

*suk, stand for *čak*.¹ The entire speculation is deplorable, and we are even expected "to allow for a change the word may have undergone from the original meaning within the last two thousand years"; but there is no trace of evidence that the Osmanli word has existed that length of time, neither can it be reasonably admitted that the significance of a word can change from "pea" to "alfalfa." The universal term in Central Asia for alfalfa is *bidā*² or *bēdā*,³ Djagatai *bidä*. This word means simply "fodder, clover, hay."⁴ According to TOMASCHEK,⁵ this word is of Iranian origin (Persian *beda*). It is found also in Sariqolī, a Pamir dialect.⁶ This would indicate very well that the Persians (and it could hardly be expected otherwise) disseminated the alfalfa to Turkistan.

According to VÁMBERY,⁷ alfalfa appears to have been indigenous among the Turks from all times; this opinion, however, is only based on linguistic evidence, which is not convincing: a genuine Turkish name exists in Djagatai *jonuška* (read *yonučka*) and Osmanli *yondza*⁸ (add Kasak-Kirgiz *yonurčka*), which simply means "green fodder, clover." Now, these dialects represent such recent forms of Turkish speech, that so far-reaching a conclusion cannot be based on them. As far as I know, in the older Turkish languages no word for alfalfa has as yet been found.

A Sanskrit 塞鼻力迦 *sai-pi-li-k'ie*, *sak-bi-lik-kya, for the designation of *mu-su*, is indicated by Li Ši-čen,⁹ who states that this is the word for *mu-su* used in the *Kin kwan min kin* 金光明經 (Suvarṇaprabhāsa-sūtra). This is somewhat surprising, in view of the fact that there is no Sanskrit word for this plant known to us;¹⁰ and there can be no doubt that the latter was introduced into India from Iran in comparatively recent times. BRETSCHNEIDER's suggestion,¹¹ that in

¹ Final *k* in transcriptions never answers to a final *r*, but only to *k*, *g*, or *x* (cf. also PELLIOT, *T'oung Pao*, 1912, p. 476).

² A. STEIN, *Khotan*, Vol. I, p. 130.

³ LE COQ, *Sprichwörter und Lieder aus Turfan*, p. 85.

⁴ I. KUNOS, *Sulejman Efendi's Čagataj-Osman. Wörterbuch*, p. 26.

⁵ *Pamir-Dialekte*, p. 792.

⁶ R. B. SHAW, *Journal As. Soc. Bengal*, 1876, p. 231.

⁷ *Primitive Cultur des turko-tatarischen Volkes*, p. 220.

⁸ The etymology given of this word by Vámbéry is fantastic and unacceptable.

⁹ *Pen ts'ao kan mu*, Ch. 27, p. 3 b. *Mu-su* is classified by him under *ts'ai* ("vegetables").

¹⁰ This was already remarked by A. DE CANDOLLE (*Origin of Cultivated Plants*, p. 104). Also WATT gives only modern Indian vernacular names, three of which, *spastu*, *sebist*, and *beda*, are of Iranian origin.

¹¹ *Bot. Sin.*, pt. III, p. 404.