

THE GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE TATARS PART I

Containing the History of the Generations of the Tatars, from Adam down to
Mogull, or more properly Mung'l Khan

Chapter I Of Adam and his Descendants until the Deluge.

The Tatars Opinion of the Creation.

When God had determined to create Adam, he sent the Angel Sabrail to fetch him a handful of Earth; but the Earth having demanded of the Angel, at the instance he was about taking some of it, what he intended to do with that handful of Earth, and Angel having answered that God would create Adam out of it, the Earth begged of him not to take any of it, saying, "The children of Adam would multiply and sin against God, who whereupon would pour out his wrath upon them and punish them severely on the account of their sins; and I dread this punishment extremely, because I cannot choose but sink under it." The Angel being returned into the presence of God with this answer. God sent the Angel Michael to the Earth with the same commission; but He went back with the same excuse, without having executed God's command. After which God sent again the Angel Asraphil, who returned once more with empty-handed. At last, God having sent the Angel Asrail to the Earth, she tried in like manner to persuade him to return without doing anything; but the Angel made answer: "Your remonstrance are nothing to me in comparison of the commands of God." After which, having taken a handful, he went to carry it before God. And it is the same place where the Angel took that handful of Earth, that the House of Mecca, which is still to be seen there, was afterwards built, and to which all the Faithfull go yearly to pay their devotion. In recompense of the Angel Asrail having so punctually on that occasion executed the command of God, that the power was given him of receiving the Souls of Men at their death, and bringing them into the presence of Him. After God had created Adam, he set him upon the Earth between the House of Mecca and the city of Tayif, where he left him for the space of thirty nine days; not having given him soul till fortieth day. There is no necessity to speak here of the manner how God placed Adam in Paradise, and of his sinning against the Almighty in eating the apple, because that is sufficiently known to us.

Adam lived a thousand years; his name is derived from the Arabick, in which Adam signifies, of the turf. And because the Angel Asrail took some of the Earth of the turf, he had the name of Adam; but he was surnamed Saphi-Jula. He saw forty thousand of his posterity, and nominated before his death his son Shiss (Seth) to resign

in his place, who by this means inherited the dominion of all the lands which his father had peopled, and lived four hundred and twelve years with the reputation of a great prophet. At his death the Angel Asrail received his soul, and carried it into Arai, or Paradise. This is from the language of Yunan or Greece, that the name of Shiss came to him; but in Arabick he is called Ezbasulla.

His son Anucs (Enos) obtained a sovereign lord-ship after his death; and in as much as conformable to the instructions of his father, he lived in great holiness and virtue, they gave him a name which in Arabick signifies Yust (Al Adel). He lived 412 years.

After him reigned his son Shinan (Kenan), who died after having lived 240 years, and had for his successor his son.

Malahil (Mahalaleil), who perceiving that mankind visibly to increase, was the first who began to build cities. The first he built was in the Country of Babel, and called it Suss. The houses of his town were built of Earth and Wood; where as before caves, holes, and grottos in the mountain served for men to live in. He also first invented what belongs to the harvest, and for that end distributed his people among the most fertile plains. He lived 920 years, and left a son called Berdi (Jared), who lived 960 years.

His son and successor was called in the Greek language Achnuch (Jared, Enoch) on account of his extraordinary wisdom and piety; in Arabic he is called Idris. He prophesied and instructed his subjects during 42 years: after which an angel came and took living, upon his wings, and carried him to paradise.

After him reigned his son Matushlach, who was very virtuous and pious; but number of years he lived is not known. To him succeeded his son Zamach; the years of his life also are unknown: but we know that before his death he nominated for his successor his son Nui (Noah), who was chosen by God at the age of 150 years to be a prophet; he taught mankind for the space of 700 years the way to heaven, without being able in all that time to gain over eighty souls, reckoning men and women; and perceiving all the rest of mankind all the rest of mankind had turned away themselves from God, he supplicated God that he would root out that whole generation. Upon this the Angel Safrail having appeared to him, said, "Your prayers are granted, and God will in short time destroy all men by universal deluge, for which reason God is ordered to you to build an Ark". The angel at the same time instructed him in what manner that ark should be built. In obedience to this command, Nui and the eighty true believers set about building it, and it was scarce finished when the earth opened her deeps, and the heavens sent down rains without ceasing. Then the prophet having caused all sorts of living creatures and birds, male and female to enter to the Ark, he likewise went himself with eighty true believers, and all the rest of mankind, as well as animals and birds, were drowned by the Deluge. After some time God having shut up the deeps of the Earth, and made the rains to cease the water insensibly diminished.

Chapter II

Of the Posterity of Nui to the Time of Alanza Khan

It was on the Mountain of Djudi (Gudi), between the town of Musel (Mosul) and that of Sham or (Damascus) that Nui built the ark, from whence the waters raised it the

first day of the month Regeb and they kept it sailing till the 10th day of Muharam, when it rested upon a mountain; so that it floated six months ten days.

Of all the men which had entered into the ark with the Prophet, only himself, his wife, and his three sons and their wives went alive out of it; all the rest being dead of sickness during deluge. After which Nui dispersed his three sons through the world, having sent his oldest son Ham to inhabit the Indies, his second son Sam to inhabit the country of Iran, and his youngest son Yaphis (Yaphet) into the country Kuttup Shamach, and the neighboring lands; enjoining them, that forasmuch as there were then no more men in the world but themselves, they shouldn't begin to build cities before their posterity multiplied. Yaphis has been looked upon by some as a Prophet, and by others as a common Man. After he had quited the mountain where the ark rested, he went to settle about the rivers Idel (Wolga) and Yaigick (Ural), and died after having lived there 250 years. He left eight sons and many kinfolks and relations. These are the names of his sons: 1. Turk, 2. Chars, 3. Sacklap, 4. Russ, 5. Maninach, 6. Zwin, 7. Camari, 8. Tarich. Before his death, he appointed his son Turk, to whom he gave the Surname of Yaphis-oglany, to bear chief rule in his family; ordering the rest to obey him and acknowledge him for their master.

Turk was a man of superior genius, having been the first who invented many of the conveniences of life; he made himself tents, and pitched upon a fixed residence in place called at present Isyk Kol. He had four sons: Taunak, Zakale, Bersazar, Amlak. At his death he appointed his son Taunak for his successor, who became very rich and ingenuous prince, author of many fine inventions. It happened one day, that Taunak having gone a hunting, and killed much game, ordered a piece to be roasted, but when he was just going to eat some of it, he by chance let a bit drop upon the ground, and having taken it up, and put it in his mouth, he found it delicious, by reason that a grain of salt had stuck to it; which having given him understand that this land was impregnated with salt. He set himself to improve this discovery, and became first inventor of the use of salt; no one before him having known what salt was, or that it could season victuals.

Co-temporary with him reigned a prince in the country of Iran, called Cajumars (Caiumarrath, first king of Persia, and of the family of Pishdad). Taunak lived 240 years, and at his death left his throne to his son Yelza Khan, who lived many years, and before his death appointed his son Dibbakui Khan to succeed him. Dibbakui Khan lived also a long time, and disposed of the succession before his death to his son Kajuk Khan, who reigned a great length of years; and had for his successor, after his death, his son Alanza Khan.

From the days of Yaphis and his descendants, to the time of Alanza Khan, the true religion was preserved; and during the reign of this prince his subjects lived in a profound peace having great abundance of all sorts' riches.

Chapter III Of Alanza Khan and his posterity, down to Siuntz Khan; descending in the seventh degree from Tatar Khan.

Our forefathers made use of a proverb, which says, "When a dog is too well fed, he grows at last so fauzy that he bites his own master." This was effectually verified Khan, who

growing wanton in affluence, forsook the true God to adore idols, which they carried to such an extreme, that when any one has lost a father, a husband, a wife, a child, or in short any other object which was dear to him, he presently made a divinity of it, to whose image he offered up his oblations. It is true, that at first this was not done but in private, but by degrees it became the fashion to practice it publicly. Alanza Khan had two twin-sons, the one called Tatar* (this is from this prince Tatars take their name, and not from the river Tata, as the Mogulls from Mogul), and the other Mogull, or more properly Mung'l, between whom he divided hid dominions, when he drew near his end.

We shall begin at present to say something with regard to Tatar Khan; and if God spares my life, I shall proceed to speak concerning Mogul Khan, or Mung'l Khan. Tatar Khan lived a long time and had his successor after his death his son Bucha Khan. Bucha Khan dying after having reigned likewise a good while, left the scepter to his son Jalanza Khan. After his Jalanza Khan, his son Ettela Khan reigned, after Ettela Khan, Attaisir Khan came to the throne, and was engaged in bloody wars. After his death, his son Orda Khan possessed his dominions a long time in perfect peace, and after his death was succeeded by his son Baydu Khan; who having reigned a great many years, thought fit to make war on the descendants of Mung'l Khan; but dying in the meanwhile, his son found himself engage in so furious war with the princes of the posterity of Mung'l Khan, that he had much ado to extricate himself; because the dominions of the descendants of Mung'l Khan far surpassed his own in power and riches. I shall now treat of Mung'l Khan; and if I live, I shall not fail to return again to the reign of Siuntz Khan.

PART II

Containing the history of the Generations of the Tatars, from Mung'l Khan down to Gengiz Khan; who did not descend in a right line from the princes, successors of Mung'l Khan.