

Bahram V. Gur

The Iranian poet Abo al-Quasem Mansur, called Firdausi (about 934 – 1020 A.D.) writes a further version of this event in the Persian national epic "Shahnameh" (1011 A.D.):

"All governors of the province of the Shah reported to him that the poor people were lamenting about the fact that the rich people were drinking their wine accompanied by music, and that they were looking down on the poor ones who had to drink without any music.

Consequently the Shah sent a messenger on a dromedary to Sheng il, and had him bring a letter containing the following: 'Choose ten thousand Luris, men and women, who know how to play the lute.' When the Luris arrived, the Shah welcomed them and gave each of them an ox and a donkey because he wanted them to become farmers. He gave them as much corn as a thousand donkeys were able to carry because they would till the land with their ox and donkeys, sow the corn and gather in the harvest and play for the poor for free. The Luris moved away and ate the ox and the corn.

At the end of the year they returned, their cheeks being pale. The Shah told them, "You should not have wasted the seeds. Now you have only your donkeys. Load them with your properties, take your instruments and string them with strings of silk.

Even today, these Luris are migrating around the world in order to earn their living, they are sleeping side by side with the dog and the wolf; permanently moving they are stealing by day and by night."

[Kenrick, Donald (1998) Sinti und Roma: Von Indien bis zum Mittelmeer. Die Wanderwege der Sinti und Roma, Berlin, pp. 18-19.]