



A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE RACE OF PEOPLE IN AZERBAIJAN (ATROPATENE) AND TURKS AND TURKMAN IN IRAN

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Abstract: *Asia continent as the largest and the most populous continent and the cradle of a developed civilization has different peoples with various races and with their special physical characteristics. On the other hand, it is the origin of different races, including yellow (Mogul), Siberia, northern and Mogul, central Turkman, Indonesia, Mediterranean, Transoxania (Kyrgyz, Turkman, Tatar, Anatolian Turk). Although there have been intercourse among these ethnical groups, but all of them have their own special characteristics on the view of color, the form of skull and face. The Iranian Plateau as a special geographical place in Asia continent has had different nations with various races. In this paper, it is tried to study special racial features in one of the old centers of human life, on the view of anthropology and ethnology. Given to anthropology and ethnology and regarding immigration of different people to Iran, particularly, Turks and Moguls and their settlement in Atropatene. The basic question is that whether we can account the present residents in this area among Turks and Moguls or not. To answer this question, the researcher has studied special characteristics of Turk and Turkman races and then compared them with Atropatene residents. The result of this study will determine this fact that Atropatgan Atropatene residents have the same race as other Iranians which is Aryan. Because of history's testimony, people in Atropatene have always been among Iranians and united with other Iranian races and known as Iranian nation, and it is impossible to give them a new race. Atropatene residents have had the same race as the present people in Iran from the beginning.*

Keywords: *Atropatene, Aryan races, Turk and Turkman, anthropology.*

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INTRODUCTION

The primitive anthropologists tried to determine the multi types of mankind's nature by classification under the title of race based on geographical areas and physical apparent characteristics like color and others.

Race is applied to a group of people who have kept the common physical or biological characteristics in successive generations. [1] Or a group of natural people inherited a common physical feature; they have the same race even with different languages and customs. [2] According to this definition what makes difference between two races is physical inherent characteristics and nothing else.

In 1350 B.C., scientists found the present physical differences among human populations and classified them into three groups regarding to the color: black, white and yellow. Experts of heredity and biologists do not have a common idea about the reasons of variety in races. It means that some of them know this difference resulted from heredity and others believe in environmental effects. [3]

The people of different places in the world are so mixed and it seems unlikely to determine the exact racial location. But it is not out of ambiguity, because the most anthropologists and scientists believe that human has always exposed to immigration and racial integration. Racial integration is, not only a historical reality, but also it is more intensive than the past in this active world. The relations between nations and repetitive marriages of different races during centuries and their continuous changes have caused not to remain a fixed race. It means that we can not point to one factor only like color of skin to determine the race of a group. Other factors are considerable such as height, the form of skull, head, hair, face, forehead, eyebrows, eyes, nose, and size of cheek, jaw, and also scattering of people on the base of blood group (genetics). Meanwhile, particularly white race has had much integration with other races. One of the main ways to determine a race is skull.

Skull is a bone case contained brain and special senses and is responsible to protect them. Skull itself is made of different bones including frontal, back of head, temporal, and molar bones. [4]

It is possible to determine the race of a person completely by the exact studying of skull applying different tools as well as comparing and contrasting with others skulls and even with the skeletons remained from past. Measuring the parts of the body and skull is



completely practical and we can determine the form of the body by obtained numbers. Of course, the times of measuring and investigating the skulls to classify the race depend on the individual's interest and invention. For example, a skull can be measured 10 or 1000 times.

THE IRANIAN PLATEAU

Human beings have lived in Asia from the early ages. Some of the oldest discovered fossils of ancient human being are found in Asia. Remained fossils of primitive human are rare in all over the world and the Iranian plateau is not exceptional from this viewpoint. The Iranian plateau has 2/600/000km² area (about 55/000 Parasangs). It is a special geographical unit of Asia continent and Iran with 1/648/195km² area, located in the south west of Asia and the Middle East. In fact, Iran covers %63 or two third of this place and the rest is for other countries. Iran was called Aran Shotor in Sassanian dynasty. In Achaemenian, it was named Iria. It was the name of an Iranian tribe. This word was applied by Caucasian nation as Irvoun- Ir- Irou. Natural, climatic and geographical conditions of Iran have caused that this country will be accounted among the primitive living places and social centers of ancient human being. Archeological and anthropological studies have approved this matter too. Although, the existing appearance of early human groups in the Iranian plateau is not clear and nobody knows that from where and which direction, primitive human have immigrated to western Asia and Iran, but it very probably seems that human collections have gradually immigrated from Africa to European areas and western Asia and then to Mesopotamia and Iran in Piston era, about one million years ago.[5] It is a little difficult for present anthropologists and craniologists to determine the race of Iranian plateau inhabitants, because this plateau is as a bridge between the Far East, the Middle East and Mesopotamia. Therefore, many nations with different races have entered this area and placed under a unit ceiling of language. Anthropologists who study physical features are sure that some individuals with extended heads have settled in Iran before Nordic. But the main factors related to Iran population are generally Mediterranean. Given to the researches, the most important factors related to Iranian plateau inhabitants are round heads and ellipsoid faces. Now, among the present group who live in this plateau, especially in the east part, there are many people with round heads and extended faces. They are in heights and mountains more than valleys and plains. Some of them can be related to Indian Dravidians, because



there are some ones with round heads and ellipsoid faces. High stature and light skin are their most important characteristics.[6]

It seems that the present residents of this plateau are more related to people in the west and northwestern of Iran. As a result of anthropological studies and measurements in Iran, a basic branch called white race has been determined as a race of Iranian plateau inhabitants. Ancient Iranians (Homo Iranicus) are the genius brothers of original mankind (Homo sapiens) grown in the southwest of Asia physically and culturally, namely the cradle of direct ancestors of Aryans. Iranians are among the oriental race called Indus European who have immigrated to this plateau from oxus and Caucasian mountains in the late of second thousand B.C. They were called Aryan in the history. It took 1000 years for Aryans to enter to this plateau in different small and big groups. It had a main role in the political and social life of Iran, because they are founders of two dynasties: Aryan Media and Achaemenian.

The Iranian plateau started a new life with fresh Aryan tribes and made the ancient age of Iran it lasts 1000 years. This period is considered as one of the Golden ages of the history of Iran.

AZERBAIJAN PLATEAU (ATROPATENE)

The great part of Iranian plateau located among the Oxus and Indus valley, Zagros and Caucasian mountains, makes Azerbaijan plateau (Atropatene) in the north. Azerbaijan was covered by the Big Sea in the early of third era and called Titus. Consequently, great changes in earth's crust, mountain-making movements and volcanic actions have made the final geographical form of Azerbaijan plateau (Atropatene). [7]

The effect of the natural and geographical form have affected on the fate and historical events of this place. Azerbaijan is called the gate of the east and strategically it indicates the importance of this zone. It has always been one of the most famous historical names in Iran with 2300 oldness and also one of the most valuable geographical places in Iran and the world where shone in different historical fields and left famous faces, too. Its name is taken from an old tribe, Atropatene. Ater is Avesta and old pronunciation of Azar who was one of the Old Iranian Goddesses and means the fire of brightness. Also, Patik means keeper and worshipper. [8]



There is not any information about this matter that when human beings have steeled here and stepped on it for the first time. But archeological investigations indicate that it refers to Paleolithic era.

RACIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF AZERBAIJAN INHABITANTS (ATROPATENE)

Northwestern of Iran has been residential from the age of primitive human being; some tribes emigrated from here to other places and some new tribes have immigrated to this place again. Therefore, it can be said that this area has been a passageway and a residential place for different nations. This unique situation supports this opinion that Turkish people were among nations who have settled here from many years ago and the beginning of their settlement is remained in the darkness of 1000 years. Consequently, in other words, we can account them among the native people of this land. For this reason, today it is a little difficult to consider the first hometown of Iranian-European as the Iranians' ancestors and Altaiyan nations as the Turks' ancestors. The subject discussed here is that some writers and archeologists in their studies and given to the immigration of different nations , particularly Turks in the Iranian plateau and their residence in Atropatene, have accounted the primitive nations and Turkish people immigrated to Atropatene later and also present residents in Azerbaijan among those who have Turk race. They believe that these are separated from Aryan race and Iranian nations. Because there is not any information related to the craniology of primitive inhabitants in Atropatgan Atropatene, thus it is a little difficult to determine racial characteristics of individuals, but there are some older documents. Given to the explorations and invention of some bones from primitive human beings in Atropatene belonged to native inhabitants in this area and also measuring the skulls and anthropological studies, the following results are obtained.

People in this area have a rather round heads. It means that upper part of skull called tinsel in medicine is round and has no special projection. Thus, frontal bone is begun from its attachment place to forehead bone and then inclined as semicircle with 100° or 105° downward and to the back of skull and attaches to the forehead bone. The state of semicircle in obtained bones in mentioned area prove this matter that inhabitants' skulls are round and it is one of the main characteristics of Aryans. The state of round affects on the form of face bones particularly on the cheek, eye, socket, and nose. It has caused that the bone of the face becomes big, extended and ellipsoid. The frontal bone is a little big,



protuberant, extended and smooth. Eye socket is big, square, semicircle or round. Of course in some skulls, eye sockets are different on the view of smallness and bigness. Nostrils are wide and big. The width between the arches of molar bones is one of the main characteristics; especially that much width may show intercourse with Moguls and Turks. Therefore, cheek can be one of the other differences between Turks and resident people in Atropatene (Azerbaijan of Iran) namely Aryans. Molar bone (OZ ZYGOMATICUM) is placed on the sides to make protuberant. According to the studies on the cheek of Atropatene inhabitants, it was determined that they have delicate and narrow cheeks. But Turkman and Turks have wide and big cheeks. This difference is clearer between Aryans and Turks by the color of skin. Chin bone is lowly and extended.

It means that superior maxilla bone is big and lowly because of cheek smallness. This bigness is completely observable in the inferior maxilla bone. Now we consider apparent characteristics of inhabitants in this area. As a result of field study in Atropatene, the following outcomes have been obtained:

- People in this area have white or wheaten or to some extent brown and a little dark skin. According to this research, %95 of residents in mountainous areas, specially in Sahand Heights, have white or light color as if we can point to Kandovan village in south of Azerbaijan (Atropatene). In the northwest of this area, white or even dark and wheaten people are observed. In Ahar Township in the west of Azerbaijan white and yellow races are observed among men and women. They are often mongrel. Of course there are individuals who are dark black and green. But most of them are immigrant and have come here from other areas. However, Atropatene inhabitants are generally white.
- The size of head is the most important difference between people in Azerbaijan and other races. They have round heads. It has caused ellipsoid faces in this area as if the length of face is a little more than its width. People of Azerbaijan have small and semicircle heads on the view of length. The width of their head is less and narrow. The width and length of the head are a little different in cities and villages, but it is not significant.



- Throughout the studies, there were some with extended heads in the northwest of Iran. Thus, given to this point, we can classify the present inhabitants into two types: those with extended heads and those with round heads.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE WITH EXTENDED HEADS:

- Extended head and long hair, big curved nose (every curved nose, less or much),
- Extended head and face of Mediterranean type, erect nose, square maxilla.
- Extended head, small face of Mediterranean type, erect and a rather wide nose and square maxilla.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE WITH ROUND HEAD:

- Round head, square maxilla with curved or erect nose of primitive Alp type.
- Extended parting of head and smooth centre of Armenian type with curved nose. Samples and measurements of head for size and form in Azerbaijan (Atropatene) approve this matter that two third of individuals have round head and the rest, medium and ellipsoid. Those with ellipsoid heads have round face, too. They are probably resulted from intercourse with Turks. Others who have round head are accounted among Aryans in regard to head criteria.
- In the north of Azerbaijan, people have brownish black hair. Gray hair can be observed rarely until before 40 years old. The color of hair in %60 of Azeri's (Atropatene) is between black and brown. 90% have thick hair and generally it is straight. Given to hair tissue, %40 have soft and others, medium and minority bristles. There are a few bald ones, resulted from old age or illness. Most of people have full-bear faces. Their bear is black or dark brown. In the east of Azerbaijan, people have generally had black or dark brown hair. In regard to color, and given to the type, every kind of hair from soft to bristles was observed, but most of them have soft hair.
- People have high, wide, big, smooth and extended foreheads. The length of forehead is to some extend more and width is not completely extended. Most of the time, it is wrinkled and have grown well.
- People in these areas have mostly thick eyebrows, and even sometimes it has covered above of the nose. But there are separate eyebrows, too. They have had



semicircular, extended, and a little curved form. %95 have curved, %80 have thick, %15 have usual, and %5 have separate eyebrows. But these features (curved and round) are seen among people.

- Eyes are to some extent round and generally brown. A few of them have brown-green and most of them have brown-blue eyes, too. Only a few ones have had reddish brown eyes. The light colors indicate the factor of blond among them. Totally, it can be said that %84 have dark brown, %15 conical and some have lighter eyes. White part is clear in most and a few have albugo. The distance between eyes vertically and also the distance of eyebrows with eye horizontally is small. During the researches, there were some individuals who have had extended and long eyes. They are a few, but are not accounted among Aryans ethnically and perhaps have Mogul or Turk race affected by ethnical intercourse during the time.
- One of the most important physical features to determine a race is the length, width and a profile of nose. In regard to size, nose is big and a little smooth. It means that %80 of people have big and extended noses. Tip of nose is wide and lowly inclined to earth and others have medium and a few have small and delicate noses observed in women more. However, the nose size makes unusual appearance, especially when it is seen sideways. People settled in south of Azerbaijan (Atropatene) have medium noses and about half of them have curved and more than one third have erect noses. In the west, the profile of nose has a considerable variety. But most of them are curved and big and a few are erect. In the studies, some people with erect and small noses are observed, too. They are short and have more extended head, round face, narrower forehead, wider maxilla and smaller nose. People with extended heads, on the contrary with round head ones, have small, narrow and delicate noses. On the opposite, round head ones have big, extended, lowly and broken noses that are a feature of Aryans.
- Lip and mouth: in regard to size, lips are medium but in some cases large and a little returned. In the courses of researches, there were some with returned lips. It is observed among the inhabitants of villages more or less.
- Seemingly, length and width of ear does not have ethnical importance. The size of the ear in different cities is not the same. In some cases, nose was very small or big,



but in an overall view, it can be said that residents in this area have short and smaller ears than other ethnical groups like Turk and Mogul. A few had big ears observed in the studies. But this bigness was not so much as if we account them among other races.

- We can not give a special opinion about height. Maximum is between 160 or 190 cm and more than half are classified as medium. Moreover, there was a considerable variety. It has not unusual variety while sitting and it indicates the equal size between body and foot length.
- In regard to the body, those who live near mountains, are often thin, but they have strong muscles. Their hands and legs are elegant and a little big and rough because of job, particularly farming.

It is worth mentioning that there is Arab Iranian race among Azeri, too. In 21H (Higrah), when Arabs came to Iran, the first ethnical amalgamation was happened. Azerbaijan (Atropatene) and original Aryan Iranians in this area were not deprived from this ethnical amalgamation. Their most important features are: white color, blue and bluish green eyes, bond hair, black eyes with high forehead, curved eyebrows, extended and lowly nose and black hair.

RACIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF TURKISH AND TURKMAN PEOPLE

The word of Turk has probably come into existence several thousand years before B.C. In those centuries, some Altani Turkish tribes emigrated from their mother land and made a great empire along with some Neighbor tribes. Their domain was between Turkman and Black Sea. The word of Turk has different meanings including standing, stopping, being created, helmet, powerful, reproduction, etc. They have yellow race. Yellow race or Mongolia is divided into three groups: China or Tibet, Mogul or Manchu, Turk or Tatar. Their most important characteristics are: yellow skin, protuberant cheeks, black and bristles hair. Turkish peoples have these features, too.

- Turkish skin is dark or light brownish yellow.
- Turkish people have somewhat ellipsoid heads. It means that their skull, on the opposite of Aryans, is not round, but extended and smooth. The state of extension in skull is observed only among Turks and Turkman or those affected by ethnical



intercourse with this people. Their heads are mostly strong and muscular for their body. Ellipsoid heads have changed the face, too.

- The face is small, smooth, round and to some extent pale. Their hair is straight, bristles, black and somewhat disheveled. The beard is yellow, separate and disorder. In Turks, the most part of the beard grow in the chin. Moreover most of them have faces without beard. It means that there is not any beard in the face of Turks at all and their foreheads are wide, medium, backward, small and somewhat in rectangle shape. Their eyebrows are separate, extended, thin and long. Eyes are oval, thin, extended, and more like Moguls'. Eyelashes are longer and the color of eyes is greenish or grayish blue and a little brown. The distance of eyebrow with eye horizontally and also the distance between the two eyes vertically is a little much. These characteristics of eyes and eyebrows are observed only among Turks and Turkman.
- The cheeks are big, protuberant and wide. This bigness and much width are the most important features of Turks and Turkman, which are observable even on the face. The distance between two cheeks is small.
- Turks noses are small, smooth, extended and delicate. The tip of the nose is usual. Nose sides are to some extent big and clear. The width and the size of the nostrils are medium and small. Ears are big and lowly. Mouth is small and lips are delicate or medium. Chin is a little big or medium. Turks chins are bended forward. Their medium height is 167cm (average). Most Turks and Moguls have a big spot on their skin called Mogul spot in medicine. They are congenital spots as brown or dark blue placed on the bottom of the waist or body in infants of Mongolian (Mongoloid). This spot usually disappears after 3 or 5 years of birth. It is mostly seen among yellow race, particularly Moguls, Turks and Uzbeks. These ethnical characteristics are special for Turk, Mogul and those who are from yellow race.

CONCLUSION

Given to the human typology, in respect of historical records in this area, political changes of countries, invasion of Turks, Turkman, Moguls and Arabs, it can be reached this conclusion that Atropatene inhabitants are not the same on the view of the race. By the existence of Turkish people and the penetration of Turks and Moguls to Iran, it was not a long time for



this Aryan country to change on the view of history and identity, and the result became manifest in the language of people in this area, and not in their race. Moreover, according to the studies on the race of people in Atropatene, we conclude that they have Aryan race as the same as other Iranians.

It is obvious that among Aryans with Azeri race, none of the features related to northern yellow race such as oval eyes (epicanthus's), light yellow skin, and protuberant cheeks is observed. They are the most obvious characteristics of Turks. In fact, all of the characteristics are observed in those who maintain their root and their race in all races of Turk and northern yellow such as Kyrgyz, Cossack, Uzbek, and the most important one Turkman. But on the opposite, not only the features of white race like big eyes, white skin, and non-protuberant cheeks are observed in Atropatene, but most of them still have special characteristics of Aryan like light eyes and hair even after many years of Arabs and Turks invasions. Therefore, it can be explicitly said that Atropatene residents have inherited none of Turks' features; either apparent ones or skull. Although, some of them speak in non-Persian languages like Turkish or Azeri Turkish in Azerbaijan (Atropatene), but the reason is the arrival of Turks in this area. Thus, it can be resulted that Atropatene residents have Aryan race like other Iranians. They are accounted among Aryan race that have kept the race and general features of Iranians in Achaemenian, Parthian, and Sassanian dynasties, and so far kept their racial nobility. Therefore, according to the racial characteristics it is completely rejected to state that Atropatene residents are not Aryans; in fact the documents approved their Aryan race.

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