koceeceal, orowm yarajagoyn Peaytakaran anowanein "he gave order to come to the town named Tbilisi, which was formerly called Pcaytakaran"). The same identification is found in the Georgian version of the legend of St. Aristakes, the successor of St. Gregory the Illuminator: romlisatwsca movides misa sakmisa mparobelni agmosavalisani da črdilovsa kerzoysa zedamdgomni kalakisa Paytakaranisa, romel ars Tpilisi "because of which came the representatives of the East and the Northern region (and) the supervisors of the town of Paytakarani, which is Tbilisi" (ABULADZE 1944: 65,12; XAXANOV 1910: 58,25). The Armenian legend has only the first name: Vasn oroy ekeal gorcakalke kolmanc^cn arewelic^c ew hiwsisoy ew verakac^c owk^c herawor k^całak^cin, or koč^ci P^caytakaran "because of which came the representatives of the East and North and the supervisors of the distant town, which is called P^caytakaran" (ABULADZE 1944: 65,9). For the location of the town (and province), cf. HÜBSCHMANN (1904: 267 ff.) and HEWSEN (1992: 253 ff. 3. 149A).

brief summary of the king's deeds provided by Movses Khorenatsi in his history although this may well have served as his source³²:

TA 1.8

t^ciwnn Artašēsi ... orpēs bac^cavavten girk^c knowt^cean Havoc^c

52,16 Ibrew vajo- When the reign of 176,7 Artašisi ver- The deeds of the last t^cagaworow- Artašēs was successful ... as the books of the historiographers patmagrac^cn, ew yar- make evident, and min i Golt^can - šinel nowl zSatcinik tikin when he married Satcinik as the queen of mowtciwn and Alans, the Armenians,

MX 2.49

inov gorck^c, bazowm Artašēs will be maniinč^c vaytni en k^cez i vipasanacen, or patzk^całak^cn, ew xnaew cnowndke zarmic^cn, ew ibr trp^cank^c Satcinkan ənd Višapazownsn' araspelabar, ays inken and zarms Aždahakay

fest to you by the (narratives of the) storytellers which are told in Golten, (viz.) the foundation of the city, the alliance (by marriage) with the Alans, the generation of offspring, Satcinik's affection, as it were, for the fabulous progeny of the dragon, that is, for the offspring of Aždahak

52,19 višē znždehanaln iwr i vimamējsn zor veragovn grec^cak^c, gay darjeal i tełin zbōsnowl i nma

ew t^coweal yač^cs nora'

zk^carablowrn

52,20

šinē

aparans ...

he remembered (his) 176,17 Ertceal Artaexile in the rocks šisi i telin, owr xarnin about which we have Erasx ew Mecamor, written above. He returned to the site to take delight in it,

hačov and after being pleased with the sight, he built a palast (on) the yiwr anown anowrocky hill ...

176,18 ew hačeal and blowrn' šinē kcałakc aneal Artašat:

When Artašēs came to the site where Araxes and Mecamor fuse,

and taking pleasure in the hill, he founded a city (there), calling (it) by his name, Artašat.

³² Khorenatsi's information was obviously also used by Asolik (Step^canosi Tarōnec^cwoy [= "ST"] Asołkan Patmowt^ciwn tiezerakan, Peterburg 1885, p. 48,16: Ew ert^ceal Artašisi i teli mi, owr xarnin Erasx ew Mecamör, ew haceal ənd blowrn' šinē kealake ew yiwr anown anowanē Artašat) and Uxtanēs who even mentions Movsēs's name (1,42, p. 58,8: ew darnay ew šinē zkalakn, ew anowanē yiwr anown' Artašat. ew or ayl ews gorck i nmanē patmi i Movsisē).

We cannot decide whether Artsruni's neglect of the Alans was intentional or whether it was due to some incertainty as to the reliability of his sources which might well have arisen from the fact that within Armenian tradition, the Alans could easily be confused with the Albanians (we have noted the effect of this in connection with Movses Dasxowranc'i's work above). And indeed, it is the Georgian version of the Oskians' legend again which refers to Hereti, i.e. Albania, not Ovseti, as the home country of Satcenik and her compatriots³³:

LOG

63,7 xolo kacni igi And the holy men cmidani amis šem- afterwards talked to dgomad etgodes the queen and her dedopalsa mas da sons, which was also 3eta mista, romelca heard by the relatives ismines ese maxlo- of the queen who had woccn. zor loweal belta dedoplisata, rocome together with melni mosrul igvnes her from Albania ... mis tana Heretit ...

LO

60,21 Isk meci merj linelov ew ordzays ew merjaworac^c meci tiknojn, ork^c yAlanac^c ...

arken And the holy men sowrbk^c znoyn bans resumed their speech yet nora xōsēin ənd later again before the t^cagowhwoyn great queen, (her) sons being near. This (was) also heard by the relatives of the great queen who had zkni nora eleal ēin come with her from the (country of) the Alans

In this way, the assumption that Artsruni's source concerning the saints was a variant of the Oskians' legend similar to the one on which the Georgian was modelled, gains ground. And it is not counterevidenced by the fact that he starts his account with Mt. Sowkawet, i.e., the site associated with St. Sukcias, for this is mentioned in the Oskians' legend, too, which finishes with a brief account of the Sukciasians34:

LO

65,21 Isk learn Jrabašx yanown glxaworin But Mt. Jrabašx was named Sowkaw by the nocca Sowkciasay' Sowkaw (v.l. Sowkawet) name of their leader, Sowkcias, in memory of

³³ According to ABULADZE's edition (1944: 12), the Armenian manuscripts have both the forms Alan and Alan in the given passage, the latter being closer to alowank.

³⁴ There are also manuscripts of the legend available where the memorial is explicitly associated with the Oskians, viz. ms. Matenadaran 4872 (AD 1491) and 991 (AD 1721) which add learn o[w]r oskeanken kotorecean "the mountain where the Oskians were killed"; cf. ABULADZE's edition (1944: 21): mss. "Q" and "Z".

koč^cec^caw vasn yišataki anmorac^c srboc^cn the immortal saints who bore this name ... ownelov zanownn ...

The relationship between the brief account of the Suk^ciasians provided by the legend of the Oskians, and their own martyrology is crucial as well, then, for the chronological problem we have noted above. Both legends do agree in stating that the Suk^ciasians lived on Mt. Jrabašx / Sowkawēt for more than fourty years before they were put to death:

LO LS

63.10 ew ert^ceal And they came and Ew kac^cin eranelik^cn And the blessed men 'i Sowkawet lerinn kronaworeccan i le- lived as hermits on staved on Mt. rinn or koč^ci Jrabašx the mountain which kcarasown ew čcorkc Sowkawēt for 44 merj yakn ałber ow- is called Jrabašx, near ams kerakrealke oče years, nourished not hacciw, ayl zōrowremn vordagowni, an abounding water by bread but by the yordorealke i šnorwell, instructed by t^ceamb ew šnorhōk^c power and the mercy hace sowrb Hogwthe mercy of the Holy tearn iwreancc: of our Lord. oyn, kacceal and ams Spirit, residing there kcarasown ew vecc: for 46 years.

The main difference, however, consists in the fact that according to the legend of the Oskians, it was "acquaintances of the sons of Sat^cenik" who killed the saints, not a commander named Barlaha or the like who is mentioned in the other sources. It remains noteworthy, however, that there is further disagreement between the legend of the Suk^ciasians and both Yovhannes and Uxtanes in that only the former text speaks of a "Persian" army here; according to the latter authors, Barlah / Barahlaye "came from the Alans" instead, an information which may well reflect the attempt of re-aligning the data provided by the two legends.

LO UU

63,15 Isk yet mahowann Sa-But after Satcinik's death, 58.17 Ew And they tcinkay, aylkc omankc ekealkc i some men came into the ackatarec^can i died on that canōt^cowt^ciwn ordwoc^c nora' quaintance of her sons, who novn lerinn mountain (by barekamaccan. tełekaew made friends (with them). (i) Barah- the hand of) c^cealk^c yałags aranc^cn srboc^c, And they inquired about the layē brna-Barahlaye, harceeal owsan ztelisn yors holy men and thus discovered worē ekeal the tvrant. bnakeal ēin, ar ors ekeal the place where they resided. y Alanac^c: who had hrapowrel And when they arrived there, znosa xorhēin from come

baniwkc. ew teseal zhasta- they intended to irritate them hngetasan ...

towt^ciwnn ew zanxonarheli with words. And when they mtac^c noc^ca əzbarjrowt^ciwn realized their steadfastness ibrew ztcsnamans incc ha- and their inflexible minds. marec^can. yoroc^c sowr 'i veray they regarded their grandeur edeal kotoreccin ibrew ars as hostility. And putting them to the sword, they killed them by the number of fifteen men.

the (country of the) Alans.

We may conclude, then, that the "non-Alan" elements appearing in the tradition about the Suk^ciasians and the chronological problems caused by them are either confined to their legend or derived from it. If we further consider the fact that Thomas Artsruni seems not to have been acquainted with this text and that the Oskians's legend contains a full account of the Sukciasians, too, we cannot help thinking that all these elements are secondary and historically unfounded.

Nevertheless, it is just the Sukciasians' legend which provides final support for the Alan provenance of the saints, being the only source that reveals the pre-Christian name of St. Sukcias, i.e. 'Ησύχιος:

LS

eranelin. ∃st arajnowmn, Barak at ray anowa- The blessed man said: Originally, I was called xałałakan keans stac^cay:

41,13 Asē zōravarn. Zi²nč^c anown ē k^co: Asē The commander said: What is your name? nēi. bayce yoržam eki es 'i gitowteiwn Ast- Barakeateray. But when I came to know about owcoy Sowkcias anowaneccay, aysinkcn 'i God, I called myself Sowkcias, that is, "having a peaceful life".

Of the various readings available for the saint's original name³⁵, the one used in the editions, Barak^cat^cray, is certainly well founded because it matches with the one we find in the Georgian version of the legend, viz. Barakadra. Together with shorter variants such as Barak^cat^c or Barowk^cat^c it immediately suggests a Semitic basis (cp. the Biblical name of Baruch, appearing as Barowk^c in the Armenian OT). Considering variants such as Bahadras, however, a different etymology imposes itself: There is good reason to believe that the saint's name is identical with that of a certain Bagatar who, according to the Georgian chronicle, was the opponent of Vaxtang Gorgasali, the founder of

³⁵ The following list is taken from Abuladze's edition, 56, n. 5: Barak eat ray DT, Barakcac EJK, Barowkcac OP, Barahata U, Barahatray MX, Bahadras RS.

Tbilisi, in his war against the *ovsni*, i.e. Alans, in the 5th century A.D.³⁶ If we further consider the form $\Pi AKA\Theta AP$ which is met with in the Zelenčuk inscription³⁷, there is hardly any room for doubt that we have an Ossete etymon here, which V.I. Abaev³⁸ identified with the word meaning "brave, rich", appearing as *bægatyr* and *qæbatyr* in Iron and *bægatær* in the Digor dialect. And the further identification with the name of *Batradz*, one of the male heroes of the Nartic epic, is well-founded as well.

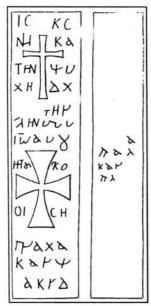


Fig. 1: Stele (cf. n. 37)

The identity of the names of St. $Ba(r)k^cat^cra$ and the opponent of Vaxtang Gorgasali, Baqatar, may even conceal the clue to the chronological problems the Sukciasian's legend brings about. The fight between Vaxtang and his enemy as depicted in the Georgian chronicle shows a close resemblance with the story about the heroic deeds of a certain Vahan Amatowni which is reported by Movses Khorenatsi as ch. 9 of the 3rd book of his Patmowt^ciwn Hayoc^c (and retold in Movsēs Dasxowrancci's History of the Albanians). Bagatar is an Alan (ovsi), Vahan's anonymous opponent, a member of the bnakičk^c hiwsisoy Kawkasow, i.e. the inhabitants of the Northern Caucasus (and an "Albanian" again in MD 1,12). Both are styled as giants: Bagatar is a goliati, and Vahan's opponent, a man of "inhuman size" (leal anari) whom Vahan, in a prayer, compares with the Biblical Goliath (cp. 1. Sam. 17, 4).

³⁶ "KC": QAUXČIŠVILI (1955: 154 ff). For attestations of other *ovsi* people bearing the same name, cf. ANDRONIĶASVILI (1966: 134 ff).

³⁷ Cf. n. 5 above. Another occurrence of the name ΠΑΚΑΘΑΡ written in Greek letters can possibly be found on the sinister side of an inscribed funeral stele discovered by J.A. Güldenstädt near the Čegem river in Kabardia; cf. the draft published in his "Reisen durch Rußland und im Caucasischen Gebürge» (GÜLDENSTÄDT 1787: pl. XIII, fig. 4). Güldenstädt provided no reading of this "graffiti-like" addition but only of the main inscription on the Western side; cf. o.c, p. XXIII (where "Fig. 4" must be read instead of "Fig. 3") and p. 502 (where "Platte XIII. Fig. 4" must be read instead of "Platte XII. Fig. 3"). It remains unclear whether the "graffiti" denote the same person as the bottom lines of the main inscription which was read as "TOY ANAKAMΨ ΔΧΝΔ (1654)" by Güldenstädt (p. XXIII; recte "ΑΧΗΔ (1654)"; read "ΠΑΧΑΤΑΡΟΥ" instead of "TOY ANAKAMΨ"?). Güldenstädt's draft is reproduced as Fig. 1 here.

³⁸ ABAEV (1949: 85) and (1958-89: I, 243 f.).

MX 3,9 KC

267,1 ew zōraglowx And the commander 154,5 da meoresa And the next day, nizakaworac^cn anari omn hskay va- giant of inhuman bumberazi ovstagan, Ossetes stepped forreal ...

leal of the lancers was a dgesa sxua gamovida another giant of the size, armed ...

romelsa Bagatar.

erkua ward, whose name was Bagatar.

towac, or zDawi- directed xroxtac^celovn Golia- Goliath ..." tcow ...

267,7 Ōgnea ini, As- "Help me, God, who 154,6 igi iqo goliati He was a Goliath ... t^cean parsak^carn dipe-sling stone against mšwildisa misisa torčakatow the front of angry meti mtkaveli da isari

David's ... rametu igo sigrze misi ekusi mtkaveli.

for the size of his shield was 12 spans and (the length of) his arrow, 6 spans.

In both cases, the duel involves horse-riding, and in both cases, the giant is thrown off his horse when defeated.

MX 3.9

267,9 Ew oč^c vripec^caw i xndroyn, ənd gawak jioyn hareal' korcaneacc verkir zahagin zviragn:

And he did not go 155,10 astray with his prayer. Hitting the Vaxtangissa, da gaback of his horse, he threw the monster down to the xtangisi, miuqda zeda ground.

KC

da hkra sxua isari exensa terrible daecemoda cxeni Vada uxetkna grmali mgarsa Bagatarissa, čahkueta vidre gulamde.

kualad And he shot another arrow at Vaxtang's horse, and it was hit. agdo šiga, da vidre And when the horse fell, Vaxtang jumped Badatar pushed his knife into his shoulder, and he pierced it right into his heart.

The only remarkable difference lies in the fact that Bagatar was an archer while Vahan's enemy was a spearman (nizakawor), and that the army the latter belonged to, was acting "by secret order" (galtni hramanē) of the Persian king, Šapowh.

MO 3,9

KC

srtowt^ciwn nora ew tender-heartedness

266,4 Yawowrs sora In those days, the in- 151,15 mašin mepeta Then, the kings of miabaneal bnakič^ck^c habitants of the Nor- Ovsetisata šekribnes Ossetia hiwsisoy Kawkasow, thern Caucasus unizt^cowla- ted, and knowing the

moegebnes

collected spani matni da moir- their troops and antes 3ali Xazaretit, da nexed the army of the mdina- Khazar country, and zyowlowtciwn, arawel i hrapowreloy maltcanacc Sanatrkoy instigated by his rei galtni hramanē Ša- quests, on a secret setisasa. phoy Parsic^c ark^cayi, aršaweal i mijocc king of the Persians, ašxarhis ...

and inadvertedness of resa Sanatruk and being ganvlis Darialansa da river which flows order of Šapowh, the thev invaded our country ...

zeda. čavlis velsa

romeli they drew up at the Ov- through the Alan gate into the plain of Ossetia

St. Sukcias, now, according to his legend, reported not only his original name when asked by the commander, but also his former profession as a "lancer of king Šapowh":

LS

41,14 Asē zōravarn. Paterazmoł ayr erewis: The commander said: You seem to be a man, Asē eranelin. Nizakakice ēi Šaphoy arkeayi:

experienced in war. The blessed man said: I was a lancer of king Šapowh.

If the legend is right, then, that $Bark^c at^c ar \approx Bagatar$ was the original name of the saint, his association with Šapowh and the chronological fixation depending thereon, might well have arisen from an erroneous identification with another Bagatar who was fighting on the side of the Alan army in the second half of the 3rd century, during the reigns of one Šapūr (II./ III.) in Persia and Xosrov "the Lesser", son of Trdat the Great, in Armenia.

Another solution of the chronological problem is possible as well, however. First, we have to state that Khorenatsi's account of the battle between Vahan Amatowni and the (anonymous) Alan giant is anything but reliable information, opposing itself in many points to the treatise of the same battle by P^cawstos Bowzandac'i. According to this author who wrote his "Epic histories" soon after the events we are dealing with, the enemies of the Armenian king, Xosrov, who are lead by a certain Sanesan, king of the Massagetes (Mazk^ct^cac^c), are defeated by Vač^cē Mamikonean, not Vahan Amatowni who is mentioned but marginally, as a spearman (nizakakic) of Vac^ee's (book 3, ch. 7)³⁹.

PB 3.7

14,1 Yaynm žamanaki t^cagaworn Mazk^ct^cac^c At that time, Sanēsan, the king of the Massa-

³⁹ GARSOÏAN (1984: 14 ff.). - Cf. GARSOÏAN (1989: 249) for a comparison of the accounts by Movses and Pcawstos.

Sanēsan anhnarin niwt^ceac^c zōramtowt^ci(wn) getes, developed an unappeasable hatered sxowt^ce(an) ənd iwrowm azgakc^cin Xosrovow ark^cayin Hayoc^c, ew gowmareac^c acc ...

15,3 Apa ekn ehas Vač^cē ordi Artawazday 'i Mamikonēn ... ert^cayr gtanēr zSanēsan t^cagaworn Mazketeace bown gndawn, anteiw anhamar zōrōk^cn handeri 'i Valaršapat k^calak^ci: Areal zgowndn Vače, ew yankarcaki yarjakec^caw 'i veray k^całak^cin. ew mtaneac^c znosa t(ē)r 'i jers nora:

ēin Bagrat bagratowni, Mehowndak ew Garegin ərəštownik^c, ew Vahan nahapetn amatowneac^c tohmin, ew Varaz kaminakan gac^cn ...

against his own kinsman, Xosrov, the king of the Armenians. And he gathered and assemžołoveac^c za(menay)n zōrs Honac^c ew P^cox- bled all the troops of the Huns and the P^coxk^c

> Then Vač^cē, the son of Artawazd, from the Mamikonean (House), came (back) ... when he arrived, he found Sanesan, the king of the Massagetes, together with his basic troops, an innumerable and countless army, in the town of Valaršapat. Drawing up his (own) troops, Vače unexpectedly fell upon the town. And the Lord gave them into his hands.

15,20 Ew nizakakic k zōravarin Hayoc, or And the lancers of the commander of the Armenians, i.e. Bagrat Bagratowni, Mehowndak and Garegin Rštowni, and Vahan the patriarch of the Amatowni family, and Varaz Kahasanēin harkanēin satakēin zōrsn Alanacen minakan seized, killed and slaughtered the ew Mazk^ct^cac^cn ew Honac^cn ew zayloc^c az- forces of the Alans and the Massagetes and the Huns and the other tribes ...

What is most important in this connection, is that P^cawstos does not mention Sapowh or any other the Persian king in his report, that no Sanatruk (who is styled a ruler of the Albanians in MD 1,12) appears and that there is no account whatsoever of a duel fight. All this renders Khorenatsi's treatise (and that by Movses Dasxowranc'i which relies upon his) rather suspect, and the impression imposes itself that we have to deal with a mixture of historical data and legendary tradition here.

This is hardly astonishing, though, given that the incorporation of legends and their secondary alignment with historical chronology, is known to be a typical trait of the Patmowt iwn Hayoc ascribed to Moyses Khorenatsi 40. The effect of this principle can easily be exemplified with a story concerning king Trdat which in Movses' History is contained in ch. 85 of its 2nd book and which was incorporated by Movses Dasxowranc'i in the same chapter as the one we have just dealt with. According to this story, Trdat was, again in a battle against the "Northeners", engaged in a duel fight with the king of the Basiłkc:

⁴⁰ Cf. TOUMANOFF (1969: 234) who uses the suitable word "telescoping" for Movses's method.

230,4 Isk t^cagaworn Trdat amenayn Hayastanōk^c ijeal i daštn Gargaraccwocc, patahiwsisakanac^cn hē čakatow paterazmi ...

230.9 Zor teseal tcahasanē varkeavn. ew yaspazinēn haneay koroparann vowt^ceamb igeay yetowst kołmanē čah dipeccowcane vows jaxakołmann ew yanowt^c ajakołmann.

230.15 Ew kcanzi očc karac^e šaržil jeramb zhskayn' zlanjokc ar erivarin.

230.16 ew oče avsč^cap^c inč^c šowt^cap^ceac^c mtrakel zerivarn. kcan tce aheak jerambn i nerdeayn ačapareal skayin, ew sastkowt^ceamb owžovn ziwreaw rcanc^cel i čah dipec^cowew zoyg and parano- horse as well. ccin zglowx erivarin:

And king Trdat de- 37,6 Lini zōražołov scended with all Armenians into plain of the Gargarians and confronted the Northeners with (his) line of battle. ...

moved near the king. and from his horse arwoyn Trdatay znerdeay k^cemxtapat equipment, he drew a rope made from tendons and wrapped up in sheepskin. And with power, he threw around (Trdat), hitting him just from the left shoulder to the right armpit. ...

And as he could not 37.12 ew occ zoreal but could not overshatter the giant (Tr- ənkčel zna' dat) with his hands, he embraced the neck of (his) horse.

But faster than he 37,13 could whip the horse mijaktowr 'i nmanen, along. the giant grasped the rope with his left hand, and tearing him near with all his might, he drew his two-edged (sword) and cut the ccaner zerksayrin, ew man in the middle, and mei ktrer zayrn and the neck of the

Trdatēs mec tcaga-Hayocc. ew the worn ijeal i daštn Gargaraccwocc, patahe hiwsisakanac^c paterazmaw.

leal, or igeal zčopan

Trdat, the great king summoned his troops together, descended into the plain of the Gargarians and consastik fronted the Northeners with a fierce war.

When the king of the 37,8 Ew zt^cagaworn And the king of the gaworin Baslacc' mot Basiłkc saw this, he Basłacc martakicc iwr Basiłkc fought with him and threw his rope around brave Trdat

whelm him

lini (and) was himself cut inkcn in two by him.

231,7 Isk zōrac^cn And the troops who 37,14 ew varē Trda-And Trdat persecuted amenayni teseal .. i had watched that all .. tios znosa kotor-them with extermina-p^caxowst dar̄nayin. fled. Trdat persecuted mamb minč^cew tion as far as the zoroc^c zhet mteal them as far as the c^cHons ... (country of the) Huns Trdat, varē minč^cew country of the Huns.

yašxarhn Honac^c:

The source of this episode is not hard to find. It is obviously modelled⁴¹ upon the report about an attack by the Alans which is contained in the 7th book of Flavius Josephus's History of the Jewish War⁴²:

FJ

244,1 Τὸ δὲ τῶν ᾿Αλανῶν ἔθνος ὅτι μέν εἰσι Σκύθαι περὶ τὸν

Τάναϊν καὶ τὴν Μαιῶτιν λίμνην κατοικοῦντες .. κατὰ τούτους δὲ τοὺς χρόνους διανοηθέντες εἰς τὴν Μηδίαν καὶ προσωτέρω ταύτης ἔτι καθ' ἀρπαγὴν ἐμβαλεῖν ...

248,1 μετὰ πολλῆς οὖν ῥαστώνης ἀμαχεὶ ποιούμενοι τὰς ἀρπαγὰς μέχρι τῆς 'Αρμενίας προῆλθον πάντα λεηλατοῦντες.

249,1 Τιριδάτης δ' αὐτῆς ἐβασίλευεν, ὃς ὑπαντιάσας αὐτοῖς καὶ ποιησάμενος μάχην παρὰ μικρὸν ἦλθεν ἐπ' αὐτῆς ζωὸς ἀλῶναι τῆς παρατάξεως·

250,1 βρόχον γὰρ αὐτῷ περιβαλών τις ἔμελλεν ἐπισπάσειν, εἰ μὴ τῷ ξίφει θᾶττον ἐκεῖνος τὸν τόνον κόψας ἔφθη διαφυγεῖν. The Alan people, which is the Scythians living around the Tanais and the Maiotis, .. planning at that time to undertake a raid into Media and even further ...

and committing the raids easily and without resistance, they came as far as Armenia, devastating everything.

Tiridates, who was the king of Armenia, opposed them, and delivering a battle, he had a very narrow escape from this contest.

For one (of his enemies) had thrown a rope around him and would have torn him away, if he had not been fast enough to cut the rope with his sword and escape.

It goes without saying that Flavius Josephus's Tiridates who must have reigned in the second half of the first century A.D. cannot be the same Armenian king as Trdat the Great whom the adventure is ascribed to by Movsēs Khorenatsi. It is not certain, of course, whether we can take Flavius's testimony seriously as it is, because he might have perused a motive first appearing

⁴¹ Cp. MAHÉ (1993: 380 [II, 85 n. 2] and 364 [II, 50 n.7]).

⁴² Ch. 7,7 in the edition NIESE (1895).

in Herodotus according to whom the usage of lassoes in battles was a custom of the Sagartians, a nomad tribe of "Persian tongue" (7,85)43. It is well conceivable, however, that his report could easily be adopted to fit into the vita of the great Trdat, by Movses who knew nothing about a first-century king of the same name.

This leads us back to Sat^cenik and her marriage with Artašēs. For them, too, Movses provides a tradition in which a lasso thrown around a human body plays the central rôle (cf. p. 2 above). In this "fabulous song", however, it is the Armenian king who applies the technique:

MX 2,50

179,2 "Hecaw ari ark ayn Artašēs i seawn gełeccik, ew haneal zoskeoł šikasrat^cew ənd getn, ew jgeal zoskēoł šikap^cok parann' ənkec^c i mējk^c ōriordin Alanac^c, ew šat c^cawec^coyc^c zmējk^c p^cabanakn iwr":

The brave king Artašēs mounted his beautiful black horse and grasped (his) rope with golden pook parann, ew anceeal orpes zarcowi rings, made from red leather; and crossing the river like an eagle with sharp wings, he threw the rope with golden rings, made from red leather and winded it around the waist of the Alan maiden; p^cowk ōriordin, arag hasowc^canelov i and causing a bad pain to the tender waist of the maiden, he rapidly tore her into his camp."

Nevertheless it must be stated that the episode of Artašēs and Sat^cenik would match well with Flavius Josephus's account of the Alan raid into Media and Armenia, as A. and J.P. Mahé pointed out who regarded this as the source used by Movsēs⁴⁴. There is one more coincidence that might be mentioned in support of this assumption here. According to Khorenatsi, Artašēs had to pay a high prize for the daughter of the Alan king he intended to marry:

MX 2.50

178,18 Ew asē ark^cayn Alanac^c. "Ew owsti tac^cē k^cajn Artašēs hazars i hazarac^c ew biwrs i biwrowc^c and k^cajazgwoy koys ōriordis Alanace": ...

179,6 K^canzi patoweal ē ar Alans mort^c

"And the king of the Alans spoke: "And how will the brave Artašēs give thousands of thousands and ten thousands of ten thousands for the young maiden of the Alans, born from a brave family?" ...

As the red leather is well estimated with the Alans, karmir' laykca šat ew oski bazowm (Artašēs) gave much leather and much gold as pay-

⁴³ Note that the account of the Alan raid contained in Dio Cassius's Historiae Romanae (ch. 69,15 in the edition BOISSEVAIN 1895-1901) does not contain the information about the usage of ropes.

⁴⁴ MAHÉ (1993: 364: II, 50 n. 2).

toweal i varjans' arnow ztikin ōriordn ment and (thus) received the maiden Sat^cenik as Sat^cenik: (his) wife.

This may well reflect the information contained in Flavius Josephus's report according to which the ruler of the Medes, Pakoros, had to pay ransom money to the Alans for his captured wife:

FJ 7,7

247,1 καὶ γὰρ ὁ βασιλεύων τῆς χώρας Πάκορος ὑπὸ δέους εἰς τὰς δυσχωρίας ἀναφεύγων τῶν μὲν ἄλλων ἀπάντων παρακεχωρήκει, μόλις δὲ παρ' αὐτῶν ἐρρύσατο τήν τε γυναῖκα καὶ τὰς παλλακὰς αἰχμαλώτους γενομένας ἐκατὸν δοὺς τάλαντα.

For the king of the land, Pakoros, fled frightened into inaccessible regions, conceding everything he had; and he hardly succeeded in ransoming his wife and his concubines and his girls who had been captured, by paying 100 talents.

We may conclude, then, that Khorenatsi's Artašēs was the same person as Flavius Josephus's Tiridates⁴⁵. This assumption, too, finds further support in a non-Armenian source, viz. in Dio Cassius's Historiae Romanae. According to this text, which also contains a brief account of the Alan raid into Media and Armenia⁴⁶, it was Tiridates who founded the city named $\tau \alpha$ 'Ap $\tau \alpha \xi \alpha \tau \alpha$, i.e., Artašat (ch. 63,7,2); according to Khorenatsi and the authors depending on him⁴⁷, this was Artašēs's work:

 CD 63,7,2
 M

 ό μὲν δὴ Τιριδάτης τὰ And Tiridates who 17
 'Αρτάξατα ἀνο- had built Artašat ... ši. ικοδομήσας ...
 yi

MX 2,49

176,17 Ert^ceal Arta- Artašēs came .. and šisi .. šinē k^całak^c founded a city

yiwr anown anow- (there), calling (it) by aneal Artašat: his name, Artašat.

In this way, the matrimony of an Alan princess named Sat^cenik with a 1st century Armenian king named Tiridates in Greek and Artašēs in Armenian sources seems well founded. There is yet one more factor, however, that has to be taken into consideration. We have seen above that the marriage of Sat^cenik was brought about by a certain Smbat, son of Biurat. In Movsēs Khorenatsi's

⁴⁵ Cf. TOUMANOFF (1969: 242) for the misuse of the name Artašēs in MX.

⁴⁶ ch. 69, 15; cf. n. 43 above.

⁴⁷ TA 1,8 (52,20); ST (Asolik) 48,16; UU 1,42 (58,8).

History, now, we are told about another instance of match-making of an Armenian king supported by a man called Smbat. This is the marriage of Trdat the Great with Ašxēn, the daughter of a certain Ašxadar. Khorenatsi's account is again reused by Uxtanes who, however, does not mention Smbat:

MX 2.83

UU 1.67

having re-225,20 Ekeal Trdatay Trdat, arak^cē turned into (his vašxarhs' zSmbat aspet, zhavr home) country, sent yskzban Smbat Bagaratay' acel out Ašxēn, Knight, the father of žam zkoysn zdowstrn Ašxadaray, Bagarat, to bring him yerord iwr i knowt iwn. or the maiden Ašxēn, łetianosi kayser Hrooč^c inč^c nowaz ēr the of daughter koysn arkcayin hasa- Ašxadar, into marki: ... means of lesser size than the king.

95,22 Isk apa i galn And after Trdat eni Havk^c Trdatay tcagawobeginning the rowt^cean iwroy, yort^cagaworeac^c ami Diokvmayeccwocc, arnow zAšxēn daughter iwr kin riage. She was by no dowstr Ašxindaray. xindar.

tered Armenia, at the of his reign, (and) in the third year of the reign of Diocletianus, the Roman emperor, he married Ašxēn, the Ašof

226,3 Yormē elew She gave birth to 96,2 ordi Xosrov. łacc iwrocc:

Xosrov, who was not hamemat hasaki cno- as tall as his parents.

yormē cnaw hasakac^c iwroc^c cneal:

She gave birth to zXosrov' oč^c nman Xosrov, who was not as tall as they.

226.4 ∃nd awowrs linin harsanik^c ew Mak^csiminay dstern Diokłetianosi i Nikomiday p^cesayanalov nma Kostandianosi kesari ordwoy Kostay t^cagaworin Hromay ...

noyn In the same days oc- 96,3 Ew curred the wedding of awowrs Maximina. the daughter of Diocletianus, in Nicobridemedia. her groom being the em- mianē. peror Constantinus, the son of Constantius, the king of Rome ...

and linēr arnelov nma zdowstrn kłetianosi

ayn And in those days Ko- occurred the wedding standianosi harsanis' of Constantinus, who Maximina. kin married Dio- the daughter of DioczMak^csi- letianus.

It has for long been proposed, now, that this queen's name might be related with the Ossete noun exsin meaning "lady",48, and it was V.I. Abaev who

⁴⁸ Cf. HÜBSCHMANN (1897: 20 no. 10) who also considered a derivation of the Iranian adjective Avest. axšaēna-, MPers. xašēn "brown".

assumed that this word might have become known and used as a female name in Armenia just when the Alan lady, Sat^cenik, was married by Artašēs, taking into account that it regularly appears as an epithet of Satana in the Nartic tales⁴⁹.

If we consider that in the epic, esp. in its Digoron variant, the name of Satana is often substituted rather than accompanied by the term $\alpha x \sin(\alpha)$, and if we further consider the context Ašxēn is introduced in by Movsēs Khorenatsi, we may even proceed beyond mere etymology and presume that the information Movses digested when writing about the two queens, Sat^cenik and Ašxēn, was virtually the same. First, we have to state that in the one and only older source available that deals with Ašxēn, i.e. Agathangelos's History, there is no account whatsoever of her descent and the circumstances of her marriage with Trdat⁵⁰, so that this cannot be the basis of Movses's report. Second, it is true that Movses and, accordingly, Uxtanes do not assume Asxen to be an Alan and that this assumption, if appearing in later sources, may be due to a secondary confusion with Sat^cenik, as A. and J.P. Mahé argued⁵¹. Movsēs and Uxtanes do, however, name Ašxen's father, a certain Ašxadar (the variant form Ašxindar appearing in Uxtanes's text may be influenced by Ašxen and is thus less trustworthy). If Ašxēn can be identified with Ossetic exsīne, then, it is well possible that Ašxadar is related to Æxsar(t) and Æxsærtæg, the names of the twin brothers who, according to the Ossete tradition, occupy a prominent rank in the pedigree of Nartic heroes, Æxsærtæg being the father of Wyryzmæg and his twin brother Xæmyc, and the forefather of the Æxsærtægkaty

⁴⁹ ABAEV (1958-89: IV, 2346 n. 1; 1990: 216).

⁵⁰ Ašxēn is first mentioned as Trdat's wife by Agat^cangelos in § 765 of his Patmowt^ciwn Hayoc^c (ed. Thomson 1980: 397). It may be noted here that in the Georgian version of the metaphrastic vita of St. Gregory (Melikset-Beg 1920: 37,16; cf. also Mowradyan 1982: 202,11 and p. 142), Ašxēn's name appears as Ašxanavri, a form which is quite distinct from both the Greek variants 'Ασιχήνη, 'Ασχηνά, and 'Ασιγίνην (cf. Garitte 1946: 205 and 1965: 279 with n. 1) and the Arabic variants asšinīn (°sšnyn), asšīnā (°sšyn°) and asšīn (°sšyn) appearing in the Arabic version of the legend (Marr 1904-5: 110,25; 124,18; 132,16; 128,23). Georgian Ašxanavri bears a suffix which is typical for feminine names; cp. Perožavri ("Conversion of Kartli") and Laṭavri (Georgian chronicle). A. Šaniʒe (1968: 7 ff.) proposed to identify this suffix both by its function and by its etymology with -owhi appearing in, e.g., Tigranowhi (vs. Tigran, MX 1,25: 73,13) or tagowhi "queen" (< *tagabṛθria-, cp. tagawor "king" < *tagaboro-).

⁵¹ Mahé (1993: 380; II, 83 n. 1).

family⁵². And it is hardly accidental in this context that Æxsærtæg's wife, Dzerassæ, is also the mother of Satana, who is born to her after Æxsærtæg has died and Dzerassæ has been adopted by her father-in-law, Wærxæg, which means that Satana, too, is a member of the Æxsærtægkatæ family⁵³.

What, then, is the historical nucleus of the information about Sat^cenik Movsēs Khorenatsi and later Armenian sources provide? Certainly not much more than the legendary tradition about a young Alan lady named Sat^cenik and/or Ašxēn who was married, under unusual circumstances, to an Armenian king named Tiridates / Trdat. Under a second name, possibly used as an honorary title here, the latter became known as Artašēs. Whether this king was identical with Trdat the Great, with another Trdat of the 3rd century⁵⁴ or with the 1st century Tiridates of the Greek sources, must remain open. The fact that Sat^cenik is chronologically aligned with the apostle Thaddeus in the Oskians' legend and the historiographical sources depending thereon, must not be taken as a decisive argument; for this can be seen in the common framework of the Thaddeus tradition spreading in Armenia at least from the 6th century on 55. The Sukciasians' legend seems to support the second solution by telling that Sat^cenik and her husband lived "many years" before Xosrov the Great was killed by Anak (A.D. 287) and that Barak atra had been a soldier of Šapowh, which might mean Šāpur I. (ca. 242-275), before he converted; we have seen, however, that this information must not be overestimated either.

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⁵² Cf., e.g., ABAEV (1939: 73). The "family" name of the Æxsærtægkaty is first met with in the Georgian chronicle, Kartlis Cxovreba, in a text dealing with the time of the Mongol invasion; the persons in question are a woman called *Limačav* and her children, *Parežan* and *Baġatar*, who come to Tbilisi as refugees (Žamtaaġmçereli: QAUXČIŠVILI 1959: 251).

⁵³ It is true that there are several variant traditions about Satana's birth in most of which Wastyrdžy, i.e. St. Georges, plays a certain role; cf. DUMÉZIL (1930: 24 f.) and ABAEV (1939: 76 f). Besides Dzerassæ, Satana's mother is named *Sasana* or *Qwazæ* in Ossete tales; in a Kabardian text, we find the name *Lalyxwə* (Narty 1974: 41 / 189 and 350, II, n. 1). The new edition of Ossete Nartic tales (Narty 1990) contains two stories about Satana's birth (nos. 8 and 9, p. 96 ff.). According to a Balqar text, Satana's parents were the Sun and the Moon (Narty 1994: 71 / 306 and 616, 4.).

⁵⁴ Cf. TOUMANOFF (1969: 261 ff.) who tries to prove that Armenia had three kings named *Tiridates* in the 3rd century, the Great Trdat being the fourth (regn. 298-330).

⁵⁵ Cf. AKINIAN / Ter-Połosean (1970a: 1 ff.) and VAN ESBROECK (1972: 241 ff.) for detailed studies of this tradition. The question whether it was known in Armenia before the 6th century depends on the authenticity of the introductory chapter of the Epic histories by P^cawstos; for this question, cf. Garsoïan (1989: 16-22 and 244; III.i, n. 2).

There can be no doubt, on the other hand, that the legendary tradition about Sat^cenik preserved by Armenian historiography is related to the tradition about Satana we meet with in the Nartic tales. In the beginning of this article, we have already resumed the parallels brought about by G. Dumézil which strongly suggest a link of tradition. It may be sufficient to add just one more observation in this context. One of the most widespread Nartic episodes concerning Satana is the story about how her son, Soslan-Sozyryqo, was born. According to most variants of this story⁵⁶, Satana is watched by a young shepherd when washing clothes on the river bank. The shepherd who stands on the other side of the river falls in love with her. As he cannot cross the river, he drops his semen on a rock near by. Satana realises this and returns to the place at the time of the completion of the term, and having the stone opened, she finds the child⁵⁷. There is an astonishing coincidence indeed of this story with Movses Khorenatsi's report about the marriage of Sat^cenik with Artašēs (cf. p. 3 above); for this couple, too, is separated by a river when Artašes sees Sat^cenik for the first time and falls in love with her. And in the same context, it may be interesting to note that Thomas Artsruni, in his brief account of Artašēs's reign, after mentioning the couple's marriage immediately continues with the king's return into the "rocky area" where he had been grown by his foster-father, Smbat, hidden from his persecutor, Erowand, and living as a shepherd (i.e., the place where he was to build Artašat later).

TA7 MX 37

nora Smbatay, ord- of gawari, i šēn Smba- son of Biwrat, tawani:

tłay, Artašēs anown, king Sanatruk), by the areal Smbatay zAr- took stntowi name of Artašēs, who tasēs gay anc^canē i went (with him) to a nora' p^caxeaw i koł- had been taken away by vayr i lernen, ew place in the mounmans Heray, i ho- his wet nurse, fled into tcapcarakan zvēms vowavans Małxazani, the region of Her, into apastan lowr arnelov dayeki the shepherds' hamlets yankarkacagoyn woy Biwratay Bag- (was) reported to (his) vimamējs i karratownwoy, i Sper foster-father Smbat, the kars hovtajers ... Bagratid, in the district

arareal

162,14 Bayc^c mi omn But one boy (son of 51,9 Noyn žamayn At that time, Smbat tains, and after roving through the rocks, he took refuge in unpre-Małxazan. This telis darani i p^cok^cr dictable hide-aways in small rocky hills, in stony caves ...

⁵⁶ Cf. DUMÉZIL (1930: 75 ff. no. 20). Additional variants have since been published: Ossetic (Digor): Narty 1990, nos. 30-32, 143-146; (Iron): Narty 1975, 75-78; Circassian (Adyge and Kabardian): Nartxer 1969, nos. 83-108, 31-48; Narty 1974, nos. 1 (= Nartxer, no. 92) and 2, 41; Balgar: Narty 1994, no. 33, 119.

⁵⁷ For a detailed study of this topic cf. MÜLLER (1966, 481 ff.).

of Sper, in the village of Smbatawan.

Even though the shepherd who became Satana's lover bears no name reminding of *Artašēs* in any of the text variants⁵⁸, and even though the story about Artašēs spending his youth as a shepherd⁵⁹ is clearly influenced by the legends about his quasi-namesake, Artašīr, the founder of the Sasanian dynasty⁶⁰, the equivalences between the Armenian and the Nartic tradition can hardly be regarded as accidental.

The question whether or not the Armenian Sat^cenik can be identified with the Nartic Satana, lastly depends on the linguistic analysis of the two names which are not easy to account for. Within Armenian tradition, there is a continuous alternation of the two forms Sat^cenik and Sat^cinik and other variants⁶¹,

⁵⁸ Among others, the following name forms are met with: Ossetic: *Telves* (Тельвесь, in the overview of Nartic legends published in Russian by V. Pfaff (Pfaff 1871: 172); Pfaff regarded the name as Greek, p. 173, but cp. the Circassian name forms *Teuvəž* [Kab.] and *Teucož* [Adyg.] listed in Spravočnik (1979: 295 and 301); *Sosæg-ældar* (Digor, Narty 1990, no. 31; according to other Digor variants, *sos-dor*, i.e., "pumice" is the name of the rock: ib., nos. 30 and 32); Ubykh: *Sausna* (Nartxer 1969, no. 104); Kabardian: *Sos* (Nartxer 1969, no. 92 / Narty 1974, no. 1); Š'oqarə (Щокъарэ, Narty 1974, no. 2); Balqar: *Sozuk* (Narty 1994, nos. 31 and 33). It is clear that all the latter names are related to Soslan's own name. The problems involved will be dealt with in a separate article.

⁵⁹ It remains unclear whether or not the word *hovtajer* "cave" used by Artsruni in the given context may reflect Khorenatsi's *hovowawan* in some way.

⁶⁰ According to the MPers. "Book of the Deeds of Ardašīr, Son of Pābag" (Kārnāmag-i Ardaxšīr-i Pābagān), it was Artašīr's father, Sāsān, who was a shepherd: *ud sāsān šubān-ī pābag būd ud hamwār abāg gōspandān būd* "and Sāsān was the shepherd of Pābag, and he was with the sheep all the time" (ch. i, 6); cp. ČUNAKOVA (1987: 38). In Movsēs's History, there are several other passages where Artašēs is compared or contrasted with Artašīr; cp. esp. book 2, ch. 56 where the introduction of a 'andmarking system is ascribed to Artašēs, Ardašīr being styled a mere imitator (cp. the similar account by ST [Asołik], 49,1-5).

⁶¹ For the Oskians's legend, Abuladze's edition (1944) notes the following variants of the gen. Sat^eenkay: 13,1: Sat^eenekay, Sat^eekay, Sat^eenikay; 16,1: Sat^einkay, zSat^eenkay, Sat^eenikay, Sat^einkan, Sat^eenikay, Sat^einkan, Sat^eenekay, Sat^einekay, Sat^einekay, Sat^einekay, Sat^eenikay, Sat^eenikay; for the Suk^eiasians' legend: 23,30: Sant^eika, Sat^eenay, Sant^eenikay, Sat^eenika; 24,10: Sat^einekay, Sant^einkay, Sant^eenikay, Sat^eenika, Sat^einkay. In the editions in Sop^eerk^e haykakank^e, the three forms Sat^eenkay, Sat^einkay, and Sat^einkan are used (33,4 / 61,12; 63,15; 33,16 / 63,4). For the occurrences in UU, MD, NŠ, YD, and TA no variant readings are available.

the former presupposing an older *satcean-, the latter, *satcen-. Within the Nartic tales, there is much less variation: the Ossetic name is always Satana, for Chechen, only (Seli-)Sata is known, the usual Balqar form is Satanay, and the regular name of the Circassian epic is Sətəney. These forms can easily be identified with one another, deducing them from an underlying *satana-62 which matches with the Armenian basic forms except for the vowel of the second syllable and the (diminutive) suffix -ik contained in the latter (note that both in Ossetic and the neighbouring languages, the internal t is an aspirated one as is the Armenian). V.I. Abaev was certainly right, then, in stating that within Ossetic, Satana cannot belong to the stock of inherited Iranian words because of its phonological shape (three "long" a vowels, one of them even in auslaut position)63. Nevertheless, an Iranian etymology that joins all the existing variants remains possible. A clue to this may be the variant form Sart^cenik with a medial -r-, once attested in Movses Khorenatsi's work, in a versified passage again quoted from "songs which are preserved with affection ... by the inhabitants of the vinous district of Goltn":

MX 1,29

84,12 Ayl ew tenč^cay, asen, Sa(r)t^cenik tikin And also: "Sa(r)t^cenik," they say, "has a tenč^cans' zartaxowr xawart ew ztic^c xawarci i strong desire for the herb *artaxowr* and for barjic^cn Argawanay: the plant *tic^c* on the dinner table of Argawan."

It is clear that $Sart^cenik$ in the given passage represents a lectio difficilior as against the variants Sat^cenik and Sat^cinik^{64} which are the "usual" forms occurring elsewhere. Together with the Circassian form Sertenay (Сэртэнай) which we find in a Shapsugh tale about the birth of Sausïrïqo⁶⁵, it strongly reminds us of the Scythian name $\Xi\alpha\rho\theta\alpha\nuo\varsigma$ appearing in an inscription of

⁶² The Circassian word-final -ey may well be a suffix; cf. Kokov (1973: 42), who sees the same suffix in the Nartic (masculine) name Kab. Š'awej (Щауей), Adyg. Śawaj (Шъауай) (≈ Ossetic Sæwwaj, e.g. Narty 1975, 222,24), but also in the female name Kab. Gwaš'ənej (Гуащэней), Adyg. goš'əwnaj (Гощэунай). The latter name clearly contains the common noun kab. gwaš'ə (гуащэ), Adyg. gwaš'ə/goš'ə (гуащэ / гощэ) meaning "lady, landlady, mother-in-law" which is used as an epithet of Sətənej in the Circassian Nartic tales in the same way as æxsīnæ is used in Ossetic. Adyg. goš'əwnaj seems to contain unə- "house". For a list of Circassian names ending in -ey, cf. Kokov (1973: 168 f.).

⁶³ ABAEV (1935 / 1990: 247).

⁶⁴ Thus according to the data collected by AČARYAN (1948: 342).

 $^{^{65}}$ Nartxer 1969, no. 107: 46 with the forms Сэртэнай, Сэртэнаем (erg.) and Сэртэнаер (abs.).

Tanais⁶⁶ which has for long been deduced from the Iranian word *xšaθra-"reign"⁶⁷. If Ξαρθανος represents a derivative *xšaθrāna-, it shows the metathesis of the internal consonant cluster which is typical for Ossetic; within this language, its cognates are the names Exsert (< *xšaθra-) and Exserteg (<*xšaθraka-) well known from the Nartic tales. It is true, then, that Satana cannot represent the normal development of a feminine variant *xšaθrānā-(>"Scythian" *xšarθānā-) in Ossetic, both because of its vocalism and because of its consonantism (s- < *xš-). It might, however, be explained as the adaptation of such a form by non-Iranian speakers, which would mean that the Ossetes must have "reimported" the name, a Turkic variant like Balqar Satanay being the most probable source. The Circassian (Šapsugh) variant Sortonay would in this case reflect an older stage in which the internal cluster (-rt-) was still preserved in its "Alanic" shape - and the Megrelian family name Sartania might be another residue of this.

Returning to the Armenian tradition, the question remains how to account for the peculiar shape the name has here. While the derivative suffix -ik raises no problems, the vocalism of the second syllable requires an explanation. If the alternation of -e- and -i- we meet here is not due to a secondary restitu-

⁶⁶ Latyšev (1890: 454, 11.).

⁶⁷ Cf. MILLER (1881-7: III, 80); ZGUSTA (1955: 122, § 157).

⁶⁸ Cf. Abaev (1958-89: IV, 239).

⁶⁹ Cf. DUMÉZIL (1930: 191) who quotes M. Tuganov for the suggestion of a mutual exchange of the variant forms of Soslan's name between Ossetes and Kabardians. – The proposal by BAILEY (1980: 239) to see in *Satana* "the feminine of the masculine title, older *sātar*-, 'ruler'" has no basis whatsoever.

⁷⁰ Note that within Circassian, the word *nart* itself has a variant *nat* as well; examples can be quoted from the Šapsugh and Xakucha dialects (Nartxer 1969, nos. 84, 86, 88, 103). In the texts in question, Satana's name is *Sətəney* while text no. 107 has both *nart* and *Sərtənay*. For the time being, we cannot exclude the alternative possibility that *-r-* was introduced secondarily in the Šapsugh name form.

The Cf. Androniķašvili (1966: 141). Note that a name Agsartan which might be the male equivalent of *xšaθrāna- is met with several times in the Georgian chronicle (cf. Androniķasvili 1966: 513 ff.). – The spread of the form Satana may well have been influenced by the Christian concept of Satanas; cp. the Sogdian text TM 393 where s'tt'nh, Satan, is also grammatically feminine (Henning 1944: 138 and 141 with n. 7; Skjærv∅ 1994: 242). Ossetic saytan (сайҳан: Iosif 1884: 475 s.v. [Russ.] сатана) "devil" reflects the Islamic word, Arab. šaytān, instead.

tion of a former -a- lost through syncopy in Medieval times⁷², we would have to assume a variant suffix; in this case, a preform ** $x\bar{s}a\theta ri\bar{t}a\bar{n}$ - leading, via * $sarti\bar{a}n$ -, to *sa(r)tean- would be the most probable solution. Considering the affinity of the Nartic Satana to the Æxsærtægkatæ family, this might be interpreted as a quasi-patronymical formation, Sat^cenik being named after her family's ancestor, Æ $xsært(æg) < *x\bar{s}a\theta ra(ka$ -), in just the same way as Smbat, Artašēs's tutor, could be named after his father, Biwrat. If we further consider that among the Ossetes, the tradition of deriving maiden names from ancestral names is still valid and that the suffix used in this derivation, $-on^{74}$, is the regular outcome of an older * $-\bar{a}n$ -, Satana, < * $x\bar{s}art\bar{a}n\bar{a}$ -, and Sat^cenik , < * $x\bar{s}arti\bar{a}n$ -, reveal themselves as equivalent formations, denoting the heroine as a descendent of the Æxsærtægkatæ family.

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⁷² Cf. GIPPERT (1993: 32, 149 and 347) for a discussion of possible Georgian witnesses of an early date of this syncopy.

⁷³ The expected formation is provided by the Georgian chronicle, in the form *Bivritian-i*, cp. p. 8 above. Movsēs Khorenatsi has only the gen. attribute, *Smbat Biwratay*.

⁷⁴ Cf., e.g., MORRISON (1951: 77) or GAGKAEV (1964: 70) with the examples *Dzagur-on* / *Dzagwyr-on* (Дзагуыр-он, ср. the family name *Dzagurtæ / Dzagwyr-tæ* Дзагуыр-тæ), *Tusk-hauon* (vs. *Tuskhatæ*), and *Salam-on* (Салам-он, vs. *Salam-tæ* Салам-тæ). For the underlying personal names (*Dzagur / Salam*), cf. FRITZ (1983: 75 and 185).

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