

countries with which they desire to have commerce. Next they reached NAJA,¹ tributary to Thatháh. Here they have wine, figs, and black meddlars, and a kind of wood which fire will not burn. The Christians carry this wood away, believing that Christ was crucified upon it. Next they came to the BAJNAK,² a people with beards and mustachios, and went twenty-two days through their territory which extended north to the confines of the SLAVES. Next to the JIKIL, a people who keep no cattle; they marry their daughters and sisters without regard to unlawful affinities, and are subject to the Turks. They have a herb called *Kalkan* which they boil with their meat.³ Bezoars are found here, and malignant serpents haunt the country in the beginning of winter. Their houses are of wood and clay. Then to the BAGHRAJ, whose king is descended from 'Ali, and who are very skilful in the manufacture of arms.⁴ Next to TOBBAT, and travelled forty days therein. There was a great city there built of reeds and a temple made of ox leather covered with varnish. There is also an idol made of the horns of musk oxen.⁵ Next they came to KIMAK, where the houses are of the skins of beasts, and there are vines with grapes which are half black and half white. There is also a stone here with which they produce rain as often as they will.⁶ Gold is found on the surface, and diamonds are disclosed by the rivers. They have no king nor temple. They venerate greatly those who attain eighty years without being ill. The travellers were thirty-five days among them.⁷ Then they came to the GHUZ, whose city is of stone,

¹ Or *Baja*.

² On the three preceding peoples or countries, *Harkah*, *Thatháh*, and *Naja*, I can throw no light. The *Bajnak* are the Pechinegs, or Πατρίνακται of the Greeks, much discoursed of by Constantine Porphyrogenitus, who evidently stood in great fear of them, in his book *De Administrando Imperio*. In his time they were on the Dnieper and Dniester, but he tells us that fifty years before they had been driven from their original seats on the *Atil* and *Geech* (Wolga and Iaic) by the *Uz* (or Ghuz) and Khazars. Their original settlement is described by an Arab writer as having on the north Kipchak, to the south the Khazars, to the east the Ghuz, to the west the Slaves (*Const. Porph. in Banduri Imper. Orientale*, vol. i; *Defrémery, Fragments de Geographes*, etc., in *Jour. As.*, ser. iv, tom. xiii, 466; *Masudi, Prairies d'Or*, i, 262).

³ *Kalank* in Pers. is the kitchen herb *purslain*. The *Ashkal*, *Szekely* or *Siculi*, no doubt the same as these *Jikil*, are mentioned in the extracts by Defrémery just quoted (p. 473), as being to the south of the *Majgars* or *Majars*, who again were south of the *Bajnaks*.

⁴ Qu. Georgians? (whose kings were *Bagratidæ*); or Bulgarians? (of the Wolga).

⁵ Some region of Siberia?

⁶ On the *rain-stone* used by the Turk and Tartar tribes to conjure rain, and still known among the *Kalmaks*, see one of Quatremère's long but interesting notes on *Rashiduddin*, pp. 428 *seqq.*; also *Hammer's Golden Horde*, pp. 42 and 436. This stone was called by the Turks *Jadah* (Pers. *Yadah*). Is this the origin of our *Jade-stone*? and is it connected with the (Pers.) word *Jádú*, conjuring, in common use in India?

⁷ The *Kimaks* are represented by Edrisi as the greatest of the Turk (or Tartar) nations. They had the *Taghazghaz* to the south, the *Khiziljis*