

## **Ancient Turks about the world creation, Kagan and the «Eternal el»**

Ancient Turks had a peculiar idea about the origin of life, society, man and nature. From their perspective, the world appeared in a strict chronological order. At the beginning the blue sky and brown earth had been created. Later human sons had arisen between them. Finally, Kagans had towered over the human community. At the same time the blue sky was a symbol of Tengri, supreme creative force, who managed the destinies of particular person, nations, states and Kagans.

In the social stratification and authoritative titlature of ancient Turkic society Kagan was the first person. The inscriptions repeatedly asserted that Kagans were blessed to rule the state and nation by Tengri himself. However, recognizing the special, heavenly, Tengri origin of Kagans, ancient Turks treated them quite adequately and realistically. It was believed that in different periods of history their state was governed by both wise, noble, courageous Kagans and «foolish, bad» Kagans. In general, they considered Kagan to be a symbol and source of power, the guarantor of national prosperity and security. Accordingly, Kagan faced high requirements to his personality. He had to possess such qualities as wisdom, justice, and profound knowledge of military affairs, diplomacy and the ability to find and appoint capable and talented people to state positions. The main and final goal of Kagan's activity revealed in the following words of inscription in honor of Kultegin:

*Thanks to God's blessing,*

*being lucky and taking part in the noble need.*

*I managed*

*To revive the deceased people*

*To provide people with clothes*

*To make poor people rich ones*

*To increase the country's population*

*The wars stopped in many places.*

*We became friends, many of them obeyed me.*

Ancient Turkic people, recognizing the head of state, considered preservation of the state, protecting the freedom and independence of country and its citizens to be the highest values. They dreamed of creating of «Mangi El» - «Eternal El». «If you go there, Turkic people, - we read the Kultegin inscription - you will not survive there. If you are in Otuken and rejoice it you'll have no sorrow! If you had settled in Otuken you would have controlled the people» [1, 191]. Otuken is a name of the sacred area, a kind of capital of the ancient Turkic state. If Turkic state intended to exist forever, its symbols, including stones with inscriptions, have to be eternal. They were called «Mangi Tas» - «Eternal Stones». Undoubtedly, in this case they did not mean the stone but carved on them words of the will, advices and purposes to future generations. The small inscription in honor of Kultegin contains the following lines:

*Mustering together all the Turkic people, I did my best to be proud of you.*

*You'll not live if you make errors!*

*And I carved there.*

*Any of my words I carved forever on the stone.*

However, Kultegin's prediction had become true. Firstly, the eternal stone indeed became the object of scientific analysis, secondly, the peak of ancient Turkic state's prosperity passed after the death of the great commander in VIII century.

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