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ON THE COVER:

A fragment of Saddharmapuṇḍarīka-sūtra from the Serindia Collection,
Petrovsky Sub-Collection. The Institute of Oriental Manuscripts RAS.
SI 2098, fragment 1 *verso*.

Mark A. Kozintcev

The Letter of Tsar Peter I to Sultan Ahmed III on the Occasion of the End of the Northern War

Introduction, Translation from Ottoman-Turkish and Commentary

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Abstract: The Treaty of Nystad signed between Russia and Sweden put an end to the prolonged Northern War (1700–1721). Russia gained an access to the Baltic Sea, acquired new territories and strengthened its international prestige. In a letter written on September 30 (October 11), 1721, Tsar Peter I informs the Ottoman Sultan Ahmed III about Russian military and diplomatic success. Till nowadays, there is no information about the original letter, but its text has been preserved in translation into Ottoman-Turkish. The contents of the letter reflect the desire of the Russian Tsar, who had just finished a long war, to maintain good-neighborly relations with the Ottoman Empire. Being a source on the history of Russian-Turkish diplomatic relations, the letter is also an example of the Ottoman-Turkish language of the first half of the 18th c.

Key words: Great Northern War, Treaty of Nystad, Russia-Turkey relations, Russian-Turkish diplomatic correspondence, Ottoman manuscripts

The letter in question was written by the Russian Tsar Peter I shortly after the end of the Great Northern War (1700–1721). Russia gained an access to the Baltic Sea, acquired new territories and strengthened its international prestige. At the same time, the state was weakened by the long war. Therefore, one of Peter's concerns was to avoid military confrontation with the Ottoman Empire, relations with which were very tense at the beginning of the 18th c. The contents of the letter sent to the Ottoman Sultan Ahmed III (ruled 1703–1730) reflect this desire of the Russian Tsar.

The letter is a part of the manuscript known as “İbretnümâ-yı Devlet-i Câvid” (“Instruction to the State by Jâvid”),¹ kept at the Rare Works Library

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¹ Jâvid is listed as the compiler of the manuscript by mistake. See KESBİ 2002: XXIX–XXXI.

of Istanbul University (shelf mark: İÜNEKTY 5943). The manuscript includes texts of different official documents copied by an Ottoman official who wrote under the pseudonym Kesbî. The documents were used by this Turkish historiographer in his work “İbretnümâ-yı Devlet” (“Instruction to the State”). The manuscripts of this work have been preserved in Istanbul,² Paris and St. Petersburg.³ Writing his work, Kesbî did not use all the material available to him; many documents, including the letter in question, were not introduced into the final text. The letter of Peter I was copied by the historiographer along with some other samples of diplomatic correspondence. Among them are letters from Russian monarchs: Anna Ioannovna (ruled 1730–1740), Ivan VI (formally ruled 1740–1741), Elizabeth Petrovna (ruled 1741–1762), Catherine II (ruled 1762–1796), as well as from rulers and diplomats of some European and Asian states.

As indicated in the text itself, the letter is dated by September 30 (October 11),⁴ 1721. It seems that this is one of the last letters to foreign monarchs written by Tsar Peter before accepting the title of “Emperor of All Russia” on October 22 (November 2), 1721. Translation of the letter allows to see the differences of the title of the Russian Tsar before it was officially changed to the Emperor.⁵ Besides, some features of the translation of the monarchic title into the Ottoman-Turkish can be seen.

² The text of Kesbî’s work “İbretnümâ-yı Devlet” was published in 2002 by Ahmet Öğreten based on the manuscript Ali Emîri, Tarih nr. 484 kept at the National Library of Turkey. The text of the manuscript İÜNEKTY 5943 was also included into the publication. See KESBÎ 2002. Unfortunately, the publication does not contain a facsimile reproduction of the Ottoman-Turkish text in Arabic script. I express my gratitude to the colleagues from the Rare Works Library, Library and Documentation Department of Istanbul University who kindly provided me with a digital copy of the manuscript İÜNEKTY 5943.

³ One of the later copies of “İbretnümâ-yı Devlet” is kept in the collection of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts, RAS (Collection of manuscripts written in Arabic script, shelf mark: B 747). In 1881 it was published by Vassily D. Smirnov (1846–1922). See *Sbornik* 1881.

⁴ Until 1918, the Julian calendar was officially used in Russia. The corresponding dates in the Gregorian calendar are given in parentheses.

⁵ According to Peter’s decree, issued on November 11 (November 22), 1721, the title of the Emperor of All Russia in the correspondence with foreign sovereigns had to be written as follows: “By the Grace and Aid of God, We Peter the First, Emperor and Sovereign of All Russia, of Moscow, Kiev, Vladimir, Novgorod; Tsar of Kazan, Tsar of Astrakhan, Tsar of Siberia; Sovereign of Pskov and Grand Duke of Smolensk; Duke of Estland, Lifland, Korelia, Tver, Yugria, Permia, Vyatka, Bolgary and others; Sovereign and Grand Duke of Novgorod of the Lower Land, Chernigov, Ryazan, Rostov, Yaroslavl, Beloozero, Udoria, Obdoria, Kondia, and Ruler of all Northern territories; and Sovereign of Iberia, Kartalinian and Georgian Tsars; and hereditary Sovereign and Ruler of the Kabardinian lands, Circassian and Mountain Princes and others.” See *Polnoe sobranie* 1830: No. 3850.

Most of the names of Russian cities and territories are transliterated accurately. However, in some cases, the Turkish translator resorts to transliterating the words that should be translated. This refers, for instance, to the words “cümle Siveryâ memleketlerinin” which definitely should be translated as a “(Ruler) of all Northern territories”. Another example is “Novgrod’in, Nijoya’nın” which can be recognized as Nizhny Novgorod (in the original the city’s name “Novgorod of the Lower Land” is used). The Tsar’s title of Grand Duke, which in the letters of later monarchs is usually translated as “Büyük Duka”, here is partly transliterated, partly translated, and looks like “Büyük Knez”. Similarly, the Russian interpreters from Ottoman-Turkish in the Ambassadorial Office, when unable to find synonyms for the Sultan’s titles, transliterated them. For instance, the Ottoman title of Persian origin “Hudâvendigâr” (‘the second or the other God’, ‘godlike’) was never translated: it was usually rendered in various distorted forms (“Khandyker”, “Khanker”, etc.) in Cyrillic script. At the same time, in the absence of the original text, this approach allows, if necessary, to recreate it accurately enough.⁶

The text of the letter contains the names of the territories conquered by Russia during the war. Despite the peculiarities of Arabic script, toponyms are transmitted quite accurately and can be easily recognized. They include such regions as Liflandia,⁷ Estlandia,⁸ Ingermanlandia⁹ and half of Karelia, as well as the largest and most significant cities and fortresses: Riga, Dünamünde,¹⁰ Pernov,¹¹ Revel,¹² Dorpat,¹³ Narva, Vyborg, Kexholm.¹⁴

⁶ ZAYTSEV 2006: 56.

⁷ Before 1713 — Swedish Livonia; now its territory partly lies in Latvia, partly in Estonia.

⁸ Northern part of today’s Estonia.

⁹ Historical region which now lies within the territory of Leningrad Oblast, Russia.

¹⁰ Daugavgrīvas fortress near Riga, Latvia.

¹¹ Now Pärnu, Estonia.

¹² Now Tallinn, Estonia.

¹³ Now Tartu, Estonia.

¹⁴ Now Priozersk, Russia.

The text in Ottoman-Turkish (Pl. 1–3)

۱۵۱۱۳۴ سنه ذو القعدة سیدر ۲۵ (f. 146 v.) مسقو جاری طرفندن کلان نامه سی ترجمه سیدر ۲۵ ذو القعدة سنه ۱۱۳۴¹⁵
 بز پتروس الکسیوج که بعنایتہ اللہ تعالیٰ مسقوک جاری تماماً بیوک | و کوچک روسک مستقل
 حاکی کیویانک ولاده مریانک نووگرادیانک | بیوک کنزی قزانک اژدرخانک سپریانک چاری
 پسقویانک | اسمولنجقیانک طوه ریانک اوغوریانک پرمیانک | بولغاریانک نورغروک¹⁶ نژیوانک
 وتوابع دیارلرک | جرنحویانک رژیانانک روستویانک یاروسلاویانلری | پلوژیانک اوبدوریانک
 اودوریانک قوندنیانک وجمله | سوریا مملکتلرینک واپوه ریانک مالکی قرطالک غرو[ژک] | |
 (f. 147 r.) حاکی قباردیانک جرکسک وسائر شرق وغرب وشمالده | واقع نجه
 بکلکیرک ویرلرک حاکی وصاحب ووارثیوز طرفمزدن | اعظم سلاطین عظام واکرم حواقین کرام
 مکة مکرمه مدینه منوره | وقدهس مبارکه نک پادشاهی وحامیسی اناتولی وروم ایلینک اقدکز |
 وقره دکزک وسائر نجه مملکتلرک صاحب ومالک ووارثی اولان | شوکتلو عظمتلو قدرتلو شهنشاه
 معظم پادشاه ال عثمان سلطان احمد خان | بن سلطان محمد خان بن سلطان ابراهیم خان اولو
 دوستمز حضرتلرینک طرف همایونلرنه | دوستانه عرض خلوص ابلاغندن صکره محبانه انها
 اولنان بودر که بتقدیر | خدای لایزال نیجه مدّت بو دوستکز واسوج قرالی بیننده نائره جنک |
 وجدال اشعال و حرب و قتال مشدد وممتد اولوب بعنایتہ اللہ تعالیٰ | الانه شقاق ونفاق ودّ وفاقه
 مبدل وبرودت عداوت | مودّته محوّل اولمق میسر اولمغله ارادت خدای متعال تعلق ایدوب |
 طرفیندن مرخصلر نضب وتعیین ونشتاد نام محل مکالمه ایچون | امتیاز ومحل مرقومه جمع
 اولندقده بعد مکالمه والمذاکره الی الیوم | قرالغندن ضرب دستمز ایله اخذ وقبض ایلدیکمز
 ایالتلر که لفلاندياً | اسلانديا کرمولانديا وقره لیانک نصفی وبولنره تلبع ولاحق | سواحل
 وشهرستان ریغا دینامند پرنآو رؤل درپت ناروا | ویبورغ کشغولم جمله نواحی وجزایرلیله ضبط
 وتصرفمده قالمق اوزره | اشبو میلاد حضرت عیسانک بیک یدپوز یکرمی برنجی سنه سنده ماه |
 اغستوسک اوتوز دردنجی کوننده تأییدا مصالحه و مسالمه عقد اولنوب | ختام وفیصل ویرلمکله
 جناب همایونلریله ارامزده نشو ونما بولان | موالاته مؤبده ومصافات مؤکده یه بناءً وطرف
 پادشاهانه لرینه | واقع کمال میل ومحبتمزى اظهاراً جمله دن اقدام اشبو صداقت نامه مز ایله |
 اخبار واعلامده تکاسل روا کورلمیوب افاده سی تعجیل اولندی وبو خبر دوستلغه | بناءً مقبول
 همایونلری اوله جغنده اشتباهمز یوقدر بناءً علی ذلك | (f. 147 v.) حالا در دولت علیه لرنده
 اقامت اوزره اولان قپوکتخدازم دخی احوال مرقومه بی | علی التفصیل لساناً عرض واعلامه
 مأموردرد وبوندن بویله ارامزده اولان | دوستلق واتفاق کمال خلوص وطویّت برله الی الابد

¹⁵ The title of the letter added by the compiler as well as the Sultan's name printed in bold here, in the manuscript are written in red ink.

¹⁶ Should be read: نووغرودک.

طرفمزدن مرعی ومخرم | طوتله جغنه ارتياب بيورلميوب طرف پادشاهانه لرندن دخی کماینبغی مصافات | وموالاتک رعایت واحترامنده همت ملوکانه لری درکار بيورلمق ملحوظدر | وطرفینک رعایا ویرایاسنک مصالحه مؤبده نک مقتضاسنجه آسوده | حالقلری وراحت وامنیتلریچون زیر دست وحکومتکرده اولنله | علی الخصوص طوائف تاتاره بر در خسارت وایصال مضرتدن احتراز واجتنبالی | ایچون محکم تنبیه اولنمق التماس اولنور طرفمزدنخی زیر دستمزده اولنله حقوق | جواری کمال مرتبه ده مراعاتلریچون محکم ومؤکد تنبیهلر اصدار ایلدک باقی | حق تعالی حضرتلری جناب همایونلریبی سریر سلطنتلرنده طول عمر ایله معمر ایلیه | میلاد حضرت عیسانک بیک یدییوز یکریمی برنجی سنه سنده ماه | ایلوک اوتوزنجی کوننده چارلغمزک قرقنجی سنه سنده پتیه بورغ نام شهریمزده تحریر اولنمشدر

Transcription

(f. 146 v.) **Moskov Çarı tarafından gelen nâmesi tercemesidir. 25 Zi'l-ka'de sene 1134 |**

Biz Petrûs Aleksiyâvic ki bi-inâyeti'l-lâhi teâlâ Moskov'un Çarı tamâmen Büyük | ve Küçük Rus'un müstakıl hâkimi Kiyevyâ'nın, Vlâdemiryâ'nın, Nôvgrâdyâ'nın | Büyük Knezi, Kazân'ın, Ajderhân'ın, Sipiryâ'nın Çarı, Piskovyâ'nın, | Esmûlenkyâ'nın, Tıveryâ'nın, Ogûryâ'nın, Permyâ'nın, | Bûlgâryâ'nın, Nôrgrôd'ın (sic!)¹⁷, Nijjôyâ'nın ve tevâbi' diyârların, | Cernihovyâ'nın, Rijânyâ'nın, Rôstovyâ'nın Yârôslâvyânları (sic!), | Plôjriyâ'nın (sic!),¹⁸ Obdôryâ'nın, Odôryâ'nın, Kôndinyâ'nın ve cümle | Siveryâ memleketlerinin ve Apôhriyâ'nın Mâliki, Kartâl'ın, Grû[j]ın || (f. 147 r.) hâkimlerinin Hâkimi, Kabârdiyâ'nın, Çerkes'in ve sâir şark ve garb ve şimâlde | vâkı' nice beyliklerin ve yerlerin Hâkimi ve Sâhib ve Vârisiyüz. Tarafımızdan | a'zam-ı selâtîn-i izâm ve ekrem-i havâkin-i kirâm, Mekke-i mükerreme, Medîne-i münevvere | ve Kuds-i mübârekenin Pâd-şâhi ve Hâmisi, Anadolu ve Rumeli'nin, Akdeniz | ve Karadeniz'in ve sâir nice memleketlerin Sâhib ve Mâlik ve Vârisi olan | şevketlü azametlü kudretlü Şehinşâh-ı mu'azzam, Pâd-şâh-ı âl-i Osmân **Sultân Ahmed Hân** | bin Sultân Mehmed Hân bin Sultân İbrâhim Hân ulu dostumuz hazretlerinin taraf-ı hümâyûnlarına | dostâne arz-ı hulûs iblâğından sonra muhibbâne inhâ olunan

¹⁷ Should be read: *Nôvgorôd'ın*.

¹⁸ Should be read: *Belôzeryâ'nın*.

budur ki bi-takdîr-i | hüdâ-yı lâ-yezâl nîce müddet bu dostunuz ve İsvec Kralı beyninde nâ'ire-i ceng | u cidâl iş'âl ve harb u kıtâl-i müştedd ve mümtedd olup bi-inâyetihi'l-lâhi teâlâ | el-ânehû şikak u nifâk vedd u vifâka mübeddel ve bürüdet <u> adâvet | meveddete muhavvel olmak müyesser olmağla irâdât-ı hudâ-yı müteâl taalluk edüp | tarafeynden murahhaslar nasb u ta'yîn ve Nişâd nâm mahal mükâleme için | imtiyâz ve mahall-i merkuma cem' olundukda ba'de'l-mükâleme ve'l-müzâkere ile'l-yevm | krallığından darb-ı destimiz ile ahz u kabz eylediğimiz eyâletler ki Liflândiyâ, | İslândiyâ, Kermûlândiyâ ve Kareliyâ'nın nısfı ve bunlara tâbi' ve lâhık | sevâhil ve şehristân Rîgâ, Dînâmend, Pernâv, Revel, Dörpt, Nârvâ, | Vîpürg, Kişgûlm cümle nevâhî ve cezâyirleriyle zabt u tasarrufumda kalmak üzere | işbu Mîlâd-ı Hazret-i İsâ'nın bin yediyüz yigirmi birinci senesinde mâh-ı | Ağustosun otuz dördüncü (*sic!*) gününde te'yi'den musâlaha ve müsâleme akd olunup | hitâm u feysal verilmekle cenâb-ı hümâyûnlarıyla aramızda neşv ü nemâ bulan | muvâlât-ı müebbede ve musâfât-ı müekkedeye binâen ve taraf-ı pâd-şâhânelerine | vâkı' kemâl-i meyl ü muhabbetimizi izhâren cümleden akdem işbu sadâkat-nâmemiz ile | ihbâr u i'lâmda tekâsül revâ görülmeyüp ifâdesi ta'cîl olundu. Ve bu haber dostluğa | binâen makbûl-ı hümâyûnları olacağında iştibâhımız yokdur. Binâen alâ-zâlik || (*f. 147 v.*) hâlâ Der-i Devlet-i Aliyyelerinde ikamet üzere olan kapukethüdâmız dahi ahvâl-i merkumeyi | ale't-tafsîl lisânen arz u i'lâma me'mûrdır. Ve bundan böyle aramızda olan | dostluk ve ittifâk, kemâl-i hulûs ve taviyyet birle ile'l-ebed tarafımızdan mer'î ve mahrem | tutulacağına irtiyâb buyurulmayup taraf-ı pâd-şâhânelerinden dahi kemâ-yenbağı müsâfât | u müvâlâtın ri'âyet ve ihtirâmında himmet-i mülûkâneleri derkâr buyurulmak melhûzdır. | Ve tarafeynin re'âyâ u berâyâsının musâlaha-i müebbedenin muktezâsınca âsûde-|hâllıkları ve râhat u emniyetleriyçün zîr-i dest ü hükûmetinizde olanlara | ale'l-husûs Tavâif-i Tatar'a bir dür hasâret u îsâl-i mazarratdan ihtirâz ve ictinâbları | için muhkem tenbîh olunmak iltimâs olunur. Tarafımızdan dahi¹⁹ zîr-i destimizde olanlara hukuk-ı | civârî kemâl mertebede mürââtlarıçün muhkem ü müekked tenbîhler ısdâr eyledik. Bâki | Hakk teâlâ hazretleri cenâb-ı hümâyûnlarını serîr-i saltanatlarında tûl-ı ömr ile mu'ammer eyleye. | Mîlâd-ı Hazret-i İsâ'nın bin yediyüz yigirmi birinci senesinde mâh-ı | Eylûlün otuzuncu gününde Çarlığıımızın kırkinci senesinde Petreburg nâm şehrimizde tahrîr olunmuşdur.

¹⁹ In the manuscript it is written together with the previous word.

له بشی خطمانی کند و منصفیده کال اول قائم اول نویزیم بشفه جوت عمده طرفین اعتدال
 و اشاعه اولشان اراده عقیدت مفضضا سنجیم له یونک سزوط سر سبیلدی
 محافظه و صیانتی امروزه الا ان امکانی مرتبه مناسبت اظهار تمسکین
 خطمان مومالی بهک تا موراد مسکت یوار الفظه بتلاقات و بلا سبب
 انضراف خصوصی له بکراه سنک حرکات مرضیه حمل اولوب بشی خطمانی
 یوشلر تحفیه کونه معامده مخالفی اولدی فرقیه موجب انشراح و غور بر جات
 اول نویزیم بشفه له بشی خطمانی طرفونه انسانه اصاده بیث اولدی کل ان
 له بکراه لر و له جمهوریت قبولی لر و لایقین عودت اینر کدره
 زاس حدوده و تاریخه نقیله کونم اقتضا اینر عوبه و بار کبر و سانه لازمه سنک
 انعام و احسانی جوت عقیده نیک داب قریب زنی اولدی منظر صورت اولدی
 یورلوده جوت عقیده ابرویزه کمال اخلاص و اختصاصی توصیفه لایق
 و جمهوریت قواعد قریبه لر محافظه و صیانتی امروزه جیت و عقیده تحسینه
 موافق اولدی بشی خطمانک مالامه مذکور ارمیی له بکراه سنک و
 انضراف تغلب و اعیسنده اولدی فرقه به موجب هرور و بشی خطمانه
 سبب مرآت اولدیق نامولیده شان و الا نشان کریمه لایق و زای
 مرزین مساطف قرین اصفانه لر به حواله و تقویین فنون باقی خطان
 مسقوجاری طرفین کل نامنه ترجمه سوره ۵۵ و ۵۶

بز بنردوس الکسیویچ که بعنایه الله تعالی مسقوک جاری ناما کیموت
 دو کولک روسک مسقوک عالمی کیویانک ولاده مریانک نوغورایانک
 یوک کندی قرانک ازور خانک سپهر بانک جاری بسقویانک
 اسمولنجقیانک طوبه رایانک اوغورایانک هر میانک
 بولغاربانک نوغوروت تیزویانک و توابع و بار لرک
 جرنجویانک رزانیانک دوستوبانک باروسلا و یاندرک
 پوز رایانک اویدورایانک او دوربانک فونزنیانک و جله
 سوربا مکلدرنیک واپوه رایانک مالکی قریطانک غوزنک

مالایانک

Pl. 1.

۱۰۴
 ۱۰۹
 حاکم دینک حاکمی قبادیانک جوکک و سائر شرق و غرب و شماله
 و ارض نخبه بکاکرک و برکت حاکمی و صاحب دوار شوز طرغوزن
 اعظم سلاطین عظام و اکرم جوانین کرام مکّه مکرمه مدینه منوره
 و قدس مبارکک نیک بادشاهی و صاحبی انانطو دردم بیک آفدکن
 و قره و کزک و سائر نخبه مملکت صاحب و مالک و وارث اولاد
 شوکت و عظمت و فرزند شهنشاه معظم پادشاه عثمان کط احمد خان
 بن کطان محمد خان بن کط ابراهیم خان اول و کز حضرت نیک طرف هایدیز
 دوستانه عرض خصوصاً با عذرت صکه محبانه آنها اودان بود که بقدر
 خدای لایزال بخدمت بود و دستگیر و اسیر خدای بندگان بود
 و حوال اشغال و حرب و قتال مشند و عمد اولوب بعثت انانطو
 الایه شفاق و تفاهت و در وفاتک تبدیل و هر دورت عداوت
 سوره محول و لقی سیر الی غده ارادت خدای شغال تعلق ابروب
 طرفین و حضرت نص و تعیین و نشاند نام محل مکالمه بکون
 امتیاز و محل مرقوم جمع اول و نوزده بول مکالمه و المذکره الایوم
 قرالغنه صذب و سترایه اخذ و حقیق ایدر کز ایان ذکره لغلا نیا
 اسل نیا کر مولان نیا و قره لیا نیک بقی و یوندره جمع و لاحق
 سواصل و شهرت کربغا دینا مند پیرنا و رول درت ناروا
 و بیورغ کش غولم حمد نواج و جزیر بریه ضبط و تصرفه قالمق اوزره
 اشوبل و حضرت عیسا نیک بیک بدینوز بدیمی بدینوز سنه ماه
 اغتوسک ارفوز در دینجی کونزه تا بیا مصالحه و ساله عقد اولوب
 ختام و فیصل در بیکه جناب هایدیز ارازمه نشود نام بولان
 سواله مؤبده و مصافات مؤکده به بنا و طرف پادشاهانه لرینه
 واقع کمال میل و محبت نظر اظهار جمله دین اقدم اشوبل صدف نام فرا بیه
 اخبار و اعداده نکاس راکور لوب فاهم تقبل اولوز و بدینوز خسته
 بنا و مقبول هایدیز اولوز خسته اشبا همز لوقدر بنا و علمی ذکرت

Pl. 2.

حالا در دولت عمیده رنده اقامت اورده اولیٰ قیومت از دوزخ احوال مرقوم بی
 عی الشفیع الشا عرض و اعدامه نامور در دوزخ بود اراضه اولیٰ
 حوسنی و انفاق کمال خلوص و طوبیٰ برله الالاب طرفه زنی و محرم
 طوبیٰ حیفه ارباب بولوب طرف با دشانا زنی و دخی کما بنی مصفا
 و موالانک رعایت و احسانه همت ملکانه زر در کار بولوبی محظور
 و طرفینک رعایا و برابانک مصفا مؤبدنک مفضا بنی امور
 حاله قدر و راحت و استیجابون زیرک و حکومته اوده
 عی المحضی طوائف ناره بردن سارت و ایصال مضره انصار و احسان
 ابجون حکم نوبه الوفق العالی و لوز طرفه زنی زیر مقصره اوده حقوق
 جواری کمال مریه مرا عا نیکو حکم و مؤکد نسیه اصدار بوک باقی
 حق نفا حضرت جناب ها بوندی سر بر سطنده طول عمر ابد معمر ابد
 میدار حضرت عیسانک یک بیوز بری ریگی نسیه سزاه
 ابونک اذ نورخی کوزه جارتک فرقی نسیه پیره بوغ نام نسیه بولوب
 رهاب ها بون نسیه جارتک طرفینک نسیه
 اعظم ساطین عظام و اکرم خواجین کرام شوکتی عظیمی قدرتمو
 شهنشاه معظم که ملک مکره و مدینه مکره بارشاهی و قدر مبارک
 حامسی اذ کوزه ذکرک و در دمی دان طوره بنی مالک صیغه قضا
 مالکی السط ابن السط ستم محمود بن کطا مصفا ان اولوز و سزاه نسیه
 حضورها بون شوکتی قدرتم بزا دان که بعینه الله تعالی روس ملکد بانک
 امیر طریکم مقربانک نیویانک و لودریانک نوز خود بانک
 قازانک اذ دهانک سپریانک بسفویانک اسمو محفونک
 استویانک لودیانک قدر لسانک او پودریانک قوزنیانک
 و شالوه واقع نیجیرک جارتکم و غزوقوسی و ابوریانک
 و قار طانک و غوزانک و قاریانک و جوقیانک
 و طاعتانک هاکسی و حکاریوز طرفینک المشاربه جناب

بی بی
 بی بی

Translation

Translation of the letter from the Russian Tsar. 25 Dhu al-Qa'dah 1134

We Petrus Alekseevich,²⁰ by the Grace of God, Tsar of Moscow, Sovereign of All Great and Small Russia, Grand Duke of Kiev, Vladimir, Novgorod; Tsar of Kazan, Astrakhan, Siberia; Sovereign of Pskov, Smolensk, Tver, Yugria, Permia, Bolgary, Novgorod of the Lower Land, and others; Chernigov, Ryazan, Rostov, Yaroslavl, Bielo-ozero, Obdoria, Udoria, Kondia, and Ruler of all Northern territories; <Sovereign> of Iberian lands, Ruler of Kartalinian and Georgian rulers; hereditary Sovereign, and Ruler of Kabardinian, Circassian, and many other provinces and lands in the East, West, and North. From our side, to the Greatest of the Great Sultans and the Most Venerable of the Glorious Rulers, the Sovereign of Monarchs and the Protector of Mecca the Honored, Medina the Enlightened, and the Holy City of Jerusalem; hereditary Sovereign, and Ruler of Anatolia and Rumelia, the White and the Black Seas and many other places; Monarch of the House of Osman, **Sultan Ahmed Khan**, the son of Sultan Mehmed Khan, the son of Sultan Ibrahim Khan; our great friend His Royal Majesty, with the announcement of the most sincere friendship, the following is amicably proclaimed. Without the approval of the Almighty God, for such a long time hot battles and fights between your above-mentioned friend and the Swedish King had been flaring up and protracted wars and murders had been carried out. At the same time, as, by God's grace, it became possible to turn discord and strife to friendship and consent and to change cooling and hostility to amity, which refers to the permission of the Great God, delegates were appointed and approved from both sides, and a place called Nystad was chosen for negotiations, and when they gathered in that place, then, after discussion and conversation to this day, by the power of our hands, we have annexed from his kingdom such lands as Liflandia, Estlandia, Ingermanlandia and half of Karelia, and the adjacent coasts related to them. And the large cities of Riga, Dünamünde, Pernov, Revel, Dorpat, Narva, Vyborg, Kexholm with all districts and islands have been conquered and they will

²⁰ A latinized version of the name "Piotr" (Russian for: Peter) is used. Tsar's patronymic is given in transliteration.

remain in my possession, in confirmation of which on August thirty fourth²¹ of this year of our Lord seventeen hundred twenty one, peace was established and at the same time the end and resolution were laid. On the basis of the growing and developing eternal friendly ties between Your Royal Majesty with us, first of all, with this message of our devotion, we hasten to express our highest degree of affection and love to Your Imperial Majesty, carelessness in the expression of which we do not consider appropriate. And we have no doubt that this news, based on amity, will be received joyfully. Therefore, our representatives, currently residing in Your High State, have been instructed to inform <You> in detail verbally. And because of this, the endless friendship and unity that exists between us, along with the most sincere intentions, is not subjected to any secret or obvious doubts from our part, and from Your Royal part, the consent of the undoubted royal favor in respect and reverence of friendly ties is also expected, as it should be. And in accordance with the eternal peace it is requested that for the serenity, security and welfare of the subjects on both sides, it should be strongly prescribed especially to the Tatar tribes that are under Your subjection and authority, that they avoid and refrain from causing any harm and damage. On our part, we have also issued strict decrees to ensure that those who are in our subjection, respect to the highest degree the rights of their neighbors. May the Almighty God send down from His bounty in the splendor of His kingdom a prosperous health throughout <Your> life. Recorded on the thirtieth of September, in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred twenty one, in the fortieth year of our reign in our city of Petersburg.

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²¹ The word “four” is clearly a scribe’s mistake. The Treaty of Nystad between Russia and Sweden was signed on August 30 (September 10), 1721.

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