

The New-Persian name for the walnut is *kōz* and *gōz*.¹ According to HÜBSCHMANN, this word comes from Armenian.² The Armenian word is *ēngoiz*; in the same category belongs Hebrew *egōz*,³ Ossetic *āngožä*, Yidghal *oγuza*, Kurd *egvīz*, Gruzinian *nigozi*.⁴ The Persian word we meet as a loan in Turkish *koz* and *xoz*.⁵

The earliest designation in Chinese for the cultivated walnut is *hu t'ao* 胡桃 ("peach of the Hu": Hu being a general term for peoples of Central Asia, particularly Iranians). As is set forth in the Introduction, the term *hu* is prefixed to a large number of names of cultivated plants introduced from abroad. The later substitution *hu* or *ho t'ao* 核桃 signifies "peach containing a kernel," or "seed-peach," so called because, while resembling a peach when in the husk, only the kernel is eaten.⁶ In view of the wide dissemination of the Persian word, the question might be raised whether it would not be justifiable to recognize it also in the Chinese term *hu t'ao* 胡桃, although, of course, in the first line it means "peach of the Hu (Iranians)." There are a number of cases on record where Chinese designations of foreign products may simultaneously convey a meaning and represent phonetic transcriptions. When we consider that the word *hu* 胡 was formerly possessed of an initial guttural sonant, being sounded **gu* (γu) or **go*,⁷ the possibility that this word might have been chosen in imitation of, or with especial regard to, an Iranian form of the type *gōz*, cannot be denied: the two-fold thought that this was the "peach styled *go*" and the "peach of the Go or Hu peoples" may have been present simultaneously in the minds of those who formed the novel term; but this is merely an hypothesis, which cannot actually be proved, and to which no great importance is to be attached.

¹ Arabic *jōz*; Middle Persian *joz*, *joj*. Kurd *gwīz* (*guwīz*), from *govz*, *gōz* (SOCIN, Grundr. iran. Phil., Vol. I, pt. 2, p. 268). Sariqoli *ghauz* (SHAW, *Journal As. Soc. Bengal*, 1876, p. 267). Puštu *ughz*, *waghz*. Another Persian designation for "walnut" is *girdū* or *girdgān*.

² Grundr. iran. Phil., Vol. I, pt. 2, p. 8; Armen. Gram., p. 393.

³ Canticle VI, 10. Cf. Syriac *gauzā*.

⁴ W. MILLER, *Sprache der Osseten*, p. 10; HÜBSCHMANN, *Arm. Gram.*, p. 393.

⁵ RADLOFF, *Wörterbuch der Türk-Dialecte*, Vol. II, col. 628, 1710. In Osmanli *jeviz*.

⁶ The term *ho t'ao* is of recent date. It occurs neither under the T'ang nor under the Sung. It is employed in the *Kwo su* 果疏, a work on garden-fruits by Wan Ši-mou 王世懋, who died in 1591, and in the *Pen ts'ao kañ mu*. The latter remarks that the word *ho* 核 is sounded in the north like *hu* 胡, and that the substitution thus took place, citing a work *Min wu či* 名物志 as the first to apply this term.

⁷ Compare Japanese *go-ma* 胡麻 and *go-fun* 胡粉.