



THE
TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES
OF THE TURKISH ADMIRAL

SIDI ALI REÏS

IN INDIA, AFGHANISTAN, CENTRAL ASIA, AND PERSIA,
during the Years 1553—1556.

TRANSLATED FROM THE TURKISH, WITH NOTES,

BY

Am. in. Soc.
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LONDON:
LUZAC & Co.
Publishers to the India Office.
1899.

man shall be humbled." So I relinquished my claim upon the tribute money and continued my journey with the others. After crossing the rivers Khoshab¹ and Nilab² in ships, I set foot upon the shore of Bakhtar³.

XI.

Our experience in Bakhtar-Zemin i. e. in Kabulistan.

In the beginning of the month Djemaziul-Evvel we left the river Nilab and turned towards Kabul. For fear of the Afghans under Adam Khan, we made a quick march through the night, and at daybreak we arrived at the foot of the mountain. So far the Afghans had not seen us, but by the time we had reached the top, there were thousands of them gathered together. We seized our guns, and with God's help managed to get out of their way, and came to the town of Pershuer, i. e. Peshawer. Soon after, we crossed the Khaiber Pass, and reached Djushai. In the mountains we saw two rhinoceroses

¹ Khoshab the name of a town in Penjab, situated on the river Djehlam, and not the name of the river itself, as our author states.

² Nilab, blue water, cannot possibly be the river Kabul.

³ Bakhtar-Zemin = Bakhtarland, i. e. Bactria.

(Kerkedans)¹, each the size of a small elephant; they have a horn on their nose about two inches long. In Abyssinia these animals are much more plentiful.

Presently we reached Laghman², and after a very toilsome journey through Hezareland³, we entered Kabulistan and its capital Kabul. Here I visited the two sons of Humayun, Mehemmed Hekim Mirza, and Ferrukh Fal Mirza; I also saw Mun'im Khan, and, after presenting the ferman from Humayun, I was treated with much honour. Kabul itself is a beautiful city, surrounded by mountains covered with snow, and pleasure gardens with running brooks. Pleasure and merriment prevailed everywhere, feasting and banqueting were the order of the day. In every corner were gaily dressed slender Luli's⁴ enticing one with music and song to join the merry crowd; the populace in fact seemed to

¹ کرکدان, generally translated by Rhinoceros. Baber (1356) makes mention of this animal under the name of کرک gherek, and he describes it as being about the size of a buffalo.

² Perhaps more correctly Lughman, east of Kabul.

³ Hezare is the name of the mountainous region, northeast of Peshawer; also the name of an Iranian Mongoltribe, dwelling between Hërat and Kabul.

⁴ Luli لولی is, in Central Asia, the name given to the Gipsies, to which tribe the dancing and singing damsels and the prostitutes, generally belonged. This used also to be the case in Turkey; comp. Tchenghi = musician, dancing girl, and Tchingane = Gipsy.

have no thought for any thing, but for pleasure and enjoyment.

‘Who would long for Huri’s and the Paradise whose good fortune has brought him amongst the Luli’s of Kabul?’

We, however, had no time for such frivolities, our only aim and object was to reach home as soon as possible. Mun’im Khan remarked that the roads were snowed up, that the Hindu Kush could not possibly be passed, and that it would be far better for us to wait a few days in Kabul; but I quickly replied that men could overcome mountains, if they had the mind to do so. Thereupon the Governor commanded Mir Nezri the Chief of the Ferashi and Peshai, to accompany me, and his men were to conduct our horses and goods safely across the mountainpass. We left accordingly in the beginning of Djemazi ul Evvel and came to Karabag¹ and from there to Tcharikar and Pervane or Mervan.

¹ Kara-bag (black-garden) marked on the maps merely as Bag (garden). Tcharikar lies north of Kabul, and Pervane lies in the same direction as the Pass of that name at the foot of the Hindu Kush. Our author did not take the route now generally used, across the Dendanshiken (tooth-breaker), but the other, which lies more to the east, and which was the one followed by Baber. This is one of the Pervanpasses, which, starting from the place of that same name leads to Badjgah and from there into the valley of Enderab. Comp.: ‘A journey to the sources of the river Oxus,’ by Capt. John Wood. Published by Yule. I.XV.