

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SHAMANISM AND TENGRISM IN THE US AND IN KYRGYZSTAN

The goal of my paper is to show the special peculiarities of the religious believe of the Native Americans and Kyrgyz nation. Everybody knows that they were shamans even till nowadays and some elements of shamanism are kept in Kyrgyz culture that is connected with the Tengism.

Key words: analysis, shamanism, religion, diversity.

Целью работы является необходимость показать особенности религии коренных американцев и кыргызского народа. Всем известно, что шаманы есть и в наше время, и отдельные элементы шаманизма хранятся в Кыргызской культуре, что связано с Тенгрианством.

Ключевые слова: анализ, шаманизм, религия, разнообразие.

In the Beginning was Tengri: “Grace is the heart of belief”

The word "tengir" is primordially old Kyrgyz, consisting of two words: "Ten" — equal and "ири" — immense, boundless. So our ancestors read Supreme. Since the early childhood for gratitude for the help I heard “TenirJalgasyn”

(Tengir bless you) from grandmothers and grandfathers. At that time I had no idea of the one who is Tenir and why they spoke so. Years later I had a representation that Kyrgyz admired KokoTengir.

For years of development of sovereignKyrgyzstan a free choice of religion for

citizens of the country were created. Thus it should be noted that the further development classical religions, and also it extended in a new way. One of such religions that have deep ancient roots is Tengrism in Kyrgyzstan. Tengrism, occasionally referred to as Tengrianism, is a modern term for a Central Asian religion characterized by features of shamanism, animism, totemism. Historically, it was the prevailing religion of the Turks, Mongols, Bulgars, and Hungarians, as well as the Xiongnu and the Huns. It was the state religion of the six ancient Turkic states: Göktürk Khaganate, Avar Khaganate, Western Turkic Khaganate, Great Bulgaria, Bulgarian Empire and Eastern Tourkia. The term is perceived among Turkic peoples as a national religion.

As a modern revival, Tengrism has been advocated among intellectual circles of the Turkic nations of Central Asia, including Tatarstan, Buryatia, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, in the years following the dissolution of the Soviet Union (1990s to present).

According to some observers, since Islam in Kyrgyzstan is generally moderate and the percentage of Muslims is low compared with neighboring Central Asian states, the principles of Tengrism might gain some popularity. Nowadays the term has gradually entered everyday use: it is discussed in the mass media and Internet forums.

In Tengrism, the meaning of life is seen as living in harmony with the surrounding world. Tengrist believers view their existence as sustained by the eternal blue Sky, Tengri, the fertile Mother-Earth, spirit Eje, and a ruler who is regarded as the holy spirit of the Sky. Heaven, Earth, the spirits of nature and the ancestors provide every need and protect all humans. By living an upright and respectable life, a human being will keep his world in balance and maximize his personal power. Belief that everything has a soul, or kut, even plants, animals and the natural environment.

In recent years everywhere increasing interest to a tengrism as to basic philosophy and a source of spiritual culture of many people of Siberia and Central Asia is noted. And in the light of the latest scientific data it is possible to claim safely that this doctrine is a spiritual basis of all civilization which is based upon pillars of Hebrew religion, Islam, Christianity, democracy and Buddhist philosophy. Life leads us to understanding that the new civilization can survive only on the basis of

outlook which would rely on the principles of a tengrism: this equality in aspirations and opportunities for achievement of perfection in planetary scale, ecocentrism philosophy, the statement of true national democracy and social equality. This most ancient monotheist miroucheniye appeared 10-12 thousand years ago, during disintegration of the Altai people, and became a spiritual basis and a core of modern religions.

The key thesis of a tengrism that our ancient ancestors considered themselves created of light: "Our father — a beam, mother — the earth, blood — water, and soul — air". Unlike representations of other religions according to which the person was created from clay, and the woman — from his edge and is his assistant. On the representations of our ancestors based on a tengrism, the woman is equal to the man. Эркектин билеги күчтүү, аялдын тилеги күчтүү; man is strong with his power and woman is strong with her good wish, аял уйдун куту- women is the happiness of the home. All these national sayings only emphasize greatness of the woman.

In Kyrgyzstan, көз мончок (koz monchok) are extensively used by almost everyone in their houses, in/on vehicles, baby clothes and even on buildings. People observe traditions like hanging rags on trees; dropping water on someone who has arrived from far away (like saying, "go like water, come like water"); the importance of the number 40; doing special ceremonies for dead persons reading a prayer for the sake of the 40 days of death. This notion is connected with Tengrism.

For 40 days after birth of the child the mother are required to stay in the home. On the fortieth day, a special ceremony, to bathe the child should be done, that is called Kyrkynchygaruu. The child was bathed with the 40 spoon of water.

One of symbols of Tengrism is Umay - Umayene blesses the people nowadays as the Goddess of fertility and virginity. There are so many holy places that is connected with Tengrism like mountain chains of Tenir-Too and top of Khan Tengri.

A number of Kyrgyz politicians are actively pushing Tengrism, to fill the ideological void. Dastan Sarygulov, ex-secretary of state and formerly chair of the Kyrgyz state gold mining company, has established Tengir Ordo (Army of Tengri) which is a civic group that seeks to promote the values and traditions of the Tengrism.

There is a Tengrist society in Bishkek, which officially claims almost 500,000 followers and an international scientific center of Tengrist studies. Both institutions are run by DastanSarygulov, the main theorist of Tengrism in Kyrgyzstan and a member of the Parliament.

The mass media and newspaper coverage played a great role in announcing about this faith.

In a newspaper interview one of Kyrgyz politician of Kyrgyzstan D. Sarygulov said:

«We are people which received blessing of the Lord (or Neba-Tengir in the Kyrgyz understanding) more than 5 thousand years ago. Thanks to it, we created the history, the inner world, culture, customs, outlook. It provided Kyrgyz success and victories within 5 millennia. If we want to keep ourselves, we are simply obliged to return to sources, to know the history, to be ourselves. And then we will find the true way – means, we will keep ourselves in centuries»

The Kyrgyz Government is not recognizing tengrism as a religion. Tengrism in Kyrgyzstan is alike to the shamanism in the USA Native Americans as the first settlers had diverse religious beliefs and they were different from each other.

The term "shamanism" was first applied to the ancient religion of the Turks and Mongols, as well as those of the neighboring Tungusic and Samoyedic-speaking peoples. Upon learning more about religious traditions across the world, western scholars also described similar magic-religious practices found within the ethnic religions of other parts of Asia, Africa, Australasia and the Americas as shamanism.

Shamanism is not a religion but rather a way to be which can be practiced by people from all walks of life and from all backgrounds and belief systems.

Unfortunately, the term "shamanism" has been misused in popular culture for many years. The entertainment industry has used "medicine man" or "shaman". In Kyrgyz culture shaman was used in the meaning of "bakshy - like a medicine man. In the USA it is described as a holy men and a women of Native Americans.

There are hundreds of Indian Nations in North America, each of the have their own culture, language, and spiritual belief system and none of them describe their beliefs as shamanism.

The key goal of most American Indians was to

keep harmony with such holy natural power, to move with its cosmic pulse. Harmony was the way to fertility of both tribe and nature, to success in both gathering & hunting, to a full life. By contrast, disharmony led to disaster: ruined crops, no game or fish, sickness, etc.

Most native Americans believe that they must have a close connection with nature because their guardian spirit usually is that of a plant or animal. Many people say the guardian spirit takes the Shaman to the other reality where he is given his needed knowledge and power through a hole in the world. The Shaman may also seek information to help his people and village. As a religion of nature, shamanism throughout Central Asia held particular reverence for the relations between sky, earth and water and believed in the mystical importance of trees and mountains. It should be noted that both Tengrism and Shamanism have beneficial impact on environment. Tengrism and Shamanism have similar ceremonies connected with nature.

If Tengrism has the ceremonies as Tengrian Epiphany (December 23), The Holiday of Life (select weekend around June 21), Kut - blessing Ceremony and in Shamanism there are such holidays as follows: Winter Solstice, Spring Equinox, Summer Solstice, Fall Equinox and etc.

The use of purification by fire is an important element of the shamanic tradition dating back as early as the 6th century. Shamans perform fire ceremonies for releasing, cleansing and balancing. Fire ceremonies are essential to purifying the body, spirit and heart, and can be used for healing and creating fruition in our lives. It was done in Kyrgyz culture too.

For a new family member (for example for the bride) Kyrgyz people have a tradition "Otko kirgisuu" that means welcome to the fire of the other family who invites them as guest. This person has to jump over the fire, because fire is a symbol of purification. Through a fire ceremony, energy bound in old ways can be freed to move in a new direction.

By the arrival of European settlers and colonial administration, the practice of Native American traditional beliefs was discouraged and Christianity was imposed upon the indigenous people. Despite that Shamanism continues to exist as a belief in America.

Conclusion

1. Kyrgyz Government didn't recognize Tengrism as a religion nowadays as they have no Bible or Kuran .
2. In Tengriism, the meaning of life is to live in harmony with the surroundings and to keep the environment from calamity.
3. Tengri constitutes the archetypal value system of human beings.. In this capacity, it can also serve as a benchmark for what was to follow.
4. Tengrism is connected with the space and space exploration. It will be developed together with the cosmos.
5. They are close connected by means of their philosophy and their background in the field of customs and traditions .

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