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2.3. Emperor Qian-long

How Did the Rulers of the Jin and Qing Dynasties Trace Their Ancestors?

The Manchu Origins

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1 欽定 滿洲源流考

卷首諭旨 乾隆四十二年八月十九日
上諭頃閱金史世紀云 金始祖居
完顏部 其地有白山黑水 ... 本
朝肇興 .. 與大金正同 史又稱金
之先出靺鞨部古肅慎地 我朝肇
興時 舊稱滿珠 所屬曰珠申後改
稱滿珠 而漢字相沿訛為滿洲 其
實卽古肅慎為珠申之轉音 ...

三韓命名第列辰韓馬韓弁韓而不
詳其意義 當時三國必有三汗各
統其一 史家不知汗為君長之稱
遂以音詞誤譯 而庸鄙者甚至訛
韓為族姓 ... 有三韓 訂謬之作惜
未令人盡讀之而共喻耳若...

我朝得姓曰愛新覺羅氏 國語為
金曰愛新 可為金源同派之證 ...

卷七 部族 完顏 五代 金史世紀
金之先 出靺鞨氏...古肅慎地也

The emperor Qian-long (1736-96) noted the confusion in the Chinese records over the names of the Three Hans of Korea. The “han” in Ma-han, Chin-han, or Pyon-han was clearly a reference to a ruler – a khan. The Chinese historians simply had not known that “han” was a term for a leader. “The Manchus and their immediate predecessors in the Northeast, the emperor went on to emphasize, had been subjected to just such mistreatment in the Chinese records (see Crossley, 1999, p. 302).”

The Qing rulers had identified themselves as the direct heirs of the Jin (1115-1234), calling their own dynasty by the name of Later Jin until 1636. In an imperial edict (dated September 20, 1777) commissioning the “Researches on Manchu Origins” (*Manzhou Yuan-liu Gao*, completed six years later in 1783), emperor Qian-long presented his own disquisition on the history of Manchuria. According to his reading of Jin history, the ancestors of the Jin imperial clan had lived among the Mohe confederation, within the territory of the ancient Su-shens where were found the Long White Mountain and the Black Water. This was the very scene of the rise of the Manchus.¹

The imperial lineage of the Qing is referred to as the *Aisin Gioro*. In Manchu, Aisin means “gold,” and this was sufficient proof for the emperor Qian-long that the Qing imperial lineage was a branch of the original Jin Ruzhens (see Crossley, 1999, p. 303).

The Qing rulers traced the Manchu origins not only to the Sushen-Mohe-Ruzhen Tungus, but also to the Three Han, Silla and Paekche of the Ye-maek Tungus, as well as to the Parhae, the Macro-Tungus. As a common denominator, the reputation of all those Tungusic people for their excellent archery marksmanship (on horseback) and fighting capabilities was very much amplified. The *Man-zhou Yuan-liu Gao*, however, conspicuously excludes the Qidan and the Koguryeo because the Xianbei, on the one hand, had obviously nothing to do with the Manchu origins while the presence of Koguryeo (the Ye-maek Tungus), on the other hand, might inflict serious damage on their effort to nurture a hegemonic image of the Sushen-Mohe Tungus in Manchurian history.

Neither the Western nor the Han Chinese specialists in the history of China ever mention the following fact recorded in *Man-zhou Yuan-liu Gao*: the *History of Jin* states that the founder of the Jin dynasty came from Koguryeo; but the *Chronicle of Great Jin* notes that he had originally come from Silla with the clan name of Wan-yan. Since the Silla royal surname of Kim (implying Golden) has been transmitted from generation to generation over many dozens of generations, the *Chronicle* continues, the royal surname of Silla without doubt became its dynastic name.² Both the Western and the Han Chinese specialists in the history of China also fail to mention the fact that the emperor Qian-long addressed a quarter of his edict to the people of the Korean peninsula.

...金之始祖... 初從高麗來 按通考及大金國志云 本自新羅來姓完顏氏 新羅王金姓 相傳數十世則金之自新羅來 無疑建國之名 亦應取此金史地理誌 乃云以國有金水源為名 史家附會之詞未足憑耳 居完顏部 卷七 部族 完顏 遼 ... 祥符三年 契丹征高麗道由女真 女真復與高麗合兵拒之 契丹大敗而還 自天聖後屬契丹世襲節度使兄弟相傳 其帥本新羅人 號完顏氏 女真服其練事以首領推之自哈富... 哈富生... 生... 次太祖次太宗 ... 國號大金

卷七 部族 元 ... 金始祖 本從新羅來 號完顏氏 所部稱完顏部 新羅王金姓則金之遠派出

² The statement that the founder of the Jin dynasty came from Silla is repeated several times in the *Man-zhou Yuan-liu Gao*. It was the Geography Section of the *History of Jin* which says that the dynastic name Jin was based on the Ruzhen name of the river Ashi, a southern tributary of the Lower Song-hua.

金史 志第五 地理上 上京路 國言金曰按出虎 以按出虎水源於此 故名金源 建國之號蓋取諸此

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BIBLIOGRAPHY