

## TWO ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE TESTAMENT OF JACOB

In the last issue of *Revue des Études Arméniennes*, the writer drew attention to the appearance, in Jerusalem, Armenian Patriarchate, MS 939, of the last chapters of Genesis under the title *The Testament of Jacob*. This precedes the text of the T. Patr. in the same manuscript. Certain parallels to this phenomenon were assembled there. Two further pieces of information touching on the same subject have since come to light.

a) Following T. Patr. in Athos (Mons), Koutloumous, MS 39, i.e. MS e of the T. Patr., a text called *The Blessing of Jacob* is found which is, in fact, Gen. 48:8-Gen. 50:26. This information was privately communicated to the writer by Professor M. de Jonge of Leiden. Professor de Jonge provided the following details :

fols. 197v-229r Testamenta XII Patriarcharum

fols. 229r Title. *Εὐλογία Ἰακώβ εἰς τοὺς δώδεκα αὐτοῦ υἱούς.*

Inc. *Ἰδὼν Ἰακώβ τοὺς υἱοὺς Ἰωσήφ εἶπεν.*

*τίνες σοι οὗτοι κ.τ.λ. Gen. 48:8, usque ad finem Gen. (50:26).*

fol. 231r expl. *καὶ ἔθηκαν αὐτὸν ἐν τῇ σορῶ ἐν αἰγύπτῳ.*

postea fol. 231r inc. *βίβλος μακκαβαίων α̅.*

*καὶ ἐγένετο μετὰ τὸ πατάξαι Ἀλέξανδρον κ.τ.λ.*

b) In his article «Neues zur Überlieferung der Testamente der Zwölf Patriarchen» in *N.T.S.* 12 (1955-1956), p. 248, Ch. Burchard draws attention to a modern Greek translation of T. Patr. found in a manuscript in Bucharest. The manuscript is Bucharest, Academy Library, Gr. 580 (341), paper, XVIII century. It was described by C. Litzica, *Biblioteca Academiei Române. Catalogul manuscriselor grecești*, I, Bucharest 1909, p. 206f. Preceding this translation of T. Patr., Burchard reports, is a modern Greek rendering of a document called *Testament of Jacob*. He suggests that this is probably a modern Greek rendering of a text like that in Paris, MS Coislin 296, fols. 5v-6r, which was referred to in the writer's above-mentioned article on T. Jacob (the number 269 in that article in *R.E.A.* N.S. 5 (1968), p. 263 is a misprint). In any case, the text is evidently an abbreviated para-

phrase of Gen. 47:29-49:27 and it covers fols. 1r-5r of the manuscript. Here the title, incipit and explicit are given, as reported by Burchard. It may only be added that this is the only case which, like Jerusalem 939, prefaces T. Patr. with T. Jacob. The Athos manuscript mentioned above, however, also shows a very close association of these two units of material. In any case, these two further examples show how widespread was this type of treatment of T. Jacob. Additional examples may be expected to turn up from time to time.

Title. Διαθήκη τοῦ πατριάρχου Ἰακώβ πρὸς τοὺς δώδεκα πατριάρχας υἱοὺς αὐτοῦ μετὰ τὸν θάνατον αὐτοῦ.

Inc. Ὄταν δὲ ἔμελλεν ὁ Ἰακώβ νὰ ἀποθάνῃ, ἔκραξε τὸ [!] Ἰωσήφ καὶ εἶπεν τοῦ κατὰ τὴν τότε συνήθειαν, νὰ βάλῃ τὸ χέρι τοῦ ὑπὸ τὸν μηρὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ νὰ ὠμώσει ὅτι νὰ μὴν τὸν θάψῃ εἰς τὴν Αἴγυπτον...

Expl. καὶ διὰ ταῖς εὐλογίαις τῆς μητρός σου καὶ διὰ τοῦ πατρός σου ἐν νηπίου ἐπιθυμίας ἠγάπησας, ὑπερίσχυσας καὶ ἐνάστης ὑπὲρ εὐλογίας βασιλέων πολυχρόνων καὶ ἐπιθυμίας ἀρχόντων μακροβιότητι διευθυνομένων. αὐταὶ εὐλογίαι εἴησαν ἐπὶ κεφαλὴν Ἰωσήφ καὶ ἐπὶ κορυφὴν ἐκείνους ὅπου ἀγαπᾷ.

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