

SOUTH-EASTERN ARMENIA DURING THE ATTACKS OF SELJUK-TURKISH TRIBES (up to 1071)

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In 1016 Seljuk-Turks attacked Armenia for the first time, encroaching upon the borders of the kingdom of Vaspurakan. Davit, the Armenian king of Vaspurakan, the son of Senekerim Artsruni, “collected all his army of noblemen against the Turks, and Arian Armenian troops fought a fierce battle”. He attacked Turks courageously, and a number of foreign nations died. But Armenians were subjected to extraordinary arrow attacks¹.

In 1021, because of the Turkish threat, the king Senekerim Artsruni was forced to hand in the regions under his control to Byzantine Emperor Vasil II (976–1025). Thus, together with his 14 thousand noblemen and their families he moved to the vice-regency of Sebastian Lesser Armenia, which was under Byzantine control. The overwhelming majority of the population in the region were Armenians. This vice-regency later joined the see of Cappadocia. According to the Byzantine historian Ioannes Scylitzes (second half of XI century), Senekerim Artsruni² was appointed the military leader of Cappadocia, after his death in 1025 his elder son Davit succeeded him³. Beginning from 1021, the south-western provinces of Armenia, being under Byzantine control, were under constant attacks by the Turk-Seljuks. The Arab historian ibn al-Athir wrote that in 1029 the Seljuks

¹ See **Մատթեոս Ուռհայեցի**, Ժամանակագրություն, Վաղարշապատ, 1898, էջ 46–47:

² See **Հովհաննես Սկիլիցես**, Թարգմանություն բնագրից, առաջաբան և ծանոթագրություններ Հր. Բարթիկյանի, Ե., 1979, էջ 86:

³ See **Մատթեոս Ուռհայեցի**, էջ 55: With Senekerim Artsruni in 1021 many peasants migrated to Sebastia (Սմբատայ Սպարապետի Տարեգիրք, Վենետիկ, 1956, էջ 24):

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(Oghus) attacked the Armenian territory (Bilad al Arman), plundered and captured innocent civilians⁴". The Byzantine Emperor Romanos III (1028–134) did not support Armenia in their unequal fight against the Seljuk-Turks. Moreover, the Artsrunis' emigration in 1021 was due to the Byzantine Emperor's political insidiousness against the kingdom of Vaspurakan⁵. Nevertheless, the overwhelming majority of the Armenian population in Vaspurakan and nearby regions did not abandon the motherland. Led by the descendants from the Artsrunis' dynasty they defended their country from the hordes of Seljuk-Turks. The Armenian Apostolic Church also stayed in the homeland, fighting the foreign violence. In 1042, the Armenian warriors from Vaspurakan fought an unequal battle against the Turkish army of 15000 and defeated them forcing to escape⁶. Afterwards, the military of Vaspurakan again defended their power from the Seljuk-Turks⁷.

The Pechenegs and other nomadic Turkish speaking tribes threatened Byzantium from the west. As the historian Michael Attaliates, witnessing the events, writes, "Their terror was so immense that everybody thought the enemy units were absolutely invincible. The common belief was that there was not a path for salvation. The whole population of Europe thought of emigrating⁸".

Suffering from the annual Seljuk-Turkish raids of plunder from 1025 to 1028 the Byzantine army was forced to retreat to castles, leaving the population of the eastern provinces without protection from the constant attacks of the Turkish tribes⁹. The Emperor Constantine (1025–1028) did not pay due attention to the protection of South-Western Armenia which was then under his control. Even though the governor of Vaspurakan Nickepor Komnenos in the 1020s tried to counterattack the Muslim tribes, he never succeeded as his "fragile" soldiers disgracefully fled, meanwhile telling others not to flee so shamelessly but to fight

⁴ **Իրն-ալ-Ասիր**, Թարգմանություն բնագրից, առաջաբան և ծանոթագրություններ Ա. Տեր-Ղևոնդյանի, Ե., 1981, էջ 209:

⁵ **Toumanoff C.**, Studies in Christian Caucasian History. Georgetown University press, 1963, p. 200.

⁶ **Մատթեոս Ուտհայեցի**, էջ 91–92:

⁷ **Թովմա Արծրունի և Անանուն**, Պատմություն տանն Արծրունեաց, քննական բնագիրը, առաջաբանը և ծանոթագրությունները Մ. Դարբինյան-Մելիքյանի, Ե., 2006, էջ 341:

⁸ **Միքայել Ատտալիատես**, Պատմություն, այսուհետև՝ Ատտալիատես, Թարգմանություն բնագրից, ծանոթագրությունները Հր. Բարթիկյանի, Ե., 2015, էջ 341:

⁹ **Honigmann E.**, Die Ostgrenze Des Byzantinischen Reiches von 363 bis 1071, Bruxelles, 1935.

their adversaries¹⁰, i.e. Turks with all their courage. And when Nickepor Komnenos managed to stop the retreat of his army which was fighting against the Seljuks, the Emperor, being very dissatisfied with his decision, dismissed him in 1025. Nickepor Komnenos was tried on false charges and blinded. His eight companions-in arms were blinded as well.

Byzantium was again unable to protect South-Western Armenia in 1030, when the Oghuz-Turks having plundered Diarbakir, invaded into southern Armenia ravaging and plundering it¹¹. In 1034 the Armenian-Byzantine army led by the Armenian military commander Gandzi freed the city of Berkri in Vaspurakan. Nevertheless, the Seljuks recruiting extra forces conquered Berkri, killing Gandzi¹².

Taking advantage of the defenseless situation of Armenia the Seljuk-Turks in 1034 continued their attacks on Vaspurakan and neighboring regions. In the same year, numerous Muslim pilgrims from Khorasan, Tabaristan, Atrapatakan invaded Vaspurakan. The Armenians of Sasun, Vostan and Khlat counterattacked them¹³. According to Lastivertsi (Aristakes of Lastiver), the governor of Vaspurakan Kavasilias "conquering Berkri, with a huge army, located his cavalry to defend the city¹⁴". However, Khlat, Baghesh and Nprkert remained under the rule of the Mervanian emirs. The latter would also attack the neighboring Armenian provinces. According to Ibn al-Athir in 1035 Mervanian Nasr-al-Daula gathered an army to attack Sasun, but taking into account the might of the people from Sasun he gave up this idea "as they (the people of Sasun) had inaccessible fortresses, narrow gorges, and were close to the Byzantines. Nasr fearing that they would ask for help signed a treaty of peace¹⁵". During his rule (1012–1062), he preferred to preserve peace. His descendants were unable to protect the country from the Oghuz-Turkmens' ravaging invasions.

In June 1048, Tughril Beg Sultan's brother, Ibrahim Yannal, accompanied by the Oghuz army, invaded Armenia, reaching the cities of Manzikert (Manazkert), Karin, and supported by Abkhazians, they defeated the Byzantine army. During

¹⁰ Հովհաննես Սկիլիցես, էջ 97–98: See also Պատմութիւն Արիստակիսի Լաստիվերտ-
ցոյ (there on Արիստակես Լաստիվերտցի), աշխատասիր. Կ. Յուզբաշյանի, Ե., 1963, էջ 41:

¹¹ Իբնալ-Ասիր, էջ 212:

¹² Մատթէոս Ուռհայեցի, էջ 74:

¹³ Իբն ալ-Ասիր, էջ 212:

¹⁴ Արիստակես Լաստիվերտցի, էջ 48

¹⁵ Իբն ալ-Ասիր, էջ 213:

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this invasion, the Turks entered the Minor Asian territories, “plundering, ravaging everything, capturing more than 100000 people¹⁶”.

Aristakes Lastivertsi also states this, mentioning that according to the Armenian calendar, in the year of 497 (1048) the Turkish army raided the provinces of Basen, Karin, “from the West up to the province of Khaghtyac, from the North to Sper, thereon up to Tayots and Arsharunaets, from the South to Taron, to the province of Hashten and to the woods of Khordzen¹⁷”, breaking the Christians’ resistance. The Seljuk-Turks also invaded into other Armenian provinces. In 1045 they broke into Sophene (Tsopk), murdering thousands in a bloodbath in the provinces of Paghin and Tlmukh. Thereon attacking Archesh, they defeated the Byzantine army¹⁸.

In 1045, after the eradication of the Bagratuni kingdom, the Emperor Constantine IX Monomakh (1042–1055) tried to displace the Armenian Ministers and their armies from their country, to keep them in his subjection¹⁹, and to use them in the battles with his enemies. The Emperor attempted to win the Seljuks over, preventing their attacks on his territories. The Arab literary man Abu’l-Fidain in his chronology notes that in 1049, the Byzantine Emperor sent lavish gifts to Tughril Beg Sultan, asking for cease-fire, then a mutual agreement ensued. The Emperor built a Mosque in Constantinople, and there in the name of Tughril Beg a prayer (Khutbah) was made²⁰. Byzantium was surrounded by Turkish-speaking tribes on the east and west²¹. Grigor the Magistros Pahlavuni, who was appointed the Duke of Mesopotamia, was to defend the Byzantine borders. However, he also defended Southern Armenia. It is worth mentioning that Grigor the Magistros considered himself not only the ruler of “Mesopotamia, but also of Vaspurakan, Taron, Manzikert (Manazkert), Archish, Berkri²²”. In 1048, when the Seljuk army invaded into the provinces of Basen and Karin,

¹⁶ Իբն ալ-Ասիր, էջ 214:

¹⁷ Արիստակես Լաստիվերտցի, էջ 67:

¹⁸ Մատթեոս Ուռհայեցի, էջ 99:

¹⁹ Михаил Пселл. Хронография. Перевод и примечания Я. Любарского, М., 1978, с. 126.

²⁰ Արաբական աղբյուրները Հայաստանի և հարևան երկրների մասին, կազմեց Հ. Նալբանդյան, Ե., 1965, էջ 215:

²¹ Гордлевский В. Государство сельджукидов Малой Азии. Избранные сочинения, т. I, М., 1960, с. 49, Բոռնազյան Ս., Հայաստանը և սելջուկները XI-XII դդ., Ե., 1980, էջ 56-59:

²² Գրիգոր Մագիստրոսի թղթերը, Ալեքսանդրապոլ, 1910, էջ 213:

breaking the resistance of the Byzantines²³, accompanied by Armenians Grigor the Magistros, “the Armenian powerful ruler who was honored with the Master’s degree²⁴”, came to their aid. However, the Seljuk-Turks were able to conquer the province of Mananagh in Upper Armenia. Even though the Armenian warriors burning with wine and anger joined, and the young men fought with courage, nevertheless, from all sides the enemy besieged them²⁵”. The Turkish-Seljuk army broke into the province of Karin as well, ravaging the city of Artsn and committing large-scale massacres. Churches were destroyed, sanctities were blasphemed and more than 150 vicars were killed²⁶.

Although in 1048, on the bank of the Mets Zab, Katakalon Kekavmenos, the appointed governor of Ani and Ibera, and the governor of Vaspurakan Aaron Bulgar defeated the Turks, however, considering the enemy’s preponderant army, they stopped fighting²⁷.

In Southern Armenia, the Seljuk-Turks were counterattacked not only by the Tornikyan-Mamikonyans from Sasun, Taron, Manizkert (Manazkert), Sophene (Tsopk) but also by the independent Artsruni-Khenedekians from Lake Van. The Tornikyans of Sasun and the Artsrunis of Vaspurakan were allies. Their alliance had deep roots dating back to the times of the kingdom of Vaspurakan. In a manuscript, it was mentioned that “the Senekerimyans (the Artsrunis) had the provinces of Sasun and Khuyt under their control²⁸”.

During the Seljuk invasions, Taron was ruled by Theodoros, the son of Aharon “was the governor of the province²⁹”. The rebel regiment from Turkey (Turkistan) obeyed him, thus, the Seljuk-Turkish troops demanded that Teodoros hand the rebels over as the latter were seen as insurgents. Otherwise, they threatened to capture the whole population of Taron. Theodoros, however, refused to meet their demand, after which the Seljuks attacked Taron. The

²³ Հովհաննես Սկիլիցես, էջ 158–161:

²⁴ Արիստակես Լաստիվերոսի, էջ 80: See also Մատթեոս Ուռհայեցի, էջ 107:

²⁵ Ibid, p. 71.

²⁶ Ibid, p. 79.

²⁷ Հովհաննես Սկիլիցես, էջ 158–159:

²⁸ Յուդակ ձեռագրաց Մշոյ Ս. Առաքելոց - Թարգմանչաց վանքի եւ շրջակայից, Երուսաղէմ, 1967, էջ 197:

²⁹ Արիստակես Լաստիվերոսի, էջ 96:

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historian writes, “They fought with each other twice and thrice with huge courage.” Theodoros was seriously injured and “died in a short while³⁰”.

The Armenian rulers tried to protect their identity in the province of Paghnatun (Paghin) in Sophene (Tsopk) not only from Seljuk-Turks but also from the Byzantine. In 1052, the plotters spoke ill to the Emperor Constantine IX Monomakh about “the glorious Armenian rulers”, who did not wish to obey him. Led by the military chief Peros the Emperor sent an army to Paghnatun. The province was subjected to barbarities “and the ruler was overthrown”. The Byzantine wanted to arrest the great rulers Harpik, Davit, Levon, Constantine and others. However, they fortified their positions in the castles, remaining invincible³¹.

Byzantium continued its theological treacheries against the Church of Armenia, attempting to make the Armenians convert to Orthodox Christianity displacing “all Armenian courageous rulers and commanders from Armenia, settling them among the Greek”, writes Matthew of Edessa (Matteos Urhayetsi)³². The Armenian Apostolic church was the main powerful stronghold for the nation's independence, spiritual power and unity, thus the Empire moved the official residence of the Catholicos from Ani. The Armenian Catholicos Petros Getadardz was forced to go to Atom and Abusahl Artsrunis in Sebastia³³, where he passed away in 1059.

Southwestern Armenia, despite having been subjected to many calamities under the rule of Tughril Beg (1038–1063), was not however conquered finally. Abu'l-Fida confirms that in 1055 Tughril subjugated Atrapatakan, then “invaded into Armenia and besieged Manzikert (Manazkert), but was unable to conquer it³⁴”. Matthew of Edessa (Matteos Urhayetsi) in his turn states that Tughril managed to conquer the city of Berkri, then besiege Archesh, and “a fierce battle which lasted eight days was launched to conquer the city³⁵”. Under the pressure of the enemy's superior army, the defenders of the city had to obey the tyrant. Matthew of Edessa (Matteos Urhayetsi) confirms that in 1055 Tughril's army

³⁰ Արիստակես Լաստիվերոսի, էջ 96:

³¹ Մատթեոս Ուռհայեցի, էջ 109–110:

³² Ibid, p. 136.

³³ Հաւաքումն Պատմութեան Վարդանայ Վարդապետի, Վենետիկ, 1862, էջ 98:

³⁴ Արաբական աղբյուրներ, էջ 215: See also Իբն ալ-Ասիր, էջ 214–215:

³⁵ Մատթեոս Ուռհայեցի, էջ 118:

attempted to conquer Manizkert (Manazkert). After days of fighting, he was unable to break the resistance of the residents of the city and “with great disgrace” he left it³⁶.

Aristakes Lastivertsi (Aristakes of Lastiver) writes that in 1054 Tughril “gathering a huge army with many horses, carriages and with great determination” besieged Manizkert (Manazkert), getting to “the hill called Sim³⁷” (in Sasun) but was defeated by the people of Sasun. Afterwards Seljuk-Turks invaded into the province of Sophene (Tsopk), raiding into Khordzean, Handzit. Subsequently the latter broke into the provinces of Tercan (Derjan), Yekeghyats, Tayk but were defeated in Baydberd after which they invaded Vanand. The valiant princes from the court of Gagik Abasyan, the king of Kars, attacked them in this province and massacred many³⁸. Then the Seljuk-Turks moved to the northern shore of Lake Van to the city of Artske, slaughtering the residents of the city, they besieged Karin, the province of Mananagh without facing serious resistance. As the historian in his doleful work writes, “there were neither rulers nor leaders who would encourage, dare people, inspire them to fight with the enemy, give them strength and courage”. Armenians were abandoned, shaken, and massacred. The enemy also treated the clergymen with ruthlessness torturing and skinning them³⁹.

In 1057 Seljuk-Turks raided into the province of Daranagh (Kemah) in Upper Armenia, afterwards they attempted to conquer the province of Yekeghyats the residents of which, having learnt about it, “gathered a great army with archers and besieged the gorge of the road” and fought against them six months, thus the enemy was forced to retreat to the province of Khordzyan. Here the Armenians fortified their position in the village of Yeghnut and fought heroically, setting free many captives⁴⁰.

Having been defeated by the Armenians, Seljuk-Turks invaded the province of Taron. However, the people of Sasun came down from the mountains and killed them, “they defeated and massacred all of them⁴¹”.

³⁶ Մատթեոս Ուռհայեցի, էջ 122:

³⁷ Արիստակես Լաստիվերտցի, էջ 85:

³⁸ Ibid, p. 88.

³⁹ Ibid, pp. 109–110.

⁴⁰ Ibid, p. 117.

⁴¹ Ibid, p. 118.

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Independent Armenian units were preserved in the neighboring regions of Lake Van and in the mountainous regions of **Moxoene** (Moks). The minor government of the Artsrunis is remembered to have come from Amko. The Amyuk castle, situated in the province of Arberan in Vaspurakan, was distinguished by its defensive capacities. The Artsrunis fortified their position on Lim island of Lake Van specifically in the unreachable cape lying south of the lake. There they were able to confront the enemy's attacks. In the XI century Abdlmseh Artsruni⁴² was mentioned as the "governor, ruler, overseer" of the Amyuk castle. He was succeeded by "the great ruler Khedenek, descending from the dynasty of the Artsrunis". Khedenek's successor was his son Tornik I who was a powerful man, a courageous warrior" and a military leader. Tornik's son, "a great ruler" Tadeos Artsruni was also known as an excellent warrior". "These courageous descendants of the Artsrunis would not permit the enemies to attack their provinces⁴³". They confronted the enemies in the province of Moks (Moxoene) which once was a mountainous part of the Artsruni kingdom. It was there in the village of Atichans that Tornik I "along with many men" fell victim⁴⁴ in one of the many battles with the Seljuk-Turks.

The Artsrunis managed to keep their power in the vice-regency of Sebastia as well. In 1059, the Seljuk-Turks attacked the city of Sebastia which was not walled in. Thus, being unable to fight properly, Atom and Abusahl Artsrunis had to leave the city. They fortified their position in the fortress of Khavatanek which was lying in the south-west of Sebastia. There were "a lot of other noblemen⁴⁵" with the Artsrunis.

Matthew of Edessa (Urhayetsi) writes that in the beginning the Seljuk-Turks did not dare to invade Sebastia "as seeing the multitude of churches" they thought them to be "war camps" but later understanding that they broke into the city slaughtering innocent civilians mercilessly, capturing them as well, sharing the "enormous wealth of gold, silver, gems and pearls as the place belonged to the Armenian kings", namely to the Senekerim-Artsrunis⁴⁶. In the beginning of spring, the Turks broke into the province of Taron and camped in the vicinity of

⁴² Թովմա Արծրունի և Անանուն, էջ 339:

⁴³ Ibid, p. 341.

⁴⁴ Ibid, p. 339.

⁴⁵ Մատթէոս Ուռհայեցի, էջ 133:

⁴⁶ Ibid, pp. 128–129.

Sasun, on the slope of Taurus. Learning about the enemy's invasion, "the courageous leader" Tornik Mamikonyan, the son of Mushegh "gathered all the people of Sasun" and attacked the enemy. A fierce battle took place. Tornik with his regiment attacked on the enemy's left flank "and tore them to pieces gaining a triumphant victory." Before the battle, he asked for help from the church of St. Karapet (Glak) in Taron. Afterwards with a united courageous attack, the Armenians defeated the Turks, seizing a great amount of plunder, setting free many captives, "who were forced to serve the malicious nation"⁴⁷.

In 1059 Sultan Tughril arrived in Baghdad, where the Arab emirs presented themselves to pledge their obedience⁴⁸. Moreover the Caliph of Baghdad proclaimed Tughril to be "the Sultan of the East and West"⁴⁹. Tughril, in this way, tried to consolidate the Muslim world more closely. Thus, in 1063, he revisited Baghdad⁵⁰. In the same year, Tughril's successor Alp Arslan, in the first year of his enthronement accompanied by envoys went to Baghdad, where, according to Ibn al-Athir, "The Caliph held a ceremonial reception and met with the ambassadors in order to proclaim Alp Arslan as Sultan. He presented him with estimable clothes in the presence of people." While Alp Arslan, on his part, pledged loyalty to the Caliph⁵¹.

In 1063, the Sultan assured the Caliph that he intended to continue the war against Byzantium – once rather a powerful adversary of the caliphate. Entering into this alliance, Alp Arslan united all the Muslim tribes and from his residence in the city of Rey⁵² went to the city of Marand in Atrapatakan. There, one of the emirs of Turkmens joined him with his tribe. Afterwards with a joint army they headed for the city of Nakhchivan to make new attacks on Armenia and Georgia⁵³. Marmashen, Akhikalak, Ani and other regions fought back. During these events as an Arab literary man testifies, "The Caliph's message from Baghdad was sent to Alp Arslan, where he praised him and prayed for him"⁵⁴.

⁴⁷ Ibid, pp. 130–131.

⁴⁸ See **Садрад-дин Алиал Хусайни**. Сообщения о сельджукском государстве, М., 1980, с. 36 (there on Садрад-дин Алиал Хусайни).

⁴⁹ Ibid, p. 38.

⁵⁰ See **Իբն ալ-Ասիր**, p. 217.

⁵¹ See Ibid.

⁵² The ruins of Rey city are located on the south-eastern outskirts of Tehran.

⁵³ **Իբն ալ-Ասիր**, էջ 217–218:

⁵⁴ Ibid, p. 220.

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In order to counterattack the Seljuk-Turks and prevent their advancement, the Emperor of Byzantium Constantine IX Ghukas “gathered all Greeks and Armenians⁵⁵”. However, he failed to prevent the Turkish offensive.

In 1067, the Turk-Seljuks also conquered the city of Caesarea, “destroying and burning the city entirely”, writes Ioannes Scylitzes⁵⁶. According to the same source, Romanos IV Diogenes who reigned in the same year, having won many battles with the Turks (Pechenegs) in the west, was unable to improve the fighting efficiency of his army in the east. As the Greek historian writes, “His multinational mercenaries were cowardly and craven”, were not united, whereas the Turks fighting against them “were more persistent and greatly experienced”. They would trap the Byzantine army by ambush attack and defeat them⁵⁷. So as to counterattack the Turks, the Emperor brought his troops to Sebastia. As the Turks had already raided Cilicia, the Emperor sent there a military unit to join the regiment of Khacahtur who was of Armenian origin. “The latter was a brave man who on many occasions had shown his courage⁵⁸”. He was to join the Armenian army situated in the mountainous regions of Seleucia in Cilicia, thus defending the province of Antioch from the Turks.

The Emperor also sent an army to support the defenders of the city of Khlat. Khlat was defended by the mercenary military units, consisting of Turks, Franks and other nations⁵⁹. According to Urhayetsi, the army which was sent to Khlat, consisted of 30 thousand soldiers⁶⁰. The Byzantine troops fought with the Turks in other areas as well. Thus, the Emperor’s military forces were dispersed. Learning about that “Alp Arslan attacked the Roman troops”. Romanos IV Diogenes prepared his troops for the fight⁶¹. He led his army to Manizkert (Manazkert) and conquered it⁶². The next day, however, the Turks re-conquered the city. The Emperor again sent an army. The Armenian governor of Karin, Vasiliak led a part of the army. He was able to throw out the enemy⁶³. According

⁵⁵ Մատթեոս Ուռհայեցի, էջ 151:

⁵⁶ Սկիլիցես, էջ 216:

⁵⁷ Ibid, pp. 221, 226.

⁵⁸ Ատտալիանես, էջ 72:

⁵⁹ Սկիլիցես, էջ 236–237: See also Ատտալիանես, էջ 78:

⁶⁰ Մատթեոս Ուռհայեցի, էջ 200:

⁶¹ Ibid, pp. 200–201.

⁶² Ատտալիանես, էջ 80:

⁶³ Ibid, p. 82.

to a presumption, before the battle Romanos IV Diogenes “had some reasons to doubt the military efficiency and loyalty of mercenary Turks and Armenians⁶⁴”. However, they could not be treated in the same way. The Armenians, who shared the same religion with the Byzantine tried to support the defense of their country from the bloodthirsty enemy. Whereas the heterodox Turkish mercenaries were very far from understanding the idea of protecting Christian nations and their countries. Being mercenaries, they did not give up their inclination of plundering, thus at a decisive moment they joined the Seljuk-Turkish side, to avoid the hostility of their kindred with whom they shared the Muslim faith. In S. Bornazyan’s opinion the Seljuk-Turks “seemed to lack the necessary military tools and equipment⁶⁵”. In the meantime, the testimonies of the Armenian and foreign literary men state the contrary. According to Urhayetsi, in 1070 the Seljuks destroyed the wall of the city of Urha with the help of battering rams⁶⁶. Moreover, Attaliates writes that in 1071 the Turks used “city destroying machinery” battering rams against Manizkert (Manazkert), it was impossible “to withstand the blows of boulders⁶⁷”. Other literary-men also confirm that Turks used battering rams during the battles⁶⁸.

The presumption that in 1070 the Turks invading into Asia Minor targeted Egypt not Byzantium⁶⁹ seems unconvincing. The fertile provinces of Asia Minor always seemed appealing for the nomadic, plunder seeking Seljuk tribes, inhabiting the deserts. In fact, in the beginning of 1064 Alp Arslan attacked Armenia “trying to deal Byzantium a mortal blow right in Asia Minor⁷⁰”. The conquest of these provinces was realized under the flag of Islamic Holy War. Thus, it was not contingent at all that the Caliph of Baghdad in a special letter sent his congratulations to Alp Arslan on his victory over Romanos IV Diogenes in Manizkert (Manazkert), in 1071⁷¹. It is quite obvious that the war wouldn't be

⁶⁴ Քոռնազյան Ս., op. cit., p. 153.

⁶⁵ Ibid, p. 130.

⁶⁶ Մատթեոս Ուռհայեցի, էջ 196:

⁶⁷ Ատտալիատես, էջ 24:

⁶⁸ Արիստակես Լաստիվերոսի, էջ 91, and others.

⁶⁹ Cahen C., La campagne de Mantzikert. « Byzantine », IX, 1934, p. 623. See also Քոռնազյան Ս., op. cit., p. 139:

⁷⁰ Մանանդյան Հ., Երկեր, Գ, Ե., 1977, էջ 56-57:

⁷¹ Садрад-дин Алиал Хусайни, op. cit., p. 41-42.

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unleashed against Muslim Egyptians who inhabited the distant deserts, and would be condemned by the Muslim world.

In 1070, the Seljuk-Turkish Sultan Alp Arslan invaded Byzantium with an enormous army⁷². Turks made attacks on different locations, misleading the Byzantine, forcing them to disperse the Christian troops. In 1071, the Byzantine army suffered an utter defeat in Manizkert (Manazkert), which was also due to “the Byzantine conquest of Armenia”⁷³. Misleading the rival, Alp Arslan pretended to be peaceable. Even after the victory in Manizkert (Manazkert) he did not hesitate to assure the Emperor Romanos IV Diogenes that “thereon the Turks would never raid into the borders of the Roman Empire”⁷⁴. “Whereas after the victory over Byzantine in 1071 in Armenia Manizkert (Manazkert) the borders of Asia Minor opened widely for the Turks. “Once a very thriving region, it became a cemetery for the peoples, science and arts.”⁷⁵

Under the merciless rule of the Seljuk-Turks, the Armenians were able not to undergo assimilation, to preserve their spiritual-moral values, due to their religious spirit and their devotion to the Christian faith they were not drowned in the Muslim sea and kept their language and culture, their traditional worldview and national identity.

ՀԱՐԱՎ-ԱՐԵՎՄՏՅԱՆ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԸ XI Դ. ՍԵԼՋՈՒԿ- ԹՈՒՐԲԱԿԱՆ ՑԵՂԵՐԻ ՀԱՐՁԱԿՈՒՄՆԵՐԻ ԺԱՄԱՆԱԿ (մինչև 1071 թ.)

ՎԱՐԴԱՆՅԱՆ Վ.

Ամփոփում

1016 թ. սկսած սելջուկ-թուրքերի հարձակումները Հայաստանի վրա պարբերական բնույթ էին կրում: Վասպուրականի թագավոր Սենեքերիմ Արծրունին և ազնվականության մի մասը թուրքական սպառնալիքի պատճառով ստիպված

⁷² Михаил Пселл, р. 182. Ատտալիատես, էջ 85–86:

⁷³ Toumanoff С., The Background of Manzikert (“Proceedings of the XIII International Congress of Byzantine Studies.” Oxford, 1966, p. 426).

⁷⁴ Հովհաննես Սկիլիցես, էջ 243:

⁷⁵ Цибухский В. Античные географические названия в современной Турции («Топонимика Востока», М., 1962, с. 26).

էին իրենց ենթակա տարածքները հանձնել Բյուզանդիային, որն ի զորու չեղավ պաշտպանել հարավ-արևմտյան Հայաստանը և դեռ ավելին՝ դուրս բերեց երկրից զինական ուժերը: Սասունի, ի դեմս Թոռնիկ Մամիկոնյանի՝ Վասպուրականի, Տարոնի, Ծովքի, Բարձր Հայքի և այլ վայրերի հայերն այնուամենայնիվ կարողանում են պատշաճ հակահարված տալ թշնամուն:

Մանազկերտի ճակատամարտում Բյուզանդիայի դեմ տարած հաղթանակից հետո (1071 թ.) Փոքր Ասիայի դռները լայնորեն բացվեցին թուրքերի առջև, և Արևմտյան Հայաստանի վիճակը վատթարացավ:

ЮГО-ЗАПАДНАЯ АРМЕНИЯ В ПЕРИОД НАБЕГОВ СЕЛЬДЖУКСКО-ТУРЕЦКИХ ПЛЕМЕН В XI В. (до 1071 г.)

ВАРДАНЯН В.

Резюме

Начиная с 1016 г. сельджукско-турецкие племена совершали набеги на Армению. В создавшихся тяжелых условиях васпураканский царь Сенекерим Арцруни и часть знати вынуждены были передать свои владения Византийской империи, которая не защищала Армению от турецких нашествий и выводила оттуда боеспособные силы. Оставшиеся на родине армянские князья и население оказали сопротивление сельджукам-туркам в Сасуне (во главе с Торником Мамиконяном), в Васпуракане, Тароне, Цопке (Софене), в Великой Армении и других землях. Однако после того, как Византия потерпела поражение при Маназкертте (1071 г.), положение Западной Армении резко ухудшилось.