

PROSPECTUS

of an edition of the work entitled: "Tawarikhi 'Ali Seldshuk", which belongs to the University Library of Leyden No. 419, with an accurate description and historical notes by Dr. W. F. A. Behrnauer.

During my researches of the history of the precursors of the Turkish Empire founded upon the ruins of the empire of the Seldshuks of Iconium, I have found a work much known and important for the history of Oghuzes. I mean the work known by the title: Tawarikhi 'Ali Oghuz, in a manuscript very rare of the University Library of Leyden (No. 419) and which is already described by Prof. Dr. *Kuenen* in the third volume of the Oriental Manuscripts of the Leyden University Library (No. 942 p. 24). This work (its title is not quoted in the preface and also its author cannot be ascertained), is distributed in three parts: the first (fol. 1—24) treats of the conditions of the old Turks, who draw their origin from Oghuz Khan with a chapter, which contains 24 drawings and which gives a description of the form of the temgha (seal) of the six sons of Oghuz, of their holy birds and the sort of meat eaten at their dinners. The second part (fol. 24—96) treats of the history of the Seldshuks (I will also publish in a separate volume this history in the German language drawn by me from Arabic, Persian and Turkish works) and the accurate history of the Seldshuks who were resident in Persia. The third part finally (fol. 97—277) gives us the detailed description of the history of the Seldshuks in Asia minor in a large essay on the administration of the Sultans Ruknuddîn, Ghajâsuddîn and Kalkobâd 'Alâ'addîn with a concise description of the nature of the

dynasty of the Seldshuks of this country. It ends with the life of the Sultan Kaikobâd 'Alâ'addin. We do not know what were the events described in the complete work. Though this manuscript is not complete, and a gap is to be found on the folio Nr. 94^{ro} and 95^{ro}, it is however very curious and important for the knowledge of the history of the Seldshuks of Asia minor, because in this part of the history the treaties abound not as in the history of the Seldshuks of Persia. The author of this chronicle has availed himself for his work of the history written in this historical part by Muhammed Ibn 'Alî Ibn Sulaimân Arrâwendî, dedicated by himself to the Sultan Kaikhosrew I. Our author has translated this treaty in the Turkish language, written by Arrâwendî in the Persian language in a country of 'Jrâk and afterwards imported it in Asia minor, where he presented it to the Sultan. Therefore we have no reason to believe this chronicle of the Seldshuks to be a simple translation, because this chronicle is not only continued after the death of Râwendî, but because we find many things in it, which he could not have written himself, principally the poems in praise of the Sultan Murad II. We see also from its antiquated style that the quoted Sultan is Sultan Murad II. and we find him directly quoted by his name: *Sultan Murad Ben Muhammed Ben Bajazid*. Besides this manuscript, which contains in the beginning a fabulous poem on the prophet Moses, is not only curious and important for the oriental scholars by its antiquated style, because we find here many words of old Turkish origin, which are not used afterwards in Turkish works, and which are not to be found either in dictionaries, but because it gives also many old forms of the Turkish grammar. Its style is simple in its two first parts; the third is however composed in a very bombastic manner of the Persians and Osmanlis, which we see from the nature of the treaties used by our author.

This manuscript seems to be written in the 10th century A. H., though it contains no account of its date. I have transcribed it in the year 1862 and the Asiatic Museum of the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg has also a copy of it. Its character is a legible naskhi. A known orientalist will have the kindness to execute the autograph of this complete edition. The copy of 65 sheets will cost in England 20 sh. and in America 6 Dollars. All who will purchase it, are requested to send their declaration with their address on the annexed form direct by post to the editor or to the bookseller Mr. C. A. Werner (Schönfeld's Buchhandlung at Dresden).

Dresden, in the month August 1866.

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