



A *derkenar* about the Sultan's Bridge across Krka River in Dalmatia, c. 1600

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Context

Tapu ve Kadastro Genel Müdürlüğü Tapu Arşiv Dairesi Başkanlığı, Tapu Tahrir Defteri No. 13 (KGM\TADB\TTD\00013) from Ankara is a detailed (*mufassal*) Survey Register (*tapu tahrir defteri*) for the sancaks of Klis and Krka, comprising 321 folia (the original text breaks off after fol. 321b). On fol. 2a it carries the Tughra of Sultan Ahmed I. and the following note by a later hand: *hicri 1015 tarihendir* ('it is dated 1015H/ 1606-7'). On its front cover it is described as *mufassal-i liva'-i Klis mea Krka 475, Yeni No. 13*. Several *derkenars* from later periods (from as early as 1037H/1627: fol. 65b) include those on fol. 223b dated 19 Receb 1284H/ 16 November 1867 and on fol. 52b, 205b and 233a dated 19 Zilhicce 1285H/ 2 April 1869 which suggests that this is the *mufassal defter-i cedid* for the area in question which was in administrative use over centuries right until the second half of the 19th century.

The *derkenar* we are concerned with here can be found on fol. 257b. With its 27 lines it is one of the most comprehensive of its kind in this Survey Register. It highlights the importance of a river crossing near the fortress of Knin situated on the strategically important trade route which led from Banja Luka in Bosnia (seat of the Ottoman provincial government) towards the (Venetian) port cities of Zadar, Šibenik, Split and Trogir (beyond the 'Marches of the Padishah' [*ser-hadd-i padişahi*]) and describes the urgency for having a bridge constructed across Krka river below Knin fortress with a length of 360 *zira* (c. 270 metres). But when the inhabitants (*reaya*) of a number of villages north of Knin were ordered by imperial decree to construct the bridge, they replied that on their own they would be unable to build the bridge, and instead submitted a petition to have one of their local notables (*ayan-i vilayet*) together with two of his servants (*hademe*) appointed as their 'supervisor' (*nazır*), who would assist them in whatever way necessary. The three were duly allocated appropriate wages (*vazife*) by the Sultan, whereas the villages in question were given extensive tax exemptions after completion of the bridge across Krka river. On occasion of the new land survey (*hin-i tahrirde*) in c. 1604, the responsible officials, on producing their credentials, were given *timars* in exchange for their rations (*ulufe*) by imperial decree, and *nazır* Ibrahim the 'freehold'

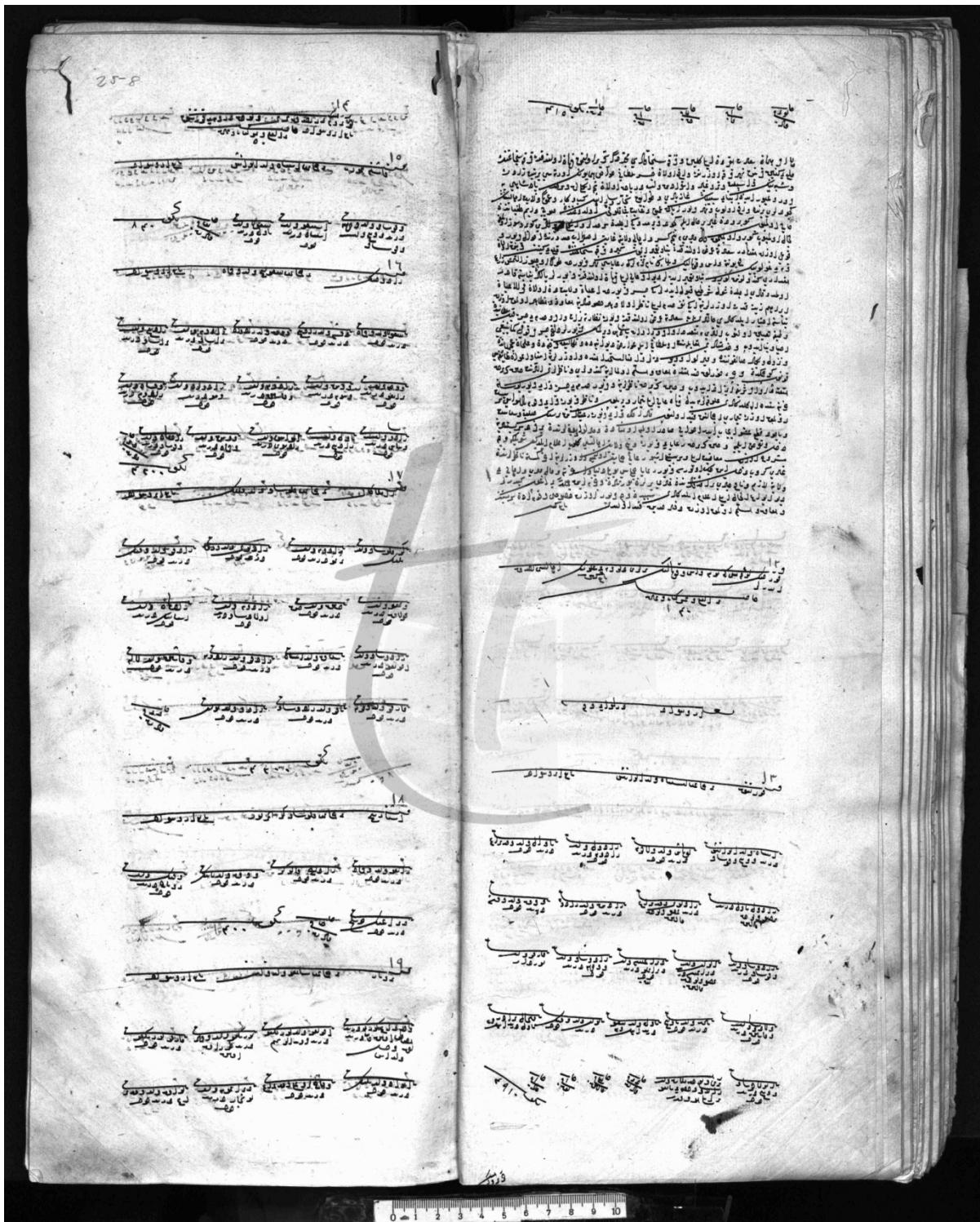
(*serbestlik*) of the *bad-i hava* levy from the villages in question, which were assured special protection against anybody intent on violating their exemptions, such as *emins* and *voyvadas*. Would there be any such attempt at violating their freedoms, they would renege on their fiscal obligations by abandoning their homeland. All this was recorded in the New Survey Register (*defter-i cedid*).

Transcription

- (1) *Hālā emr-i hümā[yū]n-ı sa ‘ādet-makrūn ile Klis ve Krka sancakları müceddeden taħrīr olnmak fermān olındıkda Krka sancağında*
- (2) *kal ‘e-i Knin kurbında nehr-i Krka üzerinde vāki‘ olan cisr-i sultānī havāss-i hümāyūniñ ortası yirinde Zadra*
- (3) *ve Şibenik ve İspilit ve Trojir ve Iskradin ve leb-i deryāda olan nice iskelelere ve ser-hadd-i pādişāhīye*
- (4) *mürür ü ‘ubur iden ebnā-yı sebiliñ ġazileri ve ṭevāyif-i tüccār ve sā ‘ir ehl-i kesb ü kār ve ‘umūmen vilāyet ehālīsiniñ*
- (5) *geçüdleri yirinde vāki‘ olub ve nehr-i mezbür ziyāde ‘amīk ve ġāyet bataklu mahall olduğından suyu dāyim ṭuġyāndan*
- (6) *ħālī olmayub köprüden ġayri bir ħāl ile geçud virmediği ecilden ser-haddlar ve iskele yolları köprüsüz olmaġa*
- (7) *mecāl olmayub köprü olmayıçaq māl-i mīrīye niçe kesr ve ehālī-i vilāyete ġāyet iżtirāb şudūrinden aħvāl-i mezbür vu-*
- (8) *kū ‘ üzere muķaddemā der-sa ‘ādete ‘arż olındıkda binā ve ta ‘mīr içün girü Krka sancağından kal ‘e-i Knin kurbında olan*
- (9) *ķarye-i Ġolubik me ‘a Bunye Vas ve Kumalik ve Blanice/Planci [cf. BOATD 284, fol. 1b] nām ķaryeleriñ re ‘āyāsi nehr-i mezbürda tūlen üç yüz altmış zirā‘*
- (10) *mikdārı kendülerinde köprü binā ve ta ‘mīr ideler diyü emr-i ‘ālī ile fermān olındıkda mezbūrlar yalñız bināsına қādir*
- (11) *olmadıkları ecilden şol şartıyla қabūl iderler ki cisr-i mezbürda ‘ayān-i vilāyetden olan fahrü'l-a ‘yān*
- (12) *İbrāhim zīde қadrühü üzerlerine iki nefer hademe ile nāzır ola ve her ħusūşlarına mu ‘āvin ve mużāhir olmaķ üzere*
- (13) *bināsına iħtiyār eyledikleri ħälleri bāb-i sa ‘ādete ‘arż olındıkda mezbūre neżārete yazan ve emred hademe-i cisre ķibel-i sultānīden*

- (14) *vazīfe ta 'yīn olinub elliye müte 'addid evāmir ve berāvāt-i pādiṣāhī virilmek mezbūrlar daḥı cisr-i merkūmi kemā yanbağī*
- (15) *iḥyā ve binā idüb ve ḥidmetleri muḳābelesinde emr-i sultānī ile 'avāriż-i dīvānīyeden ve tekālīf-i 'ōrfiyeden ve ḡilmān-i 'acemiyāndan*
- (16) *ve nüzūl ve begler şalkunından ve mīr-i livā ve voyvodalar ve ümenā istihdāmindan ve üzerlerine ümenā ve ağavāt ṭāyifesi*
- (17) *konub göçmekden ve ḡerāḥorlik ḥidmetinden mu 'af ve müsellem olmalarına kendüleri ve nāzırları ellinde hīn-i taḥrīrde*
- (18) *müte 'addid evāmir-i ḫerīfe īrād (ibrāz?) idüp ve hīn-i taḥrīrde nāzırlarına ve mezbūr ḥademe-i cisre kurā-i mezbūr Bosna*
- (19) *ḥazīnesinden alageldikleri 'ulūfelerine bedel fermān-i 'ālī ile tīmār virilüp ve nāzır-i mezbūr kurā-i merkūme bād-i havāsin serbest*
- (20) *olmak üzere tīmārī icmālinde ḫayd olinup mādāmkı kurā-i mezbūre ra īyetlerinde serbestlik [?] ḫalb ü siyāset*
- (21) *ve yāhūd ḫaṭ'-i 'uzuv īcāb ider aḥvāli şādir olmiya ümenā(!)dan ve mīr-i livā voyvodalarından bir ferd serbestilerine*
- (22) *daḥl ve ta 'arruż eylemiye ve hīn-i taḥrīrde re 'āyā-i mezbūre ve nice vilāyet ehālisi gelüb i 'lām eyledigin şöyle ki vech-i*
- (23) *meşrūḥ üzere mu 'āfiyyet ile ve serbestiyle işbu re 'ā[yā]yi ḥimāyet olinmiya ve üzerlerine āher kimesne nāzırlarından*
- (24) *ġayrı girüp daḥl idecek olursa mezbūr re 'āyā cümlesi böyle dünyā ve āhirete ve māl-i mīrī ve ehālī-i*
- (25) *vilāyete lāzım ve nāfi 'hayrı bırakıklarından ḫayrı yırlerin yurtların ve cizyelerin cümleten birağup giderler*
- (26) *diyü ibrā 'ü [?] 'l-ḥāl ile i 'lām eyledikleri sebebden vech-i mezbūr üzere ḥusūş-i merkūmelerden serbest*
- (27) *ve mu 'af ve müsellem olmak üzere defter-i cedīde ḫayd oindi tābi '-i Knin*

Facsimiles



Detail from TKGM\TADB\TTD\00013 (Ankara), fol. 257b