



ĀKAUFAČIYĀ

ĀKAUFAČIYĀ (*a-k-u-f-č-i-y-a*), name of a tribe resident in the southeastern part of the Achaemenid empire, attested only once (in nom. plur.) in the list of countries and peoples in sec. 3 of Xerxes' so-called "daiva inscription" XPh 27 (Kent, *Old Persian*, p. 151), where these *Ākaufaka-inhabitants (cf. as a morphological parallel Mačiyā "men of Maka") are placed between the Skudrā "Thracians" and the Putāyā "Libyans" in a very irregular enumeration. The name is rendered as Elamite h.Ha-ku-pi-zi-ya and Babylonian ^{KUR}A-ku-pi-i-iš in the parallel versions. It is continued by the Middle Persian Kōfēč (which, like the Babylonian form, points to an epenthesis *faⁱč-* according to W. Eilers, *Acta Iranica* 1, 1974, p. 282), New Persian Kūfēč, in Arabicized form Qofš. These names designate the people living in the mountains of Bašākerd in southern Kermān neighboring the Baluch. It is only on the base of these modern data that the Ākaufačiyā are localized in southeastern Iran; but this deduction may find support from the name of the Oreitai (in Arrian, etc.) or "Eastern Ethiopians," as they are called in Herodotus (especially 7.10.1, in military association with the Indians), since Oreitai seems to be a mere translation of the Iranian name, which has to be analyzed as *ā-* "at, in" + (West Iranian!) *kaufa* "mountain" + suffixes **-k-ia-* > *-čiya-*. This form Ākaufačiya- does not, however, as is often thought, designate "highlander, mountain dweller," but means (in spite of the deficient evidence for the derivational base) "the inhabitants of *Ākaufaka, i.e., of "(the land) high in the mountains"."



BIBLIOGRAPHY

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