The mention of Ararat, the resting place of Noah’s Ark (according to the Bible) in the course of centuries has been at the center of attention of theologians, historians and researchers. The name Ararat is mentioned in the Hebrew original of the Bible as the mountains of Ararat, the land of Ararat and the kingdom of Ararat. The phrase the mountains of Ararat, mentioned in the Hebrew original and the Septuagint Version (the 3rd c. BC), is presented as the mountains of Armenia in the Vulgate (the end of the 4th c.-the beginning of the 5th c. AD) - montes Armeniae. The phrase of the Septuagint εἰς τὰ ὅρη τοῦ Ἀραράτου (“into the land of Ararat”) is translated «ի լերինս Հայոց» (“into the mountains of Armenia”) in the Armenian translation (the beginning of the 5th c. AD) of the Bible.

Carrying out a detailed study of the records in question of the Hebrew original of the Bible and its translations, as well as of the various interpretations of these records in the ancient and medieval primary sources, Michael Chamchyants pointed out, “... instead of the land of Ararat some call Ararat, some - Armenia, and some others Korduk”.


2 2 Kings XIX 37; Isaiah XXXVII 27.

3 Jeremiah Li 27.

4 «Requievitque arca mense septimo, vigesimo septimo die mensis super montes Armeniae» (Biblia Sacra Vulgatae, editionis juxta exemplaria ex typographia apostolica Vaticana, Romae 1592 & 1593 inter se collata et ad normam correctionum romanarum exacta auctoritate Summi Pontificis Pii IX, Valentius Loch (Herausgeber), Manz, 1863, t. I, Gen. 8. 4.).


6 Գիրք Աստուածաշունչ Հին եւ Նոր Կտակարանաց, ի Վենետիկ, 1860, Տովբիթ Ա 24:

7 Հայոց Եванոցության Հայեր, Թեոդոր, 1784, էջ 150:
Later, having investigated this issue V. Inglizyan wrote that the abovementioned phrase of the Hebrew original of the Book of Genesis and the Septuagint Version was translated into Armenian: “into the mountains of Ararat”, and in the Syriac (the Peshitta)⁸: “al tu-raĩ qardū.”⁹

Josephus Flavius (I century) mentions the reports of Berosus the Chaldean (330-250 BC) and Nicolaus of Damascus (64 BC- 5 AD) about the resting place of Noah’s Ark. Telling about the events during the Flood, Berosus wrote, “It is said that a piece of the Ark up to now is in Armenia, near the Korduk mountains”¹⁰.

According to Nicolaus of Damascus, “there is a great mountain, called Baris, in Armenia, above the (country)¹¹ Minias, where, according to the history, many have found salvation during the Flood, and one, having been carried on the Ark, got down on the peak and the residues of the latter have been preserved for a long time.”¹²

The following information about Hakob Mtsbnatsi is recorded in the work of Pavstos Buzand (V century): “A man chosen by God, from his town reached the mountains of Armenia, the mountain Sararad, near the borders of the land of Ararat, in the region of Korduk.”¹³ Regarding the form “Sararad”, Mkrtich Emin pointed out in an interpretation of the French translation of Pavstos Buzand’s “The History of Armenia” that it is supposedly a spelling mistake, made by scribes¹⁴. Considering the reading of Ararat(d), Fr. Murad supposed it possible that the “Sararad” is a consequence of the

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⁸ It is the translation of the Old Testament, which was used by the Syrian Christians (Васильчева Ю., Пятикинижие сирийской Пещитты и экзегетические традиции армейских таргумов. Вестник ПСТГУ, Богословский сборник, N 11, М., 2003, стр. 116).
¹⁰ Հին հունական աղբյուրներ Ա, Հովսեպոս Փլավիոս, Դիոն Կասիոս, Հրեական հնախոսություն, Գիրք առաջին, Թարգմանություն բնագրից, առաջաբանը և ծանոթագրությունները Ս. Մ. Կրկյաշարյանի, Երևան, 1976, էջ 55: Cf. Եւսեբի Պամփիլեայ Կեսարացւոյ Ժամանակ, Վէնէտիկ, 1818, էջ 36-37:
¹¹ In this regard, S. M. Krkyasharyan commented: “The country of Minias in the form of “Minni” (“Manna” in the Assyrian cuneiform inscriptions) is always mentioned with the Ararat in the Bible” (Հին հունական աղբյուրներ Ա, էջ 102, ծան. 120):
¹³ Փաւստոսի Բիւզանդացւոյ Պատմութիւն Հայոց, էջ 33:
wrong separation of the words ի լերինս Արարադայ (into the mountains of Ararad)\(^{15}\). St. Malkhasyants has also considered the form “Sararad” doubtful, emerged from the incorrect partition of the two adjacent words, since “in old times, the words were being written close to each other in the Old Armenian (Erkatagir, or "ironclad letters"), ԻԼԵՐԻՆԱՐԱՐԱԴԱՅ (ILERINSARARADA) was separated as follows “i lerins sararata” instead of “i lerins Ararata”\(^{16}\).

It is apparent from the publication of the critical text of Movses Khorenatsi, the form of Ararat exists in the manuscript variant readings along with the reading of Ararad\(^{17}\). As concerns the reference to Korduk, it is possible to suppose that it was a later introduction to the text of Pavstos Buzand.

About Armenia and its highest summit, Ararat, in relation to the Flood and the Noah’s Ark, Eghishe (the 5th c. AD) wrote in his “Interpretation of the Genesis”: “Some call the mountain Ararat, Korduk, but the truth is that it is Masis”\(^{18}\). It may be seen that the problem emerged because in the 5th century the interpretation of the name of Ararat mountain had been already known, the answer of which was provided by Eghishe.

It is necessary to take into consideration the fact that the name Kardu or Qardu in the Syriac (the Peshitta) and, later on, Arabic translations of the Old Testament was applied instead of Ararat.

In this regard, Saint-Martin, examining the problem of Ararat as the resting summit of Noah’s Ark, remarked: “The name of Ararat is preserved in the translation of Septuagint, “The Antiquities of the Jews” by Josephus, the Vulgate and the Armenian translation of the Bible. It is being translated either as mountains of Armenia or the land of Armenians (les mots de Montagnes d’Arménie ou de Terre des Arméniens)\(^{19}\). Saint-Martin noted, “All of the translators and interpreters of the Holy Bible in Syriac while not preserving the primary phrase Ararat replaced it by an expression the mountains of Kurds”\(^{20}\). This example was followed by the translators of the Bible into Arabic\(^{21}\).

As Movses Khorenatsi (the 5th century) reports, the Armenian Korduk was the territory of domicile of Hayk’s grandson, Kadmos (“տունն Կադմեայ”-"House of Kadmos")\(^{22}\). The region name Korduk of the Kortchayk province of Great Armenia has no relation to the Kurds. Having described the route of the retreating Greek army (10000)

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15 Murad Fr., op. cit., S. 83-84.
16 Фавцини М.П., Цегицизцзескун, руард. и др. У.. Уп. Упакуфундэкунг, Բերան, 1987, էջ 423, բաժ. 32:
17 Սուոուբս, բաց, էջ 33, 34:
20 Saint-Martin mentioned the phrase of the Kurds’ mountains, taking into consideration the wrong standpoint of his time. The “Kurds” related misunderstanding appeared as a result of their tribal name’s wrong connection with the Armenian region name Korduk (Saint-Martin M. J., op. cit., p. 176).
21 Ibid.
22 Սուոուբս իտեբիլիայ, Պաքիդուզգետ Հայոց, Բերան, 1991, էջ 34:
through Armenia (401 BC), Xenophon mentioned the inhabitants (Armenians) of the Korduk region according to the place of their residence - Καρδουχι (Kordukians)23.

Declining the identification of Ararat with Korduk, Saint-Martin pointed out that two different opinions have been formed when specifying the location of the Ark after the Flood as a result of two variants of translations. According to Saint-Martin, the standpoint of the Ark as if being rested on the north of Mesopotamia and Syria was mainly accepted by "the Eastern Christians, Syrians and Arabs"24. He noted, "This first tradition was rather old in the East, for it had existed in the time of historiographers Abydenus and Chaldean Berosus"25.

Saint-Martin considered that tradition correct, according to which Mt. Ararat is in the center of Armenia, noting that "probably, it starts from the Septuagint Version." He mentioned that "the Armenian translators of the Bible, have always followed the version of Septuagint and accepted the standpoint of their Homeland being a cradle of humankind"26.

In the translations of the Arabic primary sources made by Aram Ter-Ghevondyan, especially in the work of the Arab chronicler of the 8th-9th centuries al-Waqidi, "The conquest of Syria", it is reported that "And Vahb said we were told that the Ark... rested on the mount Ararat (Judi) for a month, which is a mountain in the country of Jazira"27. The Arab scholars of the 9th century were also of the same opinion28.

Later on, the Arab authors continued to speculate the name of Judi mountain in their interpretations of the Ark. The Arab author of the 13th century Ibn al-Asir pointed in his work "The Complete History": "And the Ark [of Noah] was floating on the Earth... until it reached al-Judi, which is a mountain in Kardi, in the country of Mosul, and rested there"29. An Arab geographer of the 12th-13th noted, "The temple of Noah (according to the Arabic legend - A. D.) is on the mountain of Judi until now"30.

25 Ibid.
26 Ibid., pp. 264-266.
27 Αραβακάν  αγίεντας Γ,  αράμαν αγίαναλάγης Χ-Χ  γιαμα, θηραμναρνήτα και τιμαράκη οραμαλαρπισμίατο Υ. Στι-Παπιαδη, ιρλαμ, 2005, ξθ 128:
28 Ibid., pp. 202, 206, 332.
29 Αραβακάν  αγίεντας Γ, τρομαι Αλ-Αςή, οραμαλαρπισμίαντατα μαρακή οραμαλαρπισμία και διαρμαλαρπισμίατό Υ. Στι-Παπιαδη, ιρλαμ, 1981, ξθ 37:
30 Αραβακάν  αγίεντας Γ, Αλ-Αςή, τιμαράκη οραμαλαρπισμία και διαρμαλαρπισμίατό Υ. Στι-Παπιαδη, ιρλαμ, 1965, ξθ 50: Talking over the problem from the standpoint of political circumstances, M. Thierry groundlessly identified the Judi with the place of landing the Noah’s Ark and concluded that the traditional identification of Ararat-Masis was made subsequently, conditioned by the political separation of Armenia and the influence of Ejmiatsin (M. Thierry, Le lieu d'échouage de l'arche de Noé dans la tradition arménienne. – Syria, 1995, vol. 72, issue 1-2, p. 143-158). About the criticism of such an opinion see ζ. Εμιαμενίν 9η, Ιβιματεινέν, ζσθ δημοκρατίας παραμετρικάς παραμετρή, (δρ-η ηπ.), ιρλαμ, 2004, ξθ 82:
Interwining various opinions in the French publication of “The Encyclopedia of Islam” is noted that Ararat, mentioned in the Assyrian inscriptions, “was a territory south of the lake Van... Masis (Great Ararat), as well as Jabal Judi, both summits could be the mountains of Ararat as the traditional place of coming down of the Ark, according to the Biblical version”31.

Judi is mentioned in the Koran as the resting place of the Ark32. In the 18th-19th centuries interpretations of the French translations of the Koran the authors considered Ararat as the resting place of the Ark, based on the records of the Pentateuch33.

George Sale touched the problem of the mountain Judi in an interpretation to his English translation of the Koran: “This mountain is one of those which divide Armenia, on the south, from Mesopotamia, and that part of Assyria, which is inhabited by Curds, from whom the mountains took the name of Cardu, or Gardu; by the Greeks turned into Gordyaei, and other names. Mount of (which name seems to be corruption, though it be constantly so written by the Arabs, for Jordi or Giordi)...”34. Likewise, it is noted (in the commentary of the French translation of the Koran by M. Kasimirski) that the name Judi corresponds to Jordi, the mountains of Korduk, which can be a corruption35.

The following commentary about the mountain Judi is made in the French translation (1979) of the Koran “It is a name of one of the Armenian great volcanic peaks, which is known as Ararat and the highest point of which reaches 5157 m36. It can be seen that here Judi was wrongly identified with Ararat-Masis (the real elevation is 5165 m).

N. Adonts, writing about the usage of the Kurdish element in the conquest policy of the Ottoman Empire in Western Armenia, remarked that the migration of the Kurdish tribes started in the second decade of the 16th century when Sultan Selim seized the great part of Armenia and “appointed Kurds as governors...”37.

A. Ter-Ghevondyan pointed that the mountain Ararat was well known to the Arab authors, who mentioned Great Masis as Haris and Lesser Masis as Huayras. He compared the legend about Masis, mentioned in the work of Movses Khorenatsi, with the records about Huayras in the Arabic sources, writing that “the Armenian legend of

32 Ղուրան, թարգմանեց արաբերէնից հայերէնի Աբր. Ամիրխանեանց, Վառնա, 1909, Սուրա XI. 46, էջ 205:
34 The Koran or, Alcoran of Mohammed; with explanatory notes, London, 1877, p. 179. George Sale in his commentary wrongly considered the region of Korduk of Great Armenia as a part of Assyria inhabited by Kurds.
35 Le Coran, traduction nouvelle faite sur le texte arabe par M. Kasimirski, Paris, 1865, p. 175.
36 Le Koran, texte, traduction française et commentaire d’après la tradition, les différentes écoles de lecture, d’exégèse, de jurisprudence et de théologie, les interprétations mystiques, les tendances schismatiques et les doctrines hérétiques de l’Islam, et à la lumière des théories scientifiques, philosophiques et politiques modernes par le Cheikh Si Hamza Boubakeur, Fayard, 1979, t. I, p. 705.
37 Ադոնց Ն., Հայկական հարցի լուծման շուրջ, Երևան, 1989, էջ 64-65:
the mountain Masis having passed through the Arabic environment was filled up with new materials,... the basis of which is Armenian, but it got an Arabic coloring over the time”38.

Some of the Dead Sea Scrolls (Qumran Caves Scrolls)39 shed new light on the matter under question. It is reported in the 12th line of the 10th column of the Aramaic original that the Ark “rested on one of the mountains of Ararat” (“... l’arche se posa sur l’une des montagnes d’Ararat”)40. The French Qumranologist H. Lignée, who has explored that scroll, considered that possibly “this work either is a translation of one Hebrew original or an adaptation of an older manuscript”41. Researching this problem, G. Abgaryan concluded, “The text of the Aramaic Bible, known today, containing the interpolated Kardu is incomparably newer than the Qumran manuscript, where the interpolation has not been done yet, and Noah’s Ark comes to rest on the mountains of Ararat”42.

Thus primary sources on Ararat as a mountain where the Ark rested have been analyzed by the Armenologists since the 19th century. Among important historic sources on the issue under discussion are the Qumran manuscript and Eghishe’s interpretation about Ararat-Masis as the mountain where the Ark rested.

38 Considering the mountain Masis as a resting place of the Ark, at the same time A. Ter-Ghevondyan brought the viewpoint expressed in the Arabic sources (Տեր-Ղևոնդյան Ա., Մասիս լեռան մասին արաբական զրոյցը.-Հոդվածների ժողովածու, Երևան, 2003, էջ 226, 229).
39 Since 1947 a collection of Biblical and Non-Biblical scrolls have been discovered in 12 caves (Qumran Caves) in the immediate vicinity of Khirbet Qumran (date back to the Hellenistic period and later). Most of them are in Hebrew, some in Aramaic and some in Greek (see in detail http://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/featured-scrolls).
41 Les textes du Qumran ..., p. 215.
42 Աբգարյան Գ., Աբգարյան Վ., Արարատը Կումրանի ձեռագրերում.-Աստվածաշնչական Հայաստան, Միջազգային գիտաժողովի նյութերի ժողովածու, 2005, էջ 112-113: