

## Isatay batyr was buried in Sheytsay

Isatay Taymanov was one of the most outstanding figures of the first half of the 19 century. He was a leader of national liberation movement in Bukey Horde and eastern part of the Junior Zhuz in 1836-1838. There are many works about Isatay Taymanov. However,...

Scientific evidence about the burial place of Isatay Taymanov is still lacking. The main reason of it is the lack of accurate information on the burial place in archives. Currently there are two main versions on this issue. According to the first one, Isatay was buried in the place of Sholakmolda. And the second version points to the place named Sheytsay, Kobda area, Aktobe region.

Famous scientist Khalel Dosmukhameduly believed that Isatay batyr was buried in Sholakmolda. In 1924 in his article "Kazakh batyrs: Isatay, Makhambet" published in journal "Saule" he wrote: "Isatay died in 1838 at the age of 49. His remains are in the Sholakmolda cemetery, on the bank of the Kiil River, Temirtau region. Makhambet died in 1845 at the age of 42." It is easy to find several inconsistencies in the notes of Khalel Dosmukhameduly. Firstly, Isatay Taymanov died when he was 47 years old. Secondly, Makhambet was killed in 1846 at the age of 43. Thus, we understand that when the scientist wrote this article the data on the batyrs' death was not be fully explored. In conclusion to his publication Dosmukhameduly wrote: "The notes shouldn't be interpreted as historical data".

Absence of archival data on the burial place of Isatay Taymanov prompted researchers to analyse information given in newspapers. Over the past half-century the general public has learnt numerous facts confirming that the batyr's grave is located in Sheytsay, Kobda area, Aktobe region. On December 14, 1962 the Kazakh Adebiety ("Kazakh Literature") newspaper published an article of Khattar Duysemaliev "Isatay's grave". In this article he stated that Isatay Taymanov was buried in Sheytsay. According to the author, 67-year-old Kubash Mukanov showed him the Isatay's grave. Kubash Mukanov asserted that the name of that place came from the word "sheyt" which meant "death", i.e. the death of Isatay and like-minded people who fought for national prosperity. "I have heard about it from Sinirtasov Ongarbanbay".

In 2011 the first issue of newspaper "Ana Tili" ("Native Language") published a big article of Sagindyk Niyankulov. There was a letter inside. According to expert Parukh Mardanov, this letter was addressed to the then Head of the Achieve of the Guriev Regional Committee of the Communist Party Islam Madimov. The author of the letter was Altynbek Akimzhanov, the party worker from Kobda area. The letter contained a map where in the right part of Sheytsay triangular sign identified the burial place of Isatay and his warriors. According to older people, Isatay's grave was separated from other burial places (100-150 meters away from them). People didn't have an opportunity to make a distinctive sign at that time and they buried Isatay separately. Another interesting fact was included into the article. Zhaygashty Zhumagaliev, an inhabitant of Uil area who worked in Soviet party bodies, recalled: "A scientist N. Shayakhmetov arrived from Almaty. Approximately 10 people came to Sheytsay with him. There we found the burial places of Isatay and his son Ospan. We fenced it and placed plate with an inscription "I.Taymanov and his son Ospan".

Let's address now to another article published in "Ana Tili" newspaper. In 2011 journalist Idosh Askar wrote in this article that Kubash Mukanov was a postman in the village of Akyrab. He said that anthropologist N. Shayakhmetov had recalled that "during excavation in Sheytsay Isatay's body was found without the head". Bayan Sarsembina wrote in her article, published in "Zhas Alash" newspaper on November 18, 2010, that "N. Shayakhmetov took the body without head with him". Thus, we shall consider that Isatay's body is not in that grave.

Isatay's son Ospan was killed in 1838 and buried near his father. This tradition is common for Kazakh people. So, the fact that Ospan's body was brought there is another evidence that Isatay was buried in Sheytsay.

Today people visit the burial places of Isatay and his son Ospan and worship their remains.

To conclude, the version that Isatay was buried in Sholakmolda is unlikely while the second version is more appropriate.

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