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The Story of Barzu

Rahmoni, Ravshan

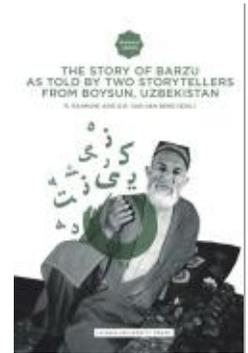
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Translator's note

The translations are based on a standardised Tajik version of the stories on Barzu, as told by Jūra Kamol and Mulloravšan in the dialect of Pasurxī. Accompanying the translation is the standardised Tajik text in Latin transliteration. Ravšan Rahmonī has prepared these standardised texts on the basis of his original transcript of the recordings. This original transcript, in Pasurxī dialect, can be found in the appendices: the story of Jūra Kamol in Tajik-Cyrillic script and the story of Mulloravšan in a Latin transliteration. The introduction by Ravšan Rahmonī is a partial translation of the Tajik introduction accompanying *Dostoni Barzu dar guftori Jūra Kamol*, Dushanbe, 2007. Some additions were made to the original introduction by Ravšan Rahmonī in 2009.

The transliteration is based on the rules of Tajik orthography that, in some aspects, differs markedly from what the user of transliteration systems for Persian may expect.

The Cyrillic script used for Tajik maintains /o/ for /ā/. It is common practice in Tajik orthography to hyphenate /u/ and /i/ in certain positions, such as /ī/ at the end of words. However, in other positions /i/ may reflect either the long or the short vowel. The /e/ is almost always long, denoting *yā-yi majhūl*. The use of hyphenated /ū/ in Tajik orthography is bound to different rules: /ū/ does not necessarily denote the long vowel, while /u/ reflects both the long and the short vowel. Therefore, we find Jūra Kamol next to Barzu (both ū and u are long vowels here) and Sūhrob next to kujo (both ū and u are short vowels here). For further details concerning Tajik orthography please refer to *A Tajik Persian Reference Grammar* by John Perry (Leiden/Boston: Brill 2005).

Gabrielle van den Berg

