

## **Bahram V. Gur**

The historiographer Hamza al-Isfahani reports in his "Annals" (961 a.c.) about a legendary act of the Persian King Bahram V. Gur (420 – 438 a. C.):

"The King let work his people for half a day, and ordered them for the remaining half day to rest, to eat varied types of food, to drink and to relax. He encouraged his subjects to be accompanied by music and songs when drinking. (...) One day the King passed a group of people who were drinking without any singer. So he said strictly, 'Haven't I ordered that during drinking orgies song performances must not be neglected?' The people bowed to the sovereign and answered, 'We have looked for any singers all around here but we were disposed to pay them more than 100 Dirham, so we could not find anyone.' Immediately, the King asked for a quill and some paper and wrote to the King of India in view of a singer. The latter sent him 12, 000 singers who Varhan Gor, (Bahram Gur), spread all over his empire. There they married and had descendants, of whom – even if of a small number – there still remains. They are of the tribe of the Zott."

[Gilsenbach, Reimer (1997) Weltchronik der Zigeuner. Teil 1: Von den Anfängen bis 1599, Frankfurt, p. 23.]