

AL-BURZ: A MOUNTAIN RANGE IN IRAN AND IT'S RELATION WITH BRAHUIS

Waheed Razzaq*

Abstract:

Two things inspired me to write some thing about "Alburz", the name of a mountain range in Iran. First, long ago, when I had been listening and reading about "Alburz" and its relation with Brahuīs, and secondly, the name proposed for the newly research journal of Brahui Department, University of Balochistan by Dr. Hameed Shahwani the former chairman Brahui Department and present Dean of the Faculty of Languages and Literature. To participate in the ceremonies of the second death anniversary of Allama Ayatullah Khomeini and to participate in the International Conference on Palestine in Tehran, Iran I along with eminent scholars Prof. Abdullah Jan Jamaldini, Prof. Muhammad Khan Raisani, (the then Vice Chancellor of the University of Balochistan) Prof. Nadir Qambrani, Agha Mir Naseer Khan Ahmedzai visited Iran in May, 1991, I witnessed this famous "Alburz" mountain first time, from windows of my room in hotel Estighlal, Tehran. Like Chiltan in Quetta we all enjoyed the scene and discussed it time and again. Returning back to Pakistan I again saw the highest peak of Al-Burz, namely "Koh-i-Damawand" from my window seat in the plane and asked my senior accompanies Prof. Jamaldini and Nadir Qambrani to see it. Meanwhile, Prof. Jamaldini during the flight up to Karachi fascinatingly recounted the history of "Koh Damawand" and its relations with famous Iranian ancient characters. Here it is a precise introduction of the mountain for the readers of the journal namely "Al-Burz".

* Waheed Razzaq is M.A Brahui, Brahui researcher and a volunteer of N/WF

There are many schools of thoughts about the origin of the Brahuis. According to one they are descendents of an Irani tribe (living together with Baloch) in the northern mountain region (Al-Burz range) of Iran. They were persecuted and driven out of their land by Sassanian King Nausherwan in 521 AD.

Despite the fact that Brahui is a Proto Dravidian language spoken by Brahuis nowadays in the Central Balochistan, some parts of Sistan-o-Balochistan province of Iran, Helmand Nimruz province of Afghanistan up to Mari province of Turkmenistan, but in the meantime some local historians prominent among them are Mir Gulkhan Naushad, Agha Naseer Ahmedzai and Mir Aqil Khan Mengal claim that the Brahuis are the today's Brahuis who are original inhabitants of this mountain range. The Brahui has derived its recent name Brahui or Brahui from Al-burz or Burz Koh to Burzkohi and later on Brahui. Brahuis or Brahui may not be the Koch but still now Koh-Alburz or Alborz Mountain is familiar among most of them.

REFERENCES:-

1. Ibn-hawkal, Abi Qasim bin Hawkal al-nasabi, "Iran dar surat al-Manshurat dar Maktaba al-hayat, Beirut- Lebanon.
2. Sabir, Abdul Razzaq "Safarnama Iran" published in the Monthly "Tawar" by Tawar publications Quetta December, 1992 p-33-34.
3. www.wikipedia.com/Al-burz.
4. Quddus S.A, "A Tribal Balochistan" Feroz Son (Pvt) Ltd, 1990 Lahore p-31-32.



(Highest peaks of mount Alburz)



Mount Damavand, Iran's tallest mountain is located in Alborz mountain range.

THE ORIGIN OF HARBOI IN THE LIGHT OF HISTORY

Ghulam Farooq Baloch,*

OBJECTIVES.

1. To Search the word Harboi or Arboi on the pages of history.
2. To sketch the Harboi area.
3. To compare the same word with word Brahui.

ABSTRACT

Few years ago I was think that Harboi is a specific place in the eastern mountains of Kalat, but after some time it came in my knowledge that the eastern range of mountains which is layout from north to south called Harboi range or Brahvic range. The word Harboi is an ancient word and it comes in history as it is. According to many people and intellectuals, this is a Persian word, which meaning is every kind of smell, but this meaning never satisfied me. I saw and search the ancient literature about Balochistan, particularly Greek literature of ancient historians, and I successfully achieved my aim. The following article covers the above topic.

INTRODUCTION

The Brahvic range or Harboi range of mountains is the biggest mountainous range of Balochistan with a length of 355 kms and width 100 kms # (Malik Saleh Muhammad Khan Lehri, Balochistan one unit at a time, weekly Bagh-o-Bahar, Quetta, 1955, page-2). This mountain range has many peaks, like Mehr dar near Quetta, Maran near Kalat, Khalifat and many others. Harboi is a place in this range near Kalat. This is a beautiful scenic and Picnic place and is in the control of Ahmad Zai Baloch ex-ruled family of Kalat.

* Assistant Professor (History) Balochistan Study Centre, University of Balochistan, Quetta.

This is a cool place and not good in winter but in the hot summer it is like a paradise. This range is layout from north (Ziarat District) up to the plains of Lasbela District in the south.

Actually this mountain is a wall between east and west. It has only two entries, one is Bolan Pass, started in the West from Kolpur near Quetta and ended at Rind Ali near Sibi. The second Pass is also very famous in history, called Moola Pass. This mountainous range has many valleys, like Quetta, Mastung, Kalat, Soorab, Khuzdar and many others. Many rivers flow in this range like Bolan River, Moola River and others. This range is also full of forests, many kind expensive bushes, and wild life and grazing areas. It is also full of various kind mineral resources. Many peaks of this range are above them 10,000 feet from sea level, and the valleys of this mountain are full of ancient mounds and other kind wonderful archeological sites, as well as beautiful scene and entertainment places. One of the ancient places of world the Mehrgarh is the honor of this range.

HARBOI OR ARBOI IN HISTORY

Word Harboi or Arboi comes in history for a specific place near Kalat, the ex-capital of Balochistan, or for a mountainous range of central Balochistan who given this name to the mountain? Any body does not know. Every person understands it is a Persian word, which meaning is every kind good smell because of various kind bushes. This mountainous range also called Brahvic range and many British authors like H. Pottinger # (Henery Pottinger, Travel in Sindh and Balochistan Indus Publications, Karachi, 1986, Pp-25-39) Charles Masson, A. W, Huges # (A.W, Huges, Country of Balochistan, Indus Publication, Karachi, 1999, reprint, Pp-5-6) described it in their books. The local people also agree to this meaning of mountain. So, it comes to our knowledge that these mountainous ranges have two names. Harboi and Brahvi, but in my opinion this is not fact and neither a Persian word. Till today any body did not feel the need of research on this topic which is present on the pages of history with different meanings. The first time in history Greek Historians Arian and Strebo used this word for a qynasty, tribes and for their river. According to Arian after the departure of Alexander and his troops from Batala they entered into the Arabai dynasty # (Mc. Crindle. Invasion of India by Alexander the Great, Indus Publications, Karachi, 1986, P-21). According

to him the Greek troops reached near a river which called Arabios (Ibid-Pp 21-22). The Arabai tribes moved to their same name mountains after a small fight (Ibid- Pp)

According to Vincent, A. Smith in October 326 B.C Alexander the Great started his Batala and departures his hard and difficult journey. In first phase of his journey he reached near to Arabios River # (V.A. Smith, Ancient History of India, Translated by, Muhammad Jameel-ur-Rehman, Takkh, Lahore, 2001, Pp-122-26). According to him Alexander the Great wanted to punish the Oritai tribes of the area, which were still did not accept the supremacy of him. So in the beginning of his journey he faced these tribes near the Arabios river. When these tribes listened about the knowledge of Greek troops they left to desert and northern mountains. Because they were not agreed to accept the supremacy of Alexander the Great they neither want to fight with invaders. # (Ibid Page-126). Alexander crossed the river and started his operation into Oritai area # (Ibid Page-126)

Ariane and Strebo are two thousand years ancient historians who mentioned the name of the tribes and the area in their books and now they pronounce the name in their own language and skill. No doubt the pronunciation is change then local people and their language, so we use called the area and tribes Arabai and the river, Arabios. Now, it proves that the Arboi or Harboi was in use during the invasion by Greeks, and the listening of this word by the local inhabitants of the area or near the Greeks write and pronounced it in their own linguistic skill.

Comparison The Word Harboi With The Word Brahui

The inhabitants of the area which discussed by Greek historians are the Brahvi tribes from unknown times. May be during Iranian ascham period (558. B.C to 331 B.C) when the Baloch dynasty was in the hands of them, this name has been given by them, but it is not confirmed and prove from any source of knowledge. But it has proved that during the invasion the area was called Arabai or Arboi because of the inhabitants of the area.

Now it creates a question that who were the Arboi or Harboi people? In my opinion they were Brahvi tribes of the area whose are the inhabitants of this mountainous range and the word Brahvi is the change shape of Arboi or Harboi.

The Greeks ruled upon the area for a short period and then the Scythian rulers of India occupied the area after a bloody battle with the Greek ruler of the Greek territory Salyokes Nicotar, and the all Baloch area came into the hands of Indians including the area of Araboi tribes.

After a long journey of 1700 years the area of Harboi became under the control of Qambrani Brahvi family of Baloch nation. After the Greek and Indian invasion the area of Balochistan captured by many other nations, like Sasanids of Iran, Barhamans of Sindh, Arabs, Ghaznavids and Mughals, during this all period the name of Harboi was replaced from history, or may be it is in Indian ancient history but this is not in my knowledge, but when the area of Balochistan came under the rule of Baloch Khanate, then the word Harboi refreshed. And when the British government moved its forward policy towards Balochistan after the death of Naseer Khan the Great, they send many confidential and secret missions towards Balochistan.

The first Britain was Henry Pottinger who entered in Balochistan and introduced the word Harboi into the British text about Balochistan and then changed it into the Brahvi, which is not correct. Many times British use the word Brahvi for all the mountainous range of Harboi, which is also not right. In my opinion the correct word is Harboi or Arboi which is above 2000 years ancient name of the area as well as of the tribes.

Now, this is a natural incident that, this name again refreshed in history by the original inhabitants of the area.

CONCLUSION:

After all this discussion its come on front of us and increas knowledge that now a day word Harboi use for a picnic point near but in very past this word was commonly use for the inhabite Jhalawan cum Lasbela, for their territory and for their river, which my view Porali river. Many other authors and historians also agree name. We have many more arguments to prove it that, the people of Porali's Bank were the inhabitants of Jhalawan (Khuzdar). According very famous archaeologists Ms. Batrice De Cardi, the ruins of Huddit Shehr near the Bank of Porali prove it that the people of Jhalawan (Khuzdar) were occupied the area of Bela before the birth of Chach (Muhammad Saeed Dehwar, Balochistan Ma Qabal Tarikh, National Publishers, Quetta. Pp-110-113). According Ms. Cardi the surface mound of Huddit Shehr give us information about these people which belong to Londo mound, which is situated near the National Highway at the distance of twelve miles in the north of Khuzdar. # (Ibid Pp-110-113). No doubt Londo mound was a big city and stay point situated near an ancient trade and military route. It is true and proved that the invaders destroyed the areas which came under their attack. Ms. Cardi says that the Londo culture alive up to the end of Sasanids of Iran # (Ibid Pp-110-113).

So, in the end of the topic it proves that the word Harboi or Haroi is the ancient name of the all area of Jhalawan which was connected with the south, with the borders of Oritai dynasty (Lasbela). This all dynasty came into the hands of Arboi tribes. After a long time this word again came into history, and British writers and spies changed it into the word of Harboi very cleverly. And also they try to use it against the unification of Baloch nation.

Baloch is a nation which based on many tribal confederations and unifications like Rinds, Hots, Nahrois, Dehwars, Jams, Saraikies. And among them Harboi confederacy was also the part of Baloch nation from ancient time.

This topic deeply needed more and wide research work and I think this topic will create new and blasting theories in the field of history and I think it can find in the archaeological sites of the area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. Dehwar Muhammad Saeed Malik, Balochistan, Ma-Qabal-e-Tareekh, Rubi Publishers, Quetta.
2. Huges, A.W, The Country of Balochistan, Translated by: Prof M. Anwar Rooman, Indus Publications, Karachi, 1986.
3. Lehri, Saleh Mohammad, Malik, Balochistan One Unit Say Pehlay, Weekly Bagh-o-Bahar, Quetta, 1952.
4. Mc Crindle, Invasion of India by Alexander the Great, Indus Publications, Karachi, 1986.
5. Pottinger, Henry, Travel in Sindh and Balochistan, Indus Publications, Karachi, 1986.
6. Smith, A. Vincent, Qadeem Tarikh-e-Hind, Translated by: Muhammad Jameel-ur-Rehman, Takhleeqat, Lahore, 2001.