

ANNOTATION

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Doctoral dissertation «Horse in the customs and rituals of the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan (Genetic and cultural aspect)» prepared to earn the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in archeology and ethnology.

General description of the dissertation. The dissertation paper presents a comprehensive analysis of the meaning of a horse in rites and rituals of the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan based on archaeological and ethnographic data.

Relevance of the research topic. None of the animal world has played such a big role in the history of civilizations as a horse. The highly developed equestrian nomadic civilization with its rich material and spiritual values was largely associated with the horseman who had grown together with him into a single whole. For several millennia, the horse was not only a means of transportation, but also a particularly revered animal among the nomads. The special role of the horse in the economic, political and military areas of the life of nomads led to a special attitude to it in the sphere of their spiritual culture, in particular, in religious ideas. As the role of the horse grows in the system of traditional economic life of the ancient nomads, it becomes an essential element of the ritual and mythological system among many peoples of Eurasia.

The earliest traces of worshiping a horse among the population of the Kazakh steppes are known from materials of the Botai and Tersek antiquities, which characterizes the initial stage of the formation of a horse cult with complex and multi-stage cult-ritual activities in the Eneolithic. Subsequent tribes came out on the historical scene with the horse, and the horse was always their loyal friend, with which they overcame all difficulties both in everyday household life and on the battlefield. The material world, the spiritual sphere, traditions, rituals, customs, worldview, art - all segments of traditional culture become understandable and explainable when viewed through the prism of a “horse”. The horse here is a kind of key to understanding the culture of the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan.

The relevance of the topic of the dissertation work is due, on the one hand, to insufficient study of the horse cult phenomenon in the context of the continuity of local cultures, the lack of comprehensive generalizing works in domestic and foreign literature that fully reflect various aspects of this multidimensional phenomenon. On the other hand, the importance of this kind of research is not only for understanding the origins, essence and history of local traditions associated with the cult of the horse and more widely - archaic forms of worldview, but also for solving a number of theoretical problems, including the universality of this phenomenon on a global scale.

Appeal to the establishment and development of rituals associated with the horse in the cultures of ancient and medieval Kazakhstan seems to be all the more important because later these customs and rituals played a key role in shaping the

first ideological systems that served as the foundation for the emergence of deeper mythological beliefs. Therefore, an attempt to study the causes and mechanisms of formation and transformation of the image of a horse in the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan is of particular importance.

In addition, the relevance of the appeal to the customs and rituals associated with the image of the horse in ancient and medieval cultures is also explained by the fact that over the past decades the amount of knowledge accumulated by related sciences - archeology, paleozoology, ethnography, genetics and others, which allow more complete and prominent picture of the periods under consideration.

Analysis of the significance of the horse in the rites of the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan will allow an objective assessment of the issues of the cultural genesis of the peoples inhabiting this vast territory. Note that the horse's place in the customs and rites of the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan has not yet been considered in such a territorial scale and chronological framework.

In this connection, it is relevant to study the role of the horse in the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan through the prism of continuity.

Object of study is the monuments of material and spiritual culture of the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan. Monuments of material culture in the context of our work are understood as funerary, settlement, cult and other complexes of household activities, and monuments of spiritual culture - myths, legends, customs and rituals.

Subject of study is a horse in customs and rites of the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan.

The purpose and objectives of the work. The main goal of the thesis is to consider the importance of the horse in the customs and rituals of the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan through historical continuity.

To achieve this goal, the following tasks are solved:

- to considerate of the historiography of the issue related to the role of the horse in customs and rites of the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan and adjacent regions in the context of historical periods;
- to describe issues related to the horse in the worldview of modern Turkic-Mongolian peoples;
- to identify and describe the monuments of the Bronze Age of Kazakhstan, where burials with a horse or its parts are found;
- to analyze the stylistic, ritual and symbolic features of the image of the horse on the monuments of the rock art of Kazakhstan in the Bronze Age;
- to show the formation and development of rituals and rituals associated with the horse among the tribes of the early Iron Age through the description of funerary memorial monuments;
- to analyze rituals and rituals associated with the horse, which are written in written sources and petroglyphs among the population of the early Iron Age;
- to reveal the peculiarities of the horse cult of the Turkic tribes in archaeological sources;

- to describe the customs and rituals associated with the horse in medieval written sources and in ethnographic materials;
- within the framework of the chronological aspect, to compile a typology of customs and rituals associated with a horse;
- in the context of cultural genesis, analyze the cult of the horse, formed in the religious and mythological complex of the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan.

Territorial scope of the study. The study covers the entire territory of Kazakhstan, as well as adjacent regions for comparison purposes. The coverage of the entire Kazakh steppe is due to several factors. Firstly, the discovery of the Botai culture, on the basis of which the opinion is formed that the Kazakh steppes is one of the centers of domestication of the horse. Secondly, in the worldview of the peoples who inhabited the territory of Kazakhstan in the Bronze Age, the image of a horse is represented in various rituals. Consequently, in regions a certain system of rituals and rituals associated with the horse has been formed. In the rites and rituals of the peoples of the early Iron Age and the Middle Ages, the importance of a horse takes on new forms. In a word, the cult of the horse, which was formed in the Eneolithic, without interrupting historical continuity, is reflected in the later ethnographic materials.

Chronological scope of the study. The thesis work covers the period from the Eneolithic to the late Middle Ages.

Source basis of the dissertation. Due to the fact that the dissertation work on chronology is very extensive, the main sources were divided into the following groups: material and written.

In turn, the archaeological materials that form the basis of material sources can be considered in the following groups:

1. Funerary complexes consisting of mounds and burial grounds belonging to the period from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages. The burials of a horse or its parts in the Bronze Age are represented in the monuments of Birlik II, Aksaiman, Ulybay, Bestamak, Halvay, Ayapbergen, Balykty, Bozingen, Buglyly, Maitan, Nurtai.

The funerary mounds with a horse initiation ceremony dating back to the early Iron Age include Berel, Katon, Zevakino, Kyzyltu, Zhartas, Baty, Jupiter, Slavyanka, Ubadermet, Karashat, Alakol IV, Onagash, Baskan and others.

The medieval monuments include the burial grounds of Zevakino, Bobrovo, Karakaba, Akterek, Butakty and others.

2. The second group of archaeological sources consists of rock art complexes, which include such monuments as Terektiaulia, Bayanzhurek, Sauyskandyk, Kurchim and others.

The written data composing the second kind of sources is also divided into two groups: published and unpublished:

a) the published written sources include poems of the Rigveda, ancient and Chinese sources. Medieval written sources are presented in the descriptions of N. Ya. Bichurin, Al-Jahiz, Ibn Fadlan, Kirakos Gandzaketsi, Plano Carpini, Vincent de Bowie and others;

b) scientific reports of archaeological expeditions stored in the archives of the Institute of Archeology named after A.Kh. Margulan are unpublished sources. In which contain a huge amount of factual materials on the burial of horses from the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan. This group includes scientific materials of researchers of the Department of Archeology, Ethnology and Museology.

The degree of knowledge of the dissertation. Pointing to the fact that no special archaeological works were published on the topic of the dissertation, but despite this, this topic is not deprived of the attention of researchers. Basically, the subject's historiography can be defined as archaeological and ethnographic research.

In turn, archaeological research can be chronologically divided into several groups. For example, in the question of the first pastoralists and riders of the Kazakh steppe, it is worth noting the works of such researchers as A.A. Formozov, V.F. Zaibert, S.S. Kaliyeva, V.N. Logvin, etc. Along with domestic ones, foreign scholars should also be noted, such as A. Outram, M. Levin, D. Brown, D. Anthony, N. Beneke, A. von Driesch, S. Olsen and others.

Questions related to the role of the horse in the burial complexes of the Bronze Age are reflected in the works of A.V. Logvin, V.N. Logvin, I.V. Shevnina, G.B. Zdanovich, E.E. Kuzmina and others, and the image of a horse in petroglyphs was developed in studies by Z. Samashev, A.N. Maryashev, V.A. Novozhenov and other scientists.

General characteristics and some conclusions regarding the role and significance of the horse in the early nomads are reflected in the research of S.I. Rudenko, M.P. Gryaznov, V.D. Kubarev, E.E. Kuzmina, A.M. Belenitsky and other scientists.

In scientific works of S.P. Nesterov, G.V. Kubarev, D.G. Savinov and other scholars considered the peculiarities of the horse's role in medieval monuments.

Ethnographic research on the theme of dissertation has a very wide scientific range. The horse's themes in the rites and customs of the Kazakh people are a detailed analysis of the works of A.T. Toleubayev, A.U. Toktabay, S.E. Azhigali and other researchers. Some aspects of the horse's theme in the ethnography of the Turkic-Mongolian peoples were described in V.E. Vasilyev, A.I. Gogolev, A.K. Salmin, O. Gundogdyev, V.F. Yakovlev, V.D. Slavnin, T.A. Bertagayev and other authors.

The above review of the scientific literature covers only a small part of the studies studied during the work on the dissertation.

The methodological and theoretical basis of the study include general historical methods such as objectivity, the use of complex research methods, versatile consideration of the subject of research. The study used methods of synthesis, analysis, system-historical, chronological and other universal and well-known research methods.

The typological method was used in two versions. A formal typology was used at the stage of streamlining archaeological sources, a comparative typology at the stage of interpretation of scientific facts. Also, as the orientation, theoretical

and methodological basis of the research, the theoretical data of domestic and foreign scientists are used, which are widely used in some research positions. Also, the method of zoning was used in the dissertation, since the territorial scope of the study is very wide. This method makes it possible to trace the territorial features of the spiritual culture of the ancient population.

The ethno-archaeological method was used to expand the archaeological source by collecting archeological-related information beyond the excavation site. Since, ethno-archaeological data are a source of ideas and approaches, on the basis of which the probabilities of interpretation of the source are expanded. In our case, ethno-archaeological data were used in the reconstruction of ancient Indo-Aryan sources and in the analysis of the customs of the Turkic-Mongolian peoples concerning the research topic.

On the basis of the formal-stylistic method, iconographic, historical-cultural and historical-archaeological information recorded in cave paintings was analyzed.

Scientific novelty of research work.

- for the first time, new materials are introduced into the scientific revolution of domestic science related to the position of the horse in the customs and rites of the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan. Unpublished scientific reports obtained during archaeological research of the Soviet period and the last decade are analyzed and taken as the basis;

- based on the generalization, systematization and study of the data accumulated to date, the history of research and the historiography of customs and rituals associated with the horse are disclosed. On the example of these materials, the reconstruction of the formation and evolution of the horse cult in the population of Kazakhstan from antiquity to the late Middle Ages was carried out, which allows filling the gap in the study of this problem;

- materials from funeral monuments from the Shilikty valley, as well as individual drawings from the Tarbagatai rock complexes, obtained directly from the author, were put into scientific circulation. Based on this information, the boundaries of the Kulagurgin culture were expanded, and a new interpretation of individual plots of the Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age imprinted in petroglyphs was proposed;

- the appearance of the horse and its parts in the funeral rite is analyzed on the basis of different times and regional features of the country's archaeological sites. The signs of the burial of the horse or its parts, characteristic of objects of the Bronze Age, the early Iron Age and the medieval period, are revealed, and the key factors of the transformation of this rite are established;

- when analyzing the image of the horse in fine art, it was found that the images of horses are reflected in various iconographic and semantic motifs and plots. A special layer of Bronze Age petroglyphs is represented by images of horses in which the canons of a given era are present, this is a horse near the world tree, horses made in the Seima-Turbino style, horses with painted bodies and others. The rock images of the early Iron Age contain images of horses in horned masks, zoomorphic codes of which are intertwined with the Indo-Aryan origin.

The art of the early Middle Ages, has a constant interpretation of the image of the rider with the image of military attributes and other accessories;

- based on a comprehensive study and analysis of the corpus of sources, an interpretation of these materials is presented, a chronological typology of archaeological sites is compiled in which various customs and rites associated with the horse are recorded.

The practical value of the work. The conclusions and statements obtained on the basis of the research will be an essential theoretical and practical addition to the courses on the role of the animal world in the ancient and medieval population of Kazakhstan. The materials of these works, the main conclusions and statements can be used in writing general and specialized textbooks on the spiritual culture of Kazakhstan.

The main provisions submitted to defense:

- based on archaeological facts, it was proved that the Kazakh steppes are not only one of the centers of horse domestication, but also the territory where religious and mythological foundations associated with the horse were formed;

- materials obtained from funerary monuments confirm the formation of special elements of horse burial in the population of the Bronze Age. This is especially pronounced in such monuments as Halvay, Bozingen, Ayapbergen, Bestamak, Aksayman and others. The funeral and memorial rites of these monuments are logically built into certain written and pictorial texts, combined with a mythological complex;

- archaeological materials from funerary monuments made it possible to fully reconstruct the customs and rites of the early nomads associated with the horse. In particular, it was possible to characterize the role of the horse in the funeral-memorial ritual among the population of the early Iron Age in a chronological and territorial framework. It has been scientifically proven that a horse is consecrated to the deceased in the early nomads of the Alakul basin;

- Based on archaeological data, funeral monuments of ancient Turks were studied and analyzed, in which rituals with the burial of a horse are reflected. The study of these materials provides a real basis for the reconstruction of the mentality of the medieval nomads of Kazakhstan;

- revealed that the written sources of ancient and medieval authors, as well as fine art materials confirm the results of the analysis of the funeral rite;

- conclusions are drawn about the historical continuity of ceremonies and rituals associated with the horse, ranging from ancient nomadic tribes to the modern Kazakh people. Consequently, there was a continuous process of cultural genesis for many centuries, from one historical period to another.

Approbation of research work. The main results and conclusions were presented in 13 scientific papers. 5 of which were published in journals recommended by the Committee for the Control of Education and Science of the Ministry of education and science republic of Kazakhstan, 7 articles in materials of international scientific conferences and 1 article in the journal registered in Scopus database.

The structure of the research work. The research work consists of an introduction, four chapters, conclusion, a list of literature and applications.