

DIGENES AKRITAS

THE LEGEND OF CYPRUS



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AKRITAI

AKRITES



Akritai (or Akrites) is a term used in the Byzantine Empire in the 9th-11th centuries to denote the frontier soldiers guarding the Empire's eastern border, facing the Middle East. The term is derived from the Greek word akron, meaning border.

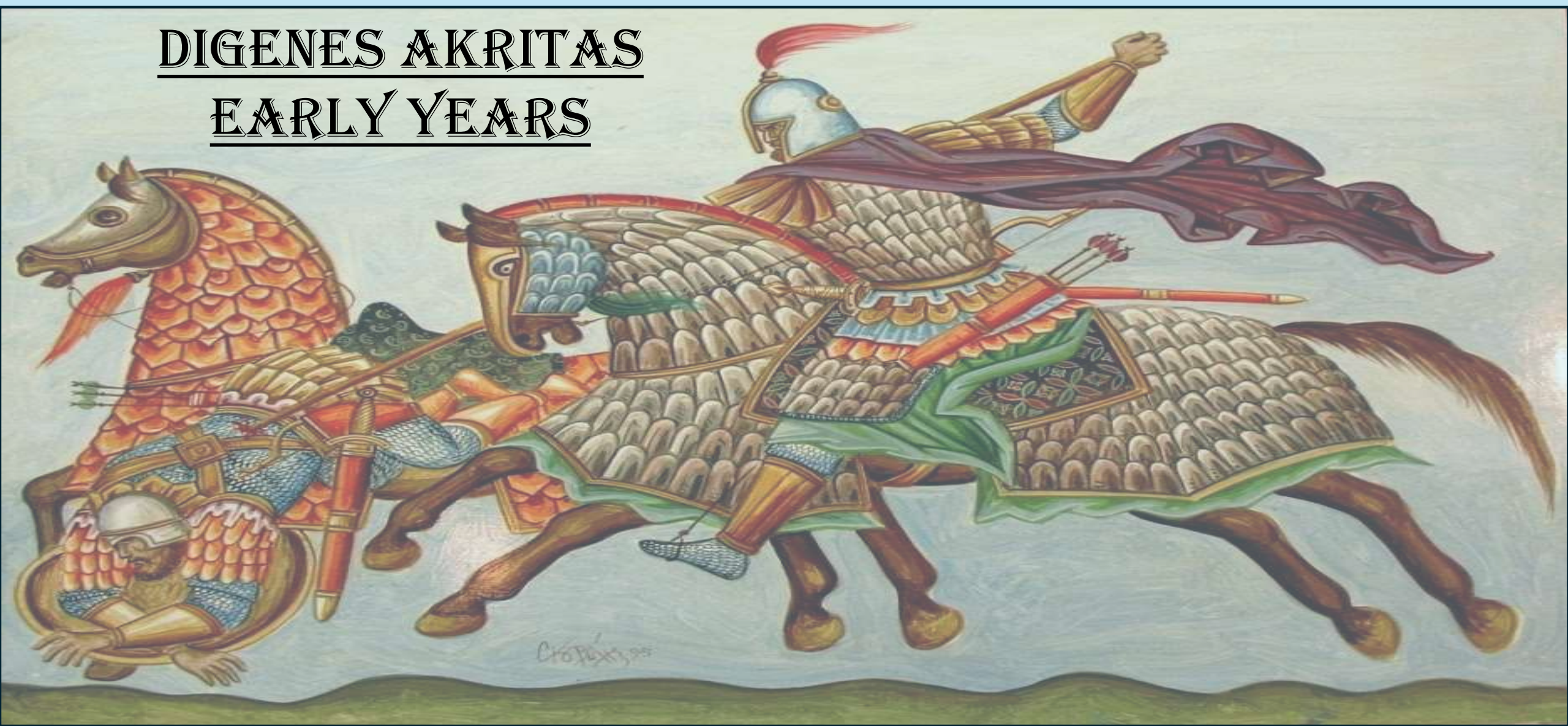
AKRITAI AKRITES



The Akritai were given estates to cultivate and were exempt from taxes in exchange for protection against the Arab raids at the borders. They were a kind of permanent mercenary guards and soldiers.

DIGENES AKRITAS

EARLY YEARS



Mousour, a young prince from Syria, and Eirene, a Greek princess, gave birth to a boy which they called Digenes. At a very young age, he was taught martial arts by his father and his five uncles.

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ΤΑΚΤΩΣ



At the age of 12 he saved his father's life by fighting off thieves. Digenes grew up to become a brave young man. His feats became increasingly known and he soon became an Akritas.

THE LEGEND OF DIGENES AKRITAS



Digenes was chasing an army of Saracens when they got on a ship and headed for Cyprus with the intention of pillaging and conquering it. When Digenes realizes they're headed for Cyprus, he follows them to save his beloved Cyprus.



A Saracen arrived at Kyrenia and began pillaging. Once he spotted Digenes, he stopped what he was doing and attempted to escape by crossing the, back then, small mountain of Pentadaktylos. By the time Digenes arrived at the mountain of Pentadaktylos the Saracens were already on the other side of the island.



He placed his hand on the mountain and vaulted over it, giving the mountain its distinct shape. Realizing he couldn't catch them in time, he picked up a rock and tossed towards their ship. That rock can be found in the shores of Paphos and is called "The rock of the Greek".



Island of Cyprus



PENTADAKTILOS



PETRA TOU ROMIOU



Digenes hand on the mountain



The rock that tossed towards Saracens ship





Charon, the Grim Reaper, was jealous of Digenes and wanted to take his soul. Digenes challenged Charon to a fight. They fought for 3 days until Charon decided to trick Digenes.



Charon asked to stop the fight so they can rest. Charon turned into an eagle and flew high up to ask God for help. Digenes was struck by an illness and eventually died.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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