

## **Ethnonym Kazakh in manuscripts**

- During your last trip to Iran you discovered new information concerning emergence of the ethnonym “Kazakh”... - Last time I visited Iran in 2013 year within the framework of the programme “People in the stream of history”. I worked in several manuscript reserve-stocks of the library in Teheran, the capital of Iran. In national Islamic library of Iran I found previously unknown manuscripts, although they had been ordered more than once. They cannot be regularly handed, as some of them can be undergoing restoration or be exhibited. In 2013 that very library of Iran bought an unusual manuscript with conventional name “Tarihi Mongol” from a private collector. It was written in the fourteenth century and recounts the rule of Genghis khan and his descendants. We got hold of a copy with the help of Zhafari-Mazkhab, director of the Library for Islamic and Iranian studies. This is how we encountered the word “Kazakh”. It is unknown whether this word can be attributed to Kazakhs or not. In the manuscript itself it occurs in the chapter on “Sultans of Karakhitans and son of great khan Tayan Kushlik khan”.

Author writes that before arrival of Karakhitans, Balasagun had been ruled by descendants of Afrassiyab. The khanate had been weak, thus on multiple occasions it had been assaulted by tribes of Kazakhs, Kypchaks, and Kangly. The khanate of Balasagun asked Karakhitans for help. Soon the khan of Karakhitans Gurkhan started ruling the city. Having suppressed Turkic tribes, he sent troops to Khotan and Kashgar. In some manuscripts words Karluk, Kangly and Kypchak are used instead of the word “Kazakh”. In our opinion, the unknown author made records on the tribe “Kazakh” on the basis of reliable sources. Those sources are to be found and studied. It is close to the mark that before Mongolian invasion tribes Kangly, Kypchak and Kazak resided near Balasagun, disobeying local authorities and frequently attacking the city. The word “Kazakh” in the work “Tarihi Mongol” turned out to be news for researchers, because previously this word had never been encountered in works. - You brought manuscripts related to Kazakh khans from Iran. Were there any records dedicated to Kassym khan?

- A lot of information concerning Kassym khan was found in previously unknown manuscript “Tarihi Safavie”. Those records are kept in the Khoja Hussein Malek Library in Teheran. Kassym khan is called “khan”, and sometimes “tsar” of Desht-i-Kypchak. An author gives account of confrontations of the Iranian shah with Muhammad Shaybani khan; disputes of Kassym khan with Muhammad Shaybani khan are mentioned as well. Having entered the never-ceasing struggle with the Qizilbash, Shahi bek (Muhammad Shaybani khan) sought help from Kassym khan. In his letter he praised him as Chenghis khan’s successor and called him the khan of Desht-i-Kypchak. Kassym sent him the army of eight thousand, while he himself left for Tashkent. He sent Abid sultan and Mahmud sultan with ten thousand warriors to Khorasan and Badghis. Shahi bek with the army of eight thousand leaded the battle in Samarkand. We can make following conclusion: Middle Asian rulers made attempts to establish a union against Ismail shah, but they failed due to

internal discord. Shahi bek broke his promise and their union broke up, as a result Ismail shah gained a victory. -Findings offer information on Kassym khan's policy, appearance, religion, clothing, and throne. Are there any new data? - In the work "Alam arayi shah Ismail" Kassym khan is described as a well-grown and severe khan. His throne and headwear are decorated with precious stones. Qizilbash Nazhm-Sani with an army of forty thousand heads for Khorasan for the purpose of destroying Shaybanids. The rulers Zhanibek sultan, Ubaydullah-khan (1487-1540), and Muhammad-Timur seek aid from the khan of Desht-i-Kypchak Kassym. Kassym khan sends his son Abulkhayr with an army of one hundred and sixty thousand against Ismail shah. Ismail shah sends an army of thirty thousand to this battle, which inflicts defeat upon the army of Kassym. Kassym khan's son Abulkhayr dies.

The principal purpose of the author of "Alam arayi shah Ismail" is glorification of shah Ismail. It is accepted in ancient tradition to depict all enemies of Iran as strong, ferocious people, in order to accentuate that strong shah withstands strong enemy. Some data are not veracious, thus we have to make analysis and find out the truth. Besides, diplomatic correspondence between Iranian shah Abbas and Tauke khan is a highly valuable finding. Abbas shah writes that he appreciates his friendship with Tauke khan and respects his as Chenghis khan's descendant. In his turn Tauke khan sends him a letter with a request for keeping up a correspondence and preserving friendship, as establishment of foreign relations and strategy by diplomatic means is very important to state formation.

- A very valuable manuscript "Shah Ismail Safavi, which mentions Kassym khan, was brought from India; it describes relations between Kassym khan, Muhammad Shaybani khan and shah of Iran Ismail. What is its significance? - There are several works "Shah Ismail Safavi" in the world, all of them gives praise to heroism of Ismail I, the founder of the Safavid dynasty. All of those manuscripts are similar, but their contents are different, i.e. in some of them Kassym is mentioned as khan, in others he is mentioned as Kassym sultan. There are records about the battle of shah Islam with his principal adversary Muhammad Shaybani. It is written that "Kassym sultan is one of the most authoritative and ferocious sultans of Desht-i-Kypchak". It is mentioned in the work that Kassym khan from Desh-i-Kypchak arrived to Mawarannahr together with an army, consisting of Kazakhs, Kypchaks, and Kirghizes and defeated Muhammad Shaybani's army. Subsequently Muhammad Shaybani moved closer to Khorasan, approaching the border of Iran. Ismail shah, alarmed by the situation, left his war with the west and set out for the east. The war lasted more than one year and was completed after Muhammad Shaybani's death. According to the data, Kassym had frequently organized campaigns and wished dominance over Mawarannahr; nevertheless, the Iranian shah prevailed. Kazakh Khanate and Chagatai dynasty made numerous efforts to bend each other to submission, but both Chagatai dynasty and Kazakh khans (Jochi's descendants) failed to unite in an alliance. -The work "Silsilat as-salatin" contains information about Tauyekel khan. -The author of the work "Silsilat as-salatin" is

Khoja Mir Muhammad Salim. Ch.A.Storey (Bregel) writes following about him, “In 1123/1711 Khoja Mir Muhammad Salim left his motherland Transoxiana, where, assumably, some of his ancestors, played an important role, and went to Iran, where he was presented to the court of Sultan Hussein by Middle Asian ambassadors. From Esfahan he started on a journey to Baghdad, Aleppo, Damascus and Istanbul. Having reached Mecca, finally he set off to India. His dedicated his work, presumably titled “Silsilat as-salatin”, to Muhammad shah (ruled in 1131-1161/1719-1748). In the second part of his work he writes about rulers of Central Asia Shaybani and Ashtarkhans, especially about Abu-l-Fayz dynasty of Muhammad ibn Subhan-Kuli khan. Names of Kazakh khans and information about political and social life of Tauyekel khan, Yessim khan, Zhangir khan, and Bahadur Zhalantos are presented in the manuscript.

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