

Arabia?

- It might surprise many that an area in northern Iraq, Syria and Turkey had been referred to as Arabia a long time ago.
- Pliny the Elder (d. 79AD) refers to Osrhoene and Commagene as Arabia..





The map is from a paper by Dr. Robert Kerr

The Romans then reclassified the region like this: Arabia Petraea, Arabia Deserta (abandoned/uninhabited Arabia) and Arabia Felix (happy Arabia).

Arabia Petraea is where the Tayaye would come to dominate in the 7th century.

Tayy (*Tay'*), also known as Ṭayyi, is a large and ancient Arab tribe. The patronymic of Tayy is *aṭ-Ṭā'ī*

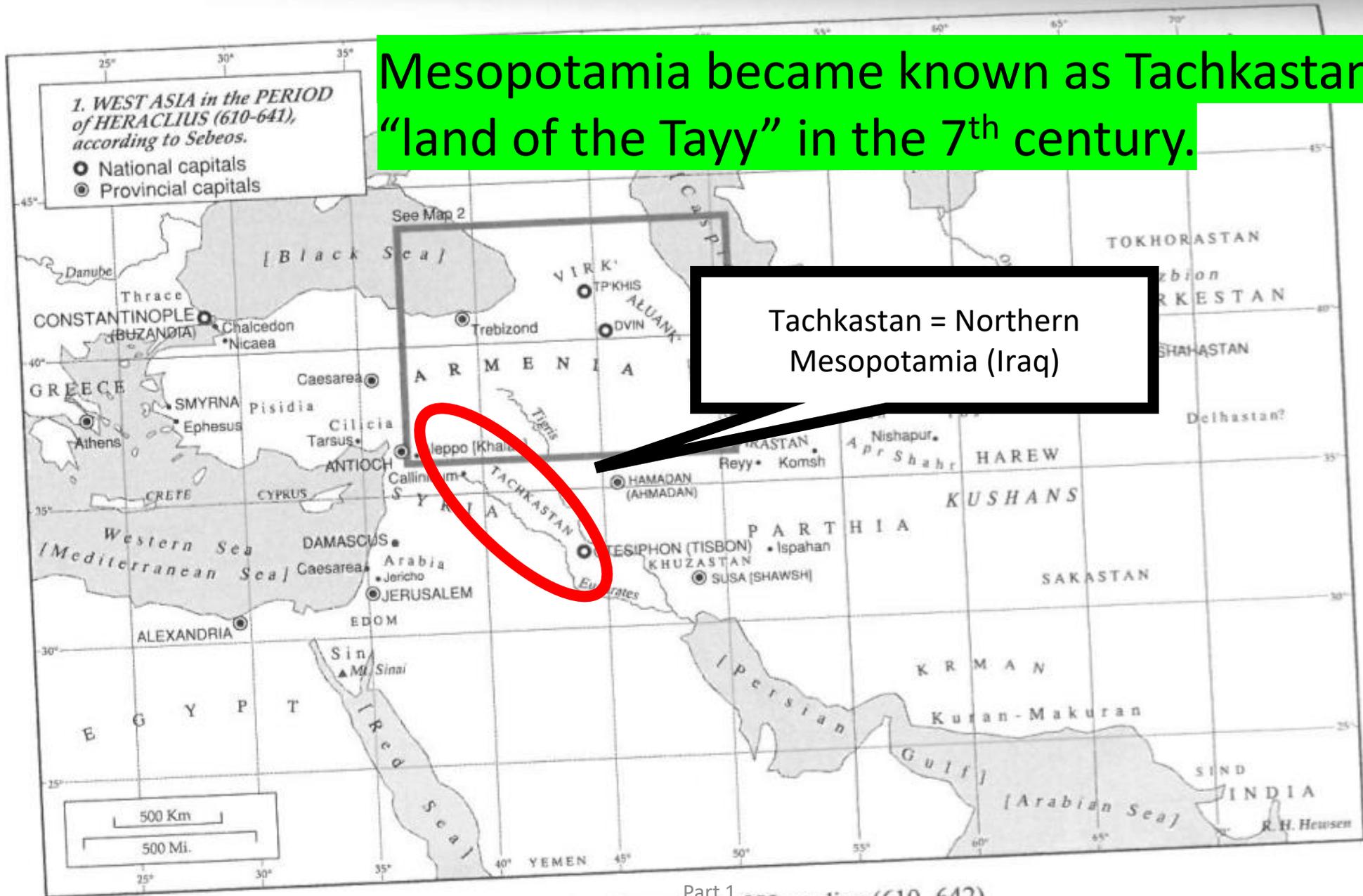
- In the 2nd century CE, the Tayaye migrated from Yemen to the northern Arabian mountain ranges of Jabal Shammar (Tayy). (close to the former Nabataean kingdom)



6th century, the Fasad War split the Tayaye...

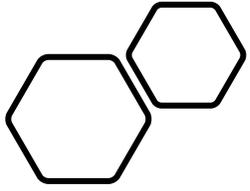
- Members of its Jadila branch became Christian and migrated to Syria and allied with the Ghassanids.
- The Ghawth branch remained in Jabal Tayy.
- The Tayaye also became well established in the Lakhmid region too.



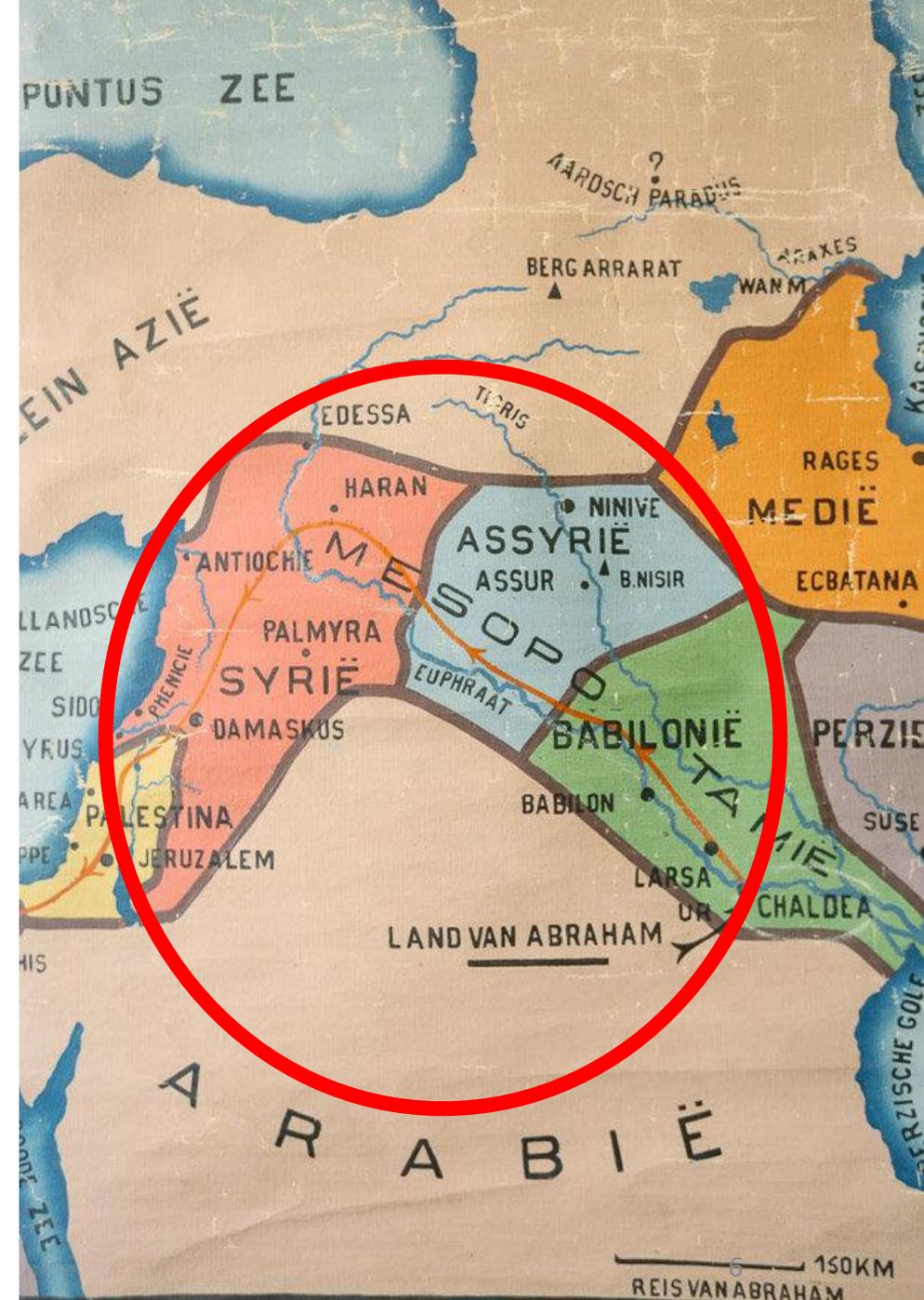


Mesopotamia became known as Tachkastan "land of the Tayy" in the 7th century.

Part 1
1. West Asia in the period of Heraclius (610-642)



The Tayaye's sphere of influence in the 7th cen.
Note: the Hejaz was outside its area.



Thomas the Presbyter, 640 CE (writing in Mesopotamia.)

- AG 945, indiction VII: On Friday, 4 February, [i.e., **634** CE / Dhul Qa'dah 12 AH] at the ninth hour, there was a battle between the Romans and the **Tayaye** of Muḥammad [Syr. tayyāyē d-Mḥmt] in **Palestine twelve miles east of Gaza**.
- Note: the group he is associated with, the location of the event, and to a lesser degree the source of the information (Mesopotamia) ALL indicates the NORTH.
- Note the name/title given MHMT is spelt with a t, which indicates it is a Pahlavi word, the language of Sasanian Persia.

Fragment On The Arab Conquests (Of Syria), written 636 CE

- “and many villages were ruined with killing by [...] Muḥammad and a great number of people were killed and captives [were taken] from Galilee as far as Bēth [...]”
- Why does it mention “Muhammad” in such a northerly location?
- (The later tradition scrubs this from the record: he never enters the promised land. Why remove this?)



The Hispanic Chronicle of 754

- “The Saracens rebelled in 618, the seventh year of the emperor Heraclius, and appropriated for themselves **Syria, Arabia, and Mesopotamia**, more through trickery than through the power of their leader Muhammad.”
- Notice: Syria, Arabia and Mesopotamia are **Tayaye** areas. This confirms again the link between “Muhammad” and the Tayaye.

The Tayayye were split during the First Fitna, with those in **Syria** supporting **Mu'awiyah** and those based in **Arabia and Iraq** supporting **Ali**.

- A branch of the Tayy led by Qahtaba ibn Shabib were among the leaders of the Abbasid Revolution which toppled the Umayyads in the mid-8th century.



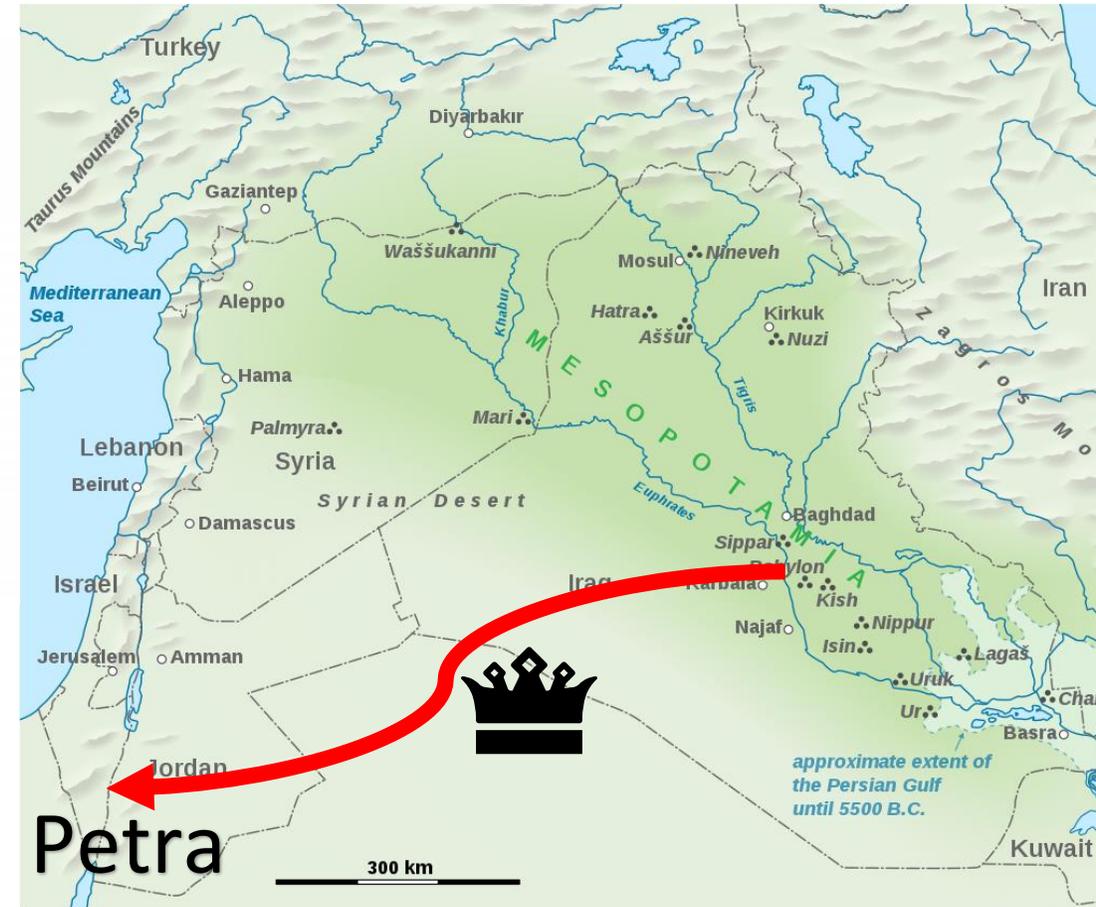
Who was the most likely candidate referred to by Sebeos as Mahmed?

- So they [the Jews expelled from Edessa] departed, taking the road through the desert to **Tachkastan Arabia** to the sons of Ishmael.
- In that period a certain one of them, **a man of the sons of Ishmael** named **Mahmed**, became **prominent**.
- Because the command had come from on High, **he ordered them all to assemble together and to unite in faith**.

Pesiqta Rabbati: Jewish discourse from 630s (gathered in the mid 9th cen.)

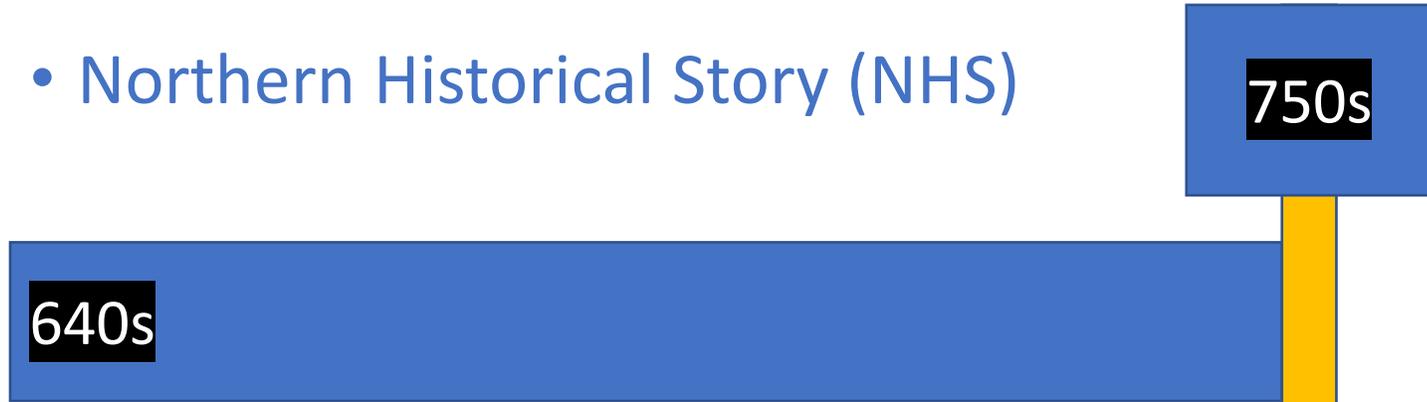
will appear. Further, there is some description of the events that will accompany the Messiah's arrival:

In the year in which the Messiah reveals himself, all the kings of the nations of the earth will be at strife with one another. The king of Persia will make war against a king of Arabia, and this king of Arabia will go to Edom to take counsel from the Edomites. Thereupon the king of Persia will again lay the whole world waste. All the nations of the world will be agitated and frightened, they will fall upon their faces and they will be seized with pangs like the pangs of a woman in labour.¹⁶⁷



The changing of the Guards requires a changing of the Narrative

- Northern Historical Story (NHS)



- Southern Islamic Narrative (SIN)



Chinese Sources: Jiu Tang Shu, compiled in 945, based on a report from an envoy in 651.

Volume 198 Biographies 148: Western Regions, Section Da-Shi [Tayaye]

- In the second year of Yong-Hui (651AD), the Da-Shi (the Tayaye) sent its first envoy with tributes to our Tang royal court. The envoys told us that their king's surname was Da-Shi (Tayaye).

Chinese Sources: Jiu Tang Shu, compiled in 945, based on a report from an envoy in 651.



- **Da-Shi** situates in the west of Persia. During the year of Da-ye (605 AD ~ 618 AD) of Sui-Dynasty, there was a **Persian man** herding camels in the mountain Ju-Fen-Mo-Di-Na . One day, a lion-man (a king?) appeared out of nowhere telling him: "There are three caves on the west side of Ju-Fen-Mo-Di-Na mountain. **A large amount of weapons is stored inside the caves and you can go and retrieve them there.** There is also a black stone with texts carved on it. **You will become the king if you read and do what the carved text on the black stone tells you!"**

The Chinese source of 651 continued...

- The Persian then followed the lion-man's words and did find **a large amount of weapons** and the black stone with carved text **telling him how to raise an army and rebel [against] the Persian (Sassanid) dynasty**. The Persian then recruited fugitives and then crossed the River Heng-Ge [Euphrates] to raid the caravans on the trade route. He then claimed himself to be the king and **set up a separatist regime in the western part of Sassanid empires**. The newly founded kingdom(separatist regime) then repelled and defeated numerous subsequent Persian (Sassanid) and Fulin (East Roman Empire) invasion forces.

801, Tu Yu presented T'ung tien to the Chinese throne.

- He also draws from the earlier envoy's report.
- “Some [also] say that in the beginning **there was a Persian** who supposedly had the help of a spirit* [ie a ghost, a “white man”] in obtaining edged weapons [with which] he killed people, subsequently calling for all the Persians to become his followers.”

A different story appears in the 750s after the takeover of the Abbasids!

- After 651, the Da-Shi sent envoys 3 more times: 701-705 (Chang-An), in 711 (Jing-Yun) and 713-741 (Kai-Yun). The Da-Shi (Tayaye) then sent an envoy to China in 751, with a story of how they came to power.
- However, the Tang government noticed something odd when they received envoys during the years of Zhi-De (756-758AD): **they were told a completely different story of how the Da-shi were founded.** This time Muhammad's name appears and the story this time is like the SIN we have today. The Chinese were confused so they recorded both story versions!

We still see traces of the old northern narrative but the Quraish and Muhammad are now central...

- “**Another saying** is that the **ruling clan** of the Da-Shi (Tayaye) tribe is called **Gu-Lie** [Quraish] during the year of Kai-Huang (581 AD ~ 600 AD) of Sui Dynasty. There are two families within the Gu-Lie tribe. One family is called Pen-Ni-Xi-Shen [Banu Hashim] and the other is called Pen-Ni-Mo-Huan [Banu Marwan]. There was a man from Pen-Ni-Xi-Shen called Mo-ke-Mo [Muhammad] who was very brave and wise and was **hailed as the king by the tribe people**. The king Mo-Ke-Mo then expanded the kingdom’s territory stretching across 3000 li’s from east to west with his mighty forces. He also conquered the city of Xia-La [Syria] which is called city Shan [Damascus].”

The Tayaye told the Chinese that the founders of their Empire were Persians, not Arabs!

- “There were **eleven Persians** who came and, according to their rank as mo-shou, were transformed into kings. After this the masses gradually gave their allegiance, and subsequently Persia was extinguished and Byzantium (Fulin) was crushed... When the original king had died, his office passed to the first mo-shou, and now the king was the third mo-shou; the royal surname is Ta-shih.