

Diplomatic relationship between Avars and Byzantine Empire by Menander Protector

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ABSTRACT

In the article submitting the translations of some fragments of book by Menander Protector with comments. Its fragments are about the diplomatic missions from Avars to Byzantine Empire. Menander described communications between Avars and others barbarians in the South and East Europe. Contacts with the Byzantine Empire were the most important preferences for barbarians in 6th century. Thanks to Menander, we have our opinions about Avars and their life, tradition and true motivations about relationship with Byzantine.

KEY WORDS: Menander, Avars, barbarians, embassy, Byzantine Empire

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE: Menander, barbarzyńcy, ambasada, imperium bizantyjskie

The book of Early Byzantine's author Menander Protector is momentous source for researching the relationship between Byzantine Empire and barbarians. However, this work was not preserved completely, but only in fragments (excerpts). Menander wrote about the last period of emperor Justinian I and the reign of Justine II and Tiberius I (558–582).

There are several editions of his book, published in XIX c. For this translation we take on the edition on Ancient Greek language, published in *Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae* in 1829¹.

In 1851 in Paris were published excerpts of Menander's book with comments by Carl Muller². In 1871 – another revision in the second volume of digest *Historici Graeci Minores* ed. by Ludovick Dindorf³. Finally, at the beginning of XX century in Berlin was published the edition *Excerpta historica iussu imperatoris Constantini Porphyrogeniti confecta*, ed. by Carl de Boor⁴.

In 1860 in St. Petersburg was published Russian translate of *Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae*⁵ by translator Spiridon Destunis (1782–1848). Russian researchers Sergey Tohtasyev and Irina Levinskaya translated excerpts about Slavs⁶.

This translation is attempt to research the processes of intercivilizational relationship by vision of Byzantines. The author describes the embassy's missions from Avars to Romans and return visits. The information based on the documents which were available for Menander.

¹ *Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae, Pars I, Dexippi, Eunapii, Petri Patricii, Prisci, Malchi, Menandri, Olympiodori, Candidi, Nonnosi et Theophanis Historiarum Beliquiae, Procopii et Prisciani Panegyrici*, B.G. Niebuhrii (ed.), Bonnae 1829.

² *Fragmenta Historicorum Graecorum. Volumen Quartum*, collegit, disposuit, notis et prolegomenis illustravit Carolus Mullerus, editore Ambrosio Firmin Didot, Parisii 1851.

³ *Historici Graeci Minores*, edidit Ludovicus Dindorfus, vol. II, *Menander Protector et Agathias*, Lipsiae, in aedibus B.G. Teubneri 1871.

⁴ *Excerpta historica iussu imperatoris Constantini Porphyrogeniti confecta*, vol. 1, *Excerpta de legationibus*, C. de Boor (ed.), Berlin 1903.

⁵ *Византийские историки Дексипп, Эвнаний, Олимпиодор, Малх, Петр Патриций, Менандр, Кандид, Ноннос и Феофан Византиец, переведенные с греческого Спиридоном Дестунисом*, Санкт-Петербург 1860.

⁶ Менандр Протектор (И.А. Левинская, С.Р. Тохтасьев), *Свод древнейших письменных известий о славянах*, т. I (I–VI вв.), Москва 1994, с. 311–356.

7 Alans – Iranian alliance of Sarmatian nomadic tribes known since the first century.

8 Justine – public official and military leader, the son of a cousin of Emperor Justinian I, Hermans, an influential official at the court. Justine was one of two pretenders on emperor post. His opponent was another nephew of Justinian I, future emperor Justine II. Both Justines made a deal: if one of them will take a power in Empire, another one will be the second person in Byzantine. When Justinian died, Hermans' Justine was in the North of Empire. Another Justine used this and took the throne. Later Hermans' Justine was killed.

9 Justinian I – byzantine emperor (527–565).

10 Strategist – governor and military chief of administrative district in the Byzantine Empire.

It is limited amount of information about life and activity of Menander Protector. He lived in the second part of the VI century. Menander wrote about himself, that he was born in Constantinople in the middle of the VI century in the average earnings family. His date of birth and death exactly unknown. After his education Menander became a lawyer, however, his work in this area very quickly bothered him. Some facts, especially his surname, indicate that Menander was on duty in court, because of word “protector” (guardian) that means rank of emperor's Guard.

In 582, after beginning of Emperor Maurice reign, Menander had started working on his book, which were as extension of Agathias' research. The chronological terms of Menander's excerpts include the period from 558 to 582.

Menander used some texts from diplomatic missions of that time, that is why his evidences are sufficiently reliable.

Menander has his own subjective opinion against barbarians. He describes them as rather strange, unclear and enemy. There is not straight definition against barbarians. Nevertheless, all text – is the evidence of strong byzantine position of author.

The Embassy from Avars to Romans 558.

Exc. De leg. gent. P. 99

[Περὶ Ἀβάρων.] ὡς πολλὰ περιουστῆσαντες ἤκον εἰς Αλανούς, καὶ ἰκέται ἐγένοντο Σαρωσίου τοῦ Ἀλανῶν ἡγουμένου, ὡς ἂν δι' αὐτοῦ γνῶριμοὶ ἔσονται Ῥωμαίοις.	[About Avars]. Avars after grate migration arrived to Alans ⁷ and asked their ruler Sarosiy to introduce them with romans.
Ὁ δὲ Ἰουστίνῳ τῷ Γερμανοῦ, κατ' ἐκεῖνο καιροῦ τῶν ἐν Λαζική καταλόγων ἐξηγουμένων, τῶν Ἀβάρων περὶ ἐδήωσεν, ὁ δὲ Ἰουστίνος Ἰουστινιανῷ βασιλεῖ.	Herman's sun Justin ⁸ , which at that time had authority over the army in the logic, told to Basileus Justinian ⁹ about Avars.
Καὶ δὴ ἐνεκελεύσατο ὁ βασιλεὺς τῷ στρατηγῷ στέλλειν εἰς Βυζάντιον τὴν πρεσβείαν τοῦ ἔθνους.	Basileus ordered to strategist ¹⁰ , that he must allow barbarian to send embassy to Byzantium from them.

<p>Καί οὖν Κανδίχ ὄνομά τις ἠρέθη πρεσβευσόμενος ὑπέρ Ἀβάρων πρῶτος, ὃς ἐσφοιτήσας ἔλεξε τῷ αὐτοκράτορι, ὡς πάρεστι τό μέγιστόν τε καί ὀλκμώτατον τῶν ἐθνῶν, καί ὡς τό φύλον οἱ Ἀβαροι ἀκαταμάχητοί τέ εἰσι καί τό ἀνιστατοῦν οἰοί τε ραδίως ἀπώσασθαί τε καί διαφθεῖρην, καί ὡς προσήκόν ἐστι τῷ βασιλεῖ ἐς ὁμαιχμίαν σφᾶς ἐταιρῖσασθαι, ἀλεξητήράς τε ἔχειν ἀγαθοῦς, καί ὡς οὐκ ἄλλως εὐνούστατιον ἔσονται τῇ Ῥωμαϊκῇ πολιτεία ἢ δώροις ἐς τά μάλιστα τιμιωτάτους καί χρήμασιν ἐτησίους καί γῆς εὐφρωτάτης οἰκήσει.</p>	<p>Kandih was calling the first messenger drafted by the Avars, who came and told to emperor that appeared the biggest and bravest of nations and that the tribes of Avars is invincible. They have any enemies could easily expel and exterminate. Therefore, basileus should become friendly relations with them. And creates the military alliance. They can be good defenders for romans. They will be merciful to the Roman state only if they has getting a big expensive gifts and money, and if you placed them to fertile land.</p>	<p>¹¹ Utigin – the king of Ostrogoth (500–542), ruled during 536–540, took part in the Gothic Wars, was prisoner together with his army by Byzantine's troops. After Justinian I forced Vandals, romans unleashed the war with Ostrogoth.</p>
<p>Ταῦτα τῷ αὐτοκράτορι ἐπειδή ἤγγειλεν ὁ Κανδίχ, αὐτίκα – οὐ γάρ ἐσφριγα οἱ τό σῶμα, οὐδέ ἤκμαζεν ἡ ἀλκή, ὥσπερ ἀμέλει, ἠνίκα Γελίμερά τε τόν Βάνδηλον καί Οὐττιγιν τόν Γότθον ἄμφω ἔτι νεάζων ἔθετο δορυάλωτον• ἀλλ' ἤδη χηραλέος τε ἦν, καί τό ἀνδρεῖον ἐκεῖνο φρόνημα καί φιλοπόλεμον μετεβέβλητο ἐς τό ραθυμότερον.</p>	<p>That is what Kandih said to emperor, but now the body [the emperor] was not as flourishing, full force, as when he was a young, he won Vandal Gelimer¹¹ and Goth Vitigin¹². He was very old his masculinity and love of war transformed to light-heartedness.</p>	<p>¹² Gelimer – the king of Vandal during 530–534.</p>
<p>Ταῦτα ἐγνώ ἐτέρῳ τρόπῳ καί οὐχί πολέμῳ τήν βαρβαρικὴν ἀποκρούσασθαι δύναμιν.</p>	<p>Therefore, he decided otherwise, not war, to repel barbarian threats.</p>	
<p>Και κατηγωνίσαστο ἄν και ἄρδην ἠφάνισεν, εἰ και μή πολέμῳ, ἀλλ' οὖν εὐβουλίᾳ, εἰ γε μέ τῷ ἀφειλομένῳ τέλει πρότερον ἠφάνισθη αὐτός• οὐ γάρ πολλῶ ὕστερον ᾗχετο ἐκεῖσε.</p>	<p>He mastered the Avars have destroyed would not be war, but prudence if he first died later.</p>	
<p>Ἐπεὶ οὖν ἠκιστα ἦν οἷος τε περὶναι, τήν ἐτέραν ἐτράπετο.</p>	<p>After having been the least able to defeat the enemy, he turned it on its side.</p>	

13 Silk was known in Roman Empire since early AD. It was very expensive cloth. In the Early Middle Ages silk was equivalent to gold.

14 On the northern border of the Byzantine Empire, which was held on the lower reaches of the Danube, in the time of Justinian I wandering hordes of Huns and Bulgarians, lived Slavs and Ants. Near western border behind the Danube lived germane tribes of Gepids, who owned a strategically important city Sirmium. From the south borders of Byzantium threatened by nomadic Arab tribes. At the steppes of the Black Sea that stretched down to the Danube and the foothills of the Caucasus, the Caspian Sea and Volga River flow at the beginning of the VI wandering tribes of Huns named Savirs, Utigurs and Kutrigurs. The Huns crossed the Danube and invaded the province of the Byzantine Empire. The border was guarded very badly, and border areas were unsettled as tempting to frequent nomadic invasions.

15 Ants – by Procopius of Caesarea – East branch of the tribe of the Slavs (Procop. De Bell. Goth. III, 14.). Ants and other Slavic tribe Sclavins were a big problem for the Byzantine Empire. Since the end of the V century, they lived east to the Gepid's land along the lower reaches of the Dnieper and Dniester. These tribes periodically carried foray into the territory of the empire that small mobile units, sometimes quite large groups.

Exc. De leg. gent. (p. 100)

Ὅτι δημηγορήσας ὁ βασιλεὺς, τοῦ τε ἱεροῦ ξυλλάγου τὸ ἀγχίνουν τε καὶ βουλευτικὸν τοῦ βασιλέως ἐπαινέσαντος, παραχρήμα τὰ τε δῶρα ἔστειλε, σειρώς τε χρυσῶ διαπεποικιλμένας καὶ κλίνας, ἐσθῆτάς τε σηρικὰς καὶ ἕτερα πλείστα ἐκμαθακῶσαι οἷά τε ὄντα ἀλαζονείας ἀνάπλεα φρονήματα, πρὸς τοῖς καὶ πρεσβευσόμενον Βαλεντίνον• (εἰς δὴ οὗτος τῶν βασιλικῶν μαχαροφόρων•) καὶ προὔτρεπετο τὸ φύλον ὁμαιχμίαν ἐσάγειν Ῥωμαίοις καὶ κατὰ τῶν ἀντιπάλων ὀπλίζεσθαι, ἐμφρονέστατα οἶμαι προμηθευσάμενος ὁ βασιλεὺς, ὡς ἢ νικῶντες οἱ Ἄβαροι ἢ καὶ ἡσσωμένοι ἐς ἀμφοῖν περιθῶσι Ῥωμαίοις τὸ συνοῖσον.

Basileus was talking. Sacred assembly approved his intelligence, immediately sent gifts: golden incrustation chances, beds, silk clothes¹³ and many others things, which would mitigate the souls, full of arrogance. They sent a messenger Valentine (he was one of emperor's squires) to persuade the tribe to a military alliance with the Romans and willingness to arm against enemies¹⁴.

I think that is predictable of basileus was reasonable, because win or Avars, or defeat – in both cases is the same provisions of the Romans.

Τοῦ δὲ βαλεντίνου ἐκεῖσε ἀφικομένου καὶ τὰ δῶρα παρασχομένου, καὶ ὅσα ἀσήμηνεν ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐξειπόντος, πρῶτον μὲν ἐξεπολεμήθησαν Οὔτιγούροις, εἶτα Ζάλοις, Οὔννικῶ φύλῳ• καὶ Σαβεῖρους δὲ καθεῖλον.

When Valentin arrived, he gave gifts and all that would pass basileus. At first started to fight with Utigurs, then with Huns tribe of Zalos, and crushed Saveiros.

Exc. De leg. gent. (P. 100, 101)

Ὅτι ἐπεὶ οἱ ἄρχοντες Ἀντῶν ἀθλίως διετέθησαν καὶ παρά τήν σφῶν αὐτῶν ἐλπίδα ἐπεπτώκεσαν, αὐτίκα οἱ Ἄβαροι ἐκεῖον τε τήν γῆν καὶ ἐληίζοντο τήν χώραν.

Leaders of Ants¹⁵ were in a difficult position and lost hope; Avars are immediately began to plunder and ravage their land.

Πιεζόμενοι δ' οὖν ταῖς τῶν πολεμίων ἐπιδρομαῖς ὡς οἶον τε, ἐπρεσβεύσαντο ὡς αὐτοῦς Μεξάμηρον τὸν Ἰδαρίζου, Κελαγαστοῦ ἀδελφόν, ἐπὶ τήν πρεσβείαν χειρονήσαντες• ἐδέοντό τε πρίασθαι τῶν τινας τοῦ οἰκείου φύλου δορυαλώτων.

Oppressed military raids [Ants] sent messengers to them [Avars] caled Mezamyr, son of Idariz and brother of Kelahast. Ambassadors asked for a possibility to redeem captives few of his tribe.

<p>Καί τοίνυν Μεξάμηρος ὁ πρεσβευτής, στωμύλος τε καί ὑπαγόρας, ὡς Ἀβάρους ἀφικόμενος ἀπέρριψε ῥήματα ὑπερήφανα τε καί θρασύτερα πως.</p>	<p>Ambassador Mezamyr was talkative and boastful. When he arrived to Avars, he talked to them with pride and audacity.</p>	<p>16 Hakan (Hagan) – Khan of Khans (leader of leaders) – the title of the nomadic ruler. Avars borrowed the title of Kagan from Turks. Specifically, this refers to the Avar Kagan called Bayan.</p>
<p>Ταῦτά τοι ὁ Κοτράγηγος ἐκεῖνος, ὁ τοῖς Ἀβάροις ἐπιτήδειος, ὁ κατ' Ἀντῶν τὰ ἐχθιστά βουλευσήμενος, ἐπεὶ ὁ Μεξάμηρος ὑψηλότερον ἢ κατὰ πρεσβευτὴν διελέγετο, εἶπεν ὡς τὸν Χάγανον· «οὗτος ὁ ἀνὴρ μεγίστην ἐστί περιβέβληται δύναμιν ἐν Ἄνταις, οἷός τε πέφυκε κατὰ τῶν ὅπως οὖν αὐτῷ πολεμίων ἀντιτάττεσθαι.</p>	<p>When Kotragir (Avar's relative, which had talking about Ants acidly) listened, that Mezamir talked more proudly, then he should, said to Hagan¹⁶: “This man has great influence among the ants and to act against all kinds of their enemies.</p>	<p>17 Heruls – Germanic tribe – in the beginning of VI century they lived in Thrace. 18 Thrace.</p>
<p>Δεῖ τοιγαροῦν ἀπακτανθῆναι τοῦτον, καί τό λοιπόν ἀδεῶς ἐπιδραμεῖσθαι τήν ἀλλοτρίαν».</p>	<p>It is therefore necessary to make him shut up forever. And then without fear attack to foreigners”.</p>	
<p>Τούτῳ πεισθέντες οἱ Ἄβαροι παρωσάμενοι τήν τῶν πρέσβειων αἰδῶ, ἐν οὐδενί τε λόγῳ θέμενοι τήν δίκην, ἀναιροῦσι τόν Μεξάμηρον.</p>	<p>Avars obeyed, pushed worthy of respect ambassador, neglected roles and killed Mezamyr.</p>	
<p>Ἐξ ἐκείνου πλέον, ἢ πρότερον, ἔτεμον τήν γῆν τῶν Ἀντῶν, καί οὐκ ἀνίεσαν ἀνδραποδιζόμενοι καί ἀγοντές τε καί φέροντες.</p>	<p>Since better than ever, began to destroy the earth Ants never ceased to plunder and conquer the people.</p>	

562, De leg. Gent. (101)

<p>Ἄτι ἐδέξατο Ἰουστινιανός παρά Ἀβάρων πρέσβεις, ἔφ ᾧ σφᾶς περιθρήσαι γῆν, ὅποι τό φύλον θήσονται τάς οἰκήσεις.</p>	<p>Justinian took Embassy of the Avars, because of looking to land where, the ethnos had to move for life.</p>	
<p>Καί ὁ μέν βασιλεὺς, Ἰουστίνου τοῦ στρατηγούσημῆναντός οἱ, ἐν βουλή ἐποιήσατο ἐστὴν Ἐρούλων χωρὰν κατοικήσαι τὸ ἔθνος, ἐνθα πρότου ᾤκουνοι Ἐρουλοί.</p>	<p>Basileus [listened] arguments of strategist Justin, thought to make settlement on lands of ethnic Eruly, where Eruly [lived]¹⁷.</p>	
<p>Δευτέρα δὲ προσαγορεύεται Πανονία.</p>	<p>Now it is called the second Pannonia¹⁸.</p>	

Καίειγεθυμηρεςαυτοῖς ἐγένετο, καίκατένευσεν ἄν ὁ βασιλεύς.	If they settled there, basileus would be happy.
ἀλλ' ἐκείνοι Σκυθίας οὐτιῶντο δεῖν ἔσεσθαι ἐκτός• αὐτῆς γάρ δῆπου θενέσῳτι ἐφίεντο.	However, they did not want to settle behind the Scythia, so all that remained.
Τοῦτομένοῦνουπροῦβη, ἔστειλεδέ ὅμως Ἰουστίνος ὁ στρατηγόςτούςπρέσβεις ἐςτόΒυζάντιον, ἐδήλωσέτετῷβασιλεῖ, ὡς ἀναυτοῦ ἐγκατοχῆ ἔσοντο ἐπίπολλύ.	Despite all this, strategist Justin sent an embassy to Byzantium and reported to basileus that he must get them in the city.
Ἐφιλοποιήσατογάρτωνπρέσβων ἔναδνομαΟικουνίμων• ἐν ἀπορήρητῷτέοι ἔλεγεν ὁ Οικουνίμων, ὡς ἕτεραδιαλεγόμενοι ἕτεραγνωματεῦσαι, καί ὡςλόγοιζόμεν ἐστῶμαλισταμετρίοιςχρῶνταικαί [ὡς] τῆν ἐπιείκειανπαρᾶετασμαπροβάλλονταιτοῦδόλου, τῷ ἐμπεδῶσαιδῆθεντόεννον ὡςτούς Ῥωμαίους, ὡς ἀνταυτῆδιαπραιωθεῖεντόνἼστρον, τόδέγεβουλόμηνοναυτοῖςτῆςγνώμης ἔχει ἐτέρως, καί ὡς, εἴγεδιέλθοιεντόνποταμόν, βούλονταιπανστρατεῖ ἐπιθέσθαι.	He made friends with the ambassador named Ikunimon; Ikunimon secretly told that [Avars] says one thing and think another, and uses the simple words. Under the cover of leniency, conceal guile. It seems that commitment for Romans, they swam the Istr ¹⁹ , and therefore they wants others: if they can, they cross the river and attacks by whole army.
Τούτωνοῦν Ἰουστίνοςἐγνωσμένων, αὐτῷτῷβασιλεῖ ἐσήμηεν, ὡς ἀνοιπρέσβειςτῶν Ἀβάρων ἐγκαθειρμένοι ὧσιν ἐνΒυζαντίῳ• ταύτηγάρουκάνξεινοτιδιελθῆντό ρεῖθρον, πρὶν ἢ ἀφεθῶσινοἱπρέσβεις.	When Justine had known about it, he said to basileus, that avarian ambassadors were detained in Byzantine. That is why Avars do not dare to swim cross the river before the ambassadors should be realized.
Ἐνφδέταῦταἔπρασεν ὁ Ἰουστίνος, οὐχ ἦττονπαρασκευάζετο ἄμαφυλάξωντάςδιαβάσειςτοῦποταμοῦ• Βῶνονγάρτόνπρωτοστάτηντοῦθητικούκαίοἰκετοκοῦτῆ τοῦποταμοῦ ἀπένειμεφυλακῆ.	However, Justine prepared river crossing guard; He ordered to Bon (who was the chief of the servants) to be the guardian of the river.
Οἱδέπρέσβειςτῶν Ἀβάρωνἐπίοὔδέντιῶνἠσανῶνπεραῖτοῦντεςπρόςβασιλέαἐφίκοντο, δῶρα, ὡσπερσύνηθες ἦναυτοῖς, παραυτοῦεὐιληφότες, καίμένοῦν ὠνησάμενοιτῶ σαχρεῶν, τοῦτοδέκαὶ ὀπλων, ἀφέθγσανμέν• ὁμωςδέοῦν Ἰουστίνῳλάθρα ἐνεκελεύσατο ὁ βασιλεύςτρόπῳτῶτά ὀπλα ἀφέλῃσθαιπαράσφῶν.	Avars ambassadors not reached that demanded basileus, but does have the usual gifts and bought everything you need, even weapons and were released. Nevertheless, basileus secretly ordered to Justine in any way take away weapons from them.

Καίουόνόστρατηγόςέπειέδεξατόγε- αύθις επανιόνταστους πρέσβεις, κατά ταῦτα έποίηι.	Strategist made everything after it received the am- bassadors, which returned home.
Έντεϋθενήρξατοήδυσμένεια Έρω- μαίωντεκαί Έβάρων, ήδη έκπολλοϋ ύποτυφομέν, καίμάλιστατάμή ώσθάττον άφεθήναιτούςπρέσβεις.	Sins started antagonism about Romans and Avars, that began because of ambassadors that they were not released in time.
ΣυνεχέσταταγαρέσήμηνενόΒαϊανός, ώσάνεπανέλθοειν• τόμελετώμενον- δέσάφα έπιστάμενος ό βασιλεύς άλλοτε άλλωςδιετιθειτόπαρόν, όπως έστήνβασιλιδαπόλιν έγκα- θειργμένοιείεν.	Bayan often said that they must return. Basileus creating moments to am- bassadors were detained in the capital.

20 Justine II – Byzantine Emperor.

21 Not really father, but predecessor,
emperor Justinian I. w

565, Exc. De leg. Gent. (P. 101–103)

“Ότιέπι Έουστίνουτοϋνέουοιτών Έβάρωνπρέσβειςπαρεγένοντοέν- Βυζαντιώτάσυνήθηδώραληψόμε- νοι, άπερτώκατ’ αύτούςέθνει Έου- στινιανόςόπρότούβασιλεύςέδίδου• ήσανδέκαλώδιάτεχρυσώδιαπεποι- κιμένα, έστόείργεινιτιτώνάποδι- δρασκόντωνένπεινοημένα.	With new Justine ²⁰ Avar’s ambassadors arrived to Byzantine for taking gifts, wich gave them basileus Justinian I. It was small rope decorated with gold, desi- gned for detained refugees caught.
Καίκλιναιομοίωςκαίάλλατι- νάέςτόάβρότερονάνειμένα.	Also for application in bed and other unrestrained luxury.
Τότεδηοϋνοίπρέσβειςτων Έβάρω- νέςπειρανιέναιτουβσιλέως έβούλοντο, είγεούκ άλλωςδώρα- λαμβάνειναύτοις, καίτη Έρωμαίων ράθυμία έπεντρυφάν, καίτό άμε- λέσαύτώνοικείοντίθεσθαικέρδος.	The Avar’s Ambassadors wanted basileus to give them the other gifts.
Καί δή παρά βασιλέα φοιτάν ήξιουν.	They came and wanted to be introduce to Basileus.
Καίουόντουτοέφειμένοναύτοις, έτιγεμήνκαϊδιάτων έρμηνέων ότι- βούλονταιλέγειν, τοιοίσοδεέχρή- σαντολόγοι: «χρεών, ώ βασιλεϋ, κληρονομοϋντάσετήσπατρώας άρχήςκαϊτούςπατρώουςφιλου- ρούκ άλλως, ήπερ ό πατήρ ό σός, εϋποιείν, καίταύτηφαινεσθαι- μάλλονδιάδοχονείναιτετελε- τηκόστώμηδένναλλάττεινών έκείνος έπραττεπεριών.	They came and through translator said about their own wishes. They said to basileus: “your responsibility, following the authority of your father ²¹ , to give the gifts for all his friends, and as your father, bonify and be a good successor of de- ceased. You have not change anything of that he made before he died.

<p>Οὐτω γάρ καί ἡμεῖς τῆς αὐτῆς ἀνθεξόμεθα γνώμης, καὶ οὐχ ἤττον τὸ τῆς εὐεργεσίας ὄνομα μεταθήσομεν, εἰσέκαί μετ' ἐκεῖνον ἐργέτην ἀποκαλέσομεν πρὸς γε καὶ αἰσχυρῆσόμεθα τῶ πεπονθέναι καλῶς μῆ τοῖς ὁμοίοις ἀμείβεσθαι τὸν δεδρακότα.</p>	<p>That opinion we are going to follow. Let us praise the name of the benefactor, as his father's name. Because it is very bad to take the kindness from somebody and not repay for it.</p>
<p>Καὶ γὰρ πατέρα τὸν δῶροις ἡμᾶς φιλοφρονούμενον ἀντεδωρούμεθα τῶ καὶ δυνάμενοι μὴ κατατρέχειν τὴν Ῥωμαϊκὴν, ἀλλὰ πλεον ἐνδείκνυσθαι τι.</p>	<p>In addition, for father, who showed us their commitment to gifts, we were reward to the fact that did not attacked the Romans.</p>
<p>Τοὺς γὰρ ἐκ γειτόνων μὲν ἰνβαρβάρους, τὴν Θράκην ἀεὶ περὶ κόπτοντας, ἠφανίσαμεν ἀθρώον, καὶ οὐδεὶς ὅστις οὐδ' αὐτῶν περιλείπται τὰ Θρακῶν ὄρισματα καταδραμοῦμενος δεδίασι γάρ τῶν Ἀβάρων τὴν δύναμιν φιλιῶς ἔχουσαν πρὸς τὴν Ῥωμαίων ἀρχὴν.</p>	<p>Our neighboring barbarians, who constantly plundered Thrace, destroyed them all together, and there will be no one to make raids on the borders of Thrace. Because they afraid of force of Avars, who make a friendship with byzantine powers.</p>
<p>Πεπεῖσμεθα δὲ οὖν, ὡς ἐν τούτῳ μόνῳ κοινότησι ἐπιφέρει ἡμῖν, ἢ ὁ σὸς ἐδίδου πατὴρ' ἀνθ' ὧν καὶ ἡμεῖς ἤπερ ἐκεῖνον ἠσόμεθα σοὶ κατὰ τὸ πλεον ὑπεύθυνοι, καὶ μείζονας ἐποφλήσομεν σοὶ τὰς χάριτας.</p>	<p>We believe that innovation will carry us and you give us more than giving your father. In turn, we will give you more and will be more grateful than were for him.</p>
<p>Παρέσμενον ἡμῶν ἡμῶν οὐκ ἀκατάτοει ἰωθός.</p>	<p>We came to get that is ours.</p>
<p>Γνώθι γάρ, ὡς ἄλλως οὐκ ἔστι δυνατόν τόν καθ' ἡμᾶς ἡγεμόνα σοὶ τε καὶ τῆ Ῥωμαίων ἐνούστατον ἔσεσθαι πολιτεία, εἴ γε μὴ ἐγχειρισθεῖ ἡ πρότερον αὐτῶ τὰ ἐφ' οἷσόν κινεῖν ὅπλα κατὰ Ῥωμαίων ἔγνω.»</p>	<p>You should know that otherwise our ruler could not be committed to you and to your empire, until at first will not be transferred that for which it decided do not raise arms against the Romans”.</p>
<p>Οἰμέντων Ἀβάρων πρὸς βεῖς τοιαῦτα διεξήλθον, ἐπαμφοτερίζοντες τῆ γνῶμη τοῦτο μὲν γὰρ ἐδόκουν ἰκετεῦναι, τοῦτο δὲ ἀπειλεῖν.</p>	<p>These were the words of Avar's ambassadors; they were insecure in their thoughts: it seemed that they ask is – what are threatened.</p>
<p>ῶντο γάρ, ὡς ταῦτη δεδιζοῦνται τε καὶ ἐκφοβήσουσιν τὸν βασιλέα, καὶ ὡς ἐκ τούτου ἀναγκασθήσονται Ῥωμαῖοι ὡσπερ ὑπόφοροι εἶναι Ἀβάρων.</p>	<p>It seems that they frighten basileus and make Romans to obey Avars.</p>

<p>Ὁ δέ βασιλεύς οὐδέν ἕτερον ἢ ψόφον ἠγησάμενος τῶν Ἀβάρων ῥήματα, ἀντέλεξεν οὕτως· «προβαλλομένων ὑμῶν σὺνικεταίῃ τῇ μεγαληγορίᾳ, οιομένων τε τῆς συγκράσει ταύτη τῶν λόγων, τόσπου δαζόμενον ὑμῖν ἀνύσειν, ἀμφοτέρας, ὡς εἶπειν, ἐκπεπτώκατε τῆς ἐλπίδος· οὐδέ γάρ ποθωπέοντες ἡμᾶς ἀπατήσετε, οὐδέ μὴν ἀπειλοῦντες ἐκφοβήσετε.</p>	<p>Basileus thought that Avars speeches were empty chatter. In addition, he answer them: “you give us cocky requirements. You thought that will reach their, but it all ended badly. You cannot fool us, and scare.</p>
<p>Πλειοναδέυμιν ἐγὼ παρέξω τοῦ ἡμετέρου πατρὸς τόπερα τοῦ δέοντος ἐπερμένους ὑμᾶς τῶν πρῶτοντισωφρονίζειν· ὁ γάρ μετὰ ῥύθμιζων τοῦς ἀτάκτους τῶν λογισμῶν, καὶ ὡς περ παιδεύων τε καὶ ἀνακόπτων τῆς ἐπ’ ὀλέθρων τῶν αὐθαδιζομένων ὀρμῆς, ὀφθῆσεται κατὰ τὸ μάλλον εὐεργέτης ἢ περ ὁ χορηγός τῆς τρυφῆς, ὅς φιλεῖ μὲν δοκεῖ, προφάσεως δέ μικρᾶς ἐπιλαβόμενος τὸν δῆθεν εὐεργετούμενον ἠφάνισεν εὐθέως.</p>	<p>I’ll give you more than my father, who thought it necessary to properly restrain your vanity: transform those fouls. He restrains and drives away the poison harmful and arbitrary desires greater benefactor than a luxury provider who, showing their love, using the smallest excuse to grab those who showed their commitment.</p>
<p>Ἄπιτε οἱ γαροῦν πλεῖστον πριάμενοι παρ’ ἡμῶν ἀνγοῦν ἐν ζωῆσι τελεῖν, καὶ ἀντί τῶν Ῥωμαϊκῶν χρημάτων τὸν κάθ’ ἡμᾶς φόβον εἰς σωτηρίαν εἰληφότες.</p>	<p>That is why big profit will be for you, if you stay alive. Because of romans’ money, take away the fear for us, which is salvation for you.</p>
<p>Οὐτε γάρ δεηθῆιν ποτέ τῆς καθ’ ὑμᾶς συμμαχίας, οὐτε τιλῆψεσθῆ παρ’ ἡμῶν ἢ καθόσον ἡμῖν δοκεῖ, ὡς περ δουλείας ἔρανον, καὶ οὐχ ὡς οἰεσθε, φορολογίαν τινά.</p>	<p>No need for us to have an alliance with you, you get nothing from us except that we decide to give you a service by service, but not as a tribute”.</p>
<p>Τοιοῦτον ἐπίσεισαν τοὺς φόβον τοῦ βασιλέως τοῖς πρέσβεσι τῶν Ἀβάρων, κατεγνωκότες ἐκ τῶν εἰρημένων νοιβάρβαροι, ὡς οὐκ ἀνέξεται σφῶν τῆς πλεονεξίας, καὶ ὡς οὐδέ ναυτοῖς ἐτιδοθήσεται ὡν ἐκομίζοντο πρὸ τοῦ, καὶ ὡς τὸ λοιπὸν ἀδεῶς οὐκέτι πιδραμοῦνται τῇ Ῥωμαϊκῇ, ἐνδυσθυμίετε ἐτύχωνον πολλῇ, καὶ ἀναλογιζόμενοι ἦσαν ὅποιά παρόντα ἐκβήσεται καὶ ὅποιά τῆς αὐτοῖς χωρήσονται πράγματα· οὐδέ γάρ μὲν ἐν Βυζαντίῳ ἀνόνητα ἦθελον, οὐτε μὴν ἀπρακτοὶ ἀπίενα ἐβούλοντο.</p>	<p>Basileus scared Avar’s ambassadors and gave them to know, saying to barbarians, it will no longer tolerate their love of gain. They will not get from him that received, and will not getting attacks on Byzantine without fear. Avars were in deep sorrow and thought what they must do. They would not neither be in Byzantium nor go before reaching any success.</p>

Ὅμως δ' οὐν τῶν κακῶν αὐτοῖς αἰρετώτερον ὑπῆρχεν ἀπονοστήσαι ὡς τοὺς ὁμοφύλους.	Not bad choose for them were return to their com- patriots.
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Καί τοῦτοι ἐνωθέντες ἐς τή- ν τῶν Φράγγων χώραν ἀφίκοντο, τοῦ βασιλέως τὴν ἀπολογία θου- μάσαντες.	Therefore, they arrived on the Frank's territories and were very wondered by emperor answer.
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