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TURKESTAN PERIOD IN THE HISTORY OF KARAKALPAKS

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Abstract: The article tells about the Karakalpaks who migrated along the Edil-Jayik rivers in the late 16th century and lived in their homeland Turkestan, and the events that took place during this period.

Keywords: folklore, historical song, Turkestan period, Syrdarya, upper Karakalpaks, lower Karakalpaks.

The Karakalpak people have experienced many difficulties in their history. After the conquest of Khorezm by Genghis Khan in the 13th century, most of the Karakalpaks living in the Turan plain moved to the Crimea, the Ural Mountains, and the Edil-Jayik (the Volga and Ural rivers). Unable to live there permanently, they moved to Turkestan. The relentless enemy marches do not allow them to stay long here either. After the invasion of the Jungars, Karakalpaks split in two and the upper Karakalpaks moved towards the Fergana Valley, the lower Karakalpaks towards the lower reaches of the Syrdarya.

Such historical events, which took place in each period, have been preserved in the folklore. Folk historical songs that have come down to us for centuries provide information about such historical events.

Karakalpaks migrated from the Edil-Jayik and Cem rivers to Turkestan in the late 16th century and settled along the two banks of the Syrdarya. This is stated in the historical song "Karakalpak":

Sırdáryanıń eki boyın jayladı,
Esapsız mal jıynap, qoydı aydadı,
Ullıtawǵa tuw tigip, xanın sayladı,
Túrkistanda ónip-ósti qaralpaq [1].
(They settled on both sides of the Syrdarya,

Gathered countless animals and drove sheep,
Set flag in Ullytau and elected their khan,
Karakalpaks grew up in Turkestan)
Here mentioned Ullytau. Ullytau is now part of Kazakhstan's Karaganda region.

Karakalpaks called Turkestan their "homeland". Karakalpaks lived richly in Turkestan and chose their khan.

This is consistent with historical facts.

Academician Sabir Kamalov's book "The formation of the Karakalpaks as a people and the history of its statehood" gives the following information: In 1694, the Sultan of Tobarshik was the khan of the Karakalpaks. He was a son of Tauke khan (1680-1718). During the reign of Tauke khan for 18 years (1680-1698) Sas biy (1598-1698), a descendant of the Kipchak tribe of Karakalpaks, headed the khan's council.

In 1709, the Ghayib sultan, the son of the Tobarshik sultan, was the khan of the Karakalpaks. In the 1720s, the khan of the Karakalpaks was Ishmuhammed. The central city of the Karakalpaks was the city of Janakent on the banks of the Syrdarya. During the reign of Ishmuhammed Khan, Karakalpaks established good trade relations with neighboring countries and collected taxes from caravans passing through their territory. In 1721, Ishmuhammed Khan sent a caravan of a thousand camels to Russia. In the first quarter of the 18th century, relations between the Karakalpaks living on the banks of the Syrdarya and the Karakalpaks living on the side of the Bukhara Emirate and the Khiva Khanate intensified. Ishmuhammed aims to unite them [2, p. 22]".

The country of Turkestan has become really accessible to the people. The period from 1596 to 1723 is known as the Turkestan period of the Karakalpak people.

The prosperous life of the Karakalpaks was ruined by the great invasion of the jungars in 1723. In the same year, the Jungar's khan Tsevan Rabtan invaded Turkestan with a hundred thousand soldiers. The fortresses of Sozak, Turkestan and Signak were destroyed. The Kazakhs and Karakalpaks living here became refugees. These bloody years are known in Kazakh history as "Aktaban shubyryndy", "Alkakol sulama". In the history of Karakalpaks, it was called "the second refugee" [3, pp. 212-218].

The Jungar invasion of 1723 divided the Karakalpaks living in Turkestan. Most of the Karakalpaks who survived the massacre moved to the lower reaches of the Syrdarya, while some fled to the upper reaches of the river.

Songs of this period are remembered by both "lower" Karakalpaks and "upper" Karakalpaks. For example:

Qaratawdıń teńinde qaldım jekke,

Qalmaqtıń oǵı tiydi qaq júrekke.
Harǵıdım mine almadım qara kókke,
Barsań sálem aytıp bariń Ismadiyar bekke.
Aytıp bariń xalqıma Sır jaylasın,
Áshirbek endi óldi dep oylasın,
Temir qazıq qaqışıp at baylasın [4, p. 17]
(I was left alone in Karatau,
The Kalmyk bullet hit the heart.
I couldn't ride a black horse,
If you go, say hello to Ismadiyar Bek.
Tell my people: Let them settle the Syrdarya,
Let them think that Ashirbek is dead,

Let them tie the horse). These lines provide information about the uncompromising battle with the Jungars of this period. The reason is that in the XVII-XVIII centuries the main part of the Upper Karakalpaks lived in this area [5, p. 61].

In short, in Karakalpak folklore there are many songs and poems about the Turkestan period. Historical songs about the Turkestan period say that the Karakalpaks had a difficult day during the formation of the people and the state. It is a requirement of the time to collect such songs among the people, prepare them for publication and submit them for scientific analysis and research.

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