

The Birth of Manas

Notes

- Radloff thought the poem was for him specifically
- in Tokmak in 1869
- normally, Manas is in the Talas valley, here he is from the Almaty rivers
- the location is possibly a gesture against the Russians, who would have lived beneath Jakip (on the flat land) in this story
- Jakip is unusually resolute in this text, normally not so much
- Manas mother is the daughter of Aydar-khan here, generally not explicit
- Jakip is courageous, son of a couple khans, his location is described
- he married his wife Ciyrici, but never fathered a child
- she never: unbraided her hair, looked at him lovingly, bound her waist tightly, born a male child
- in 14 years, she never went to holy tombs, slept near heath-giving springs
- he wants God to help him have a child
- of only her waist were to be bound tight, he could have a child
- the son would shatter and raid the: Noygut, Kokanders, Sart, Kazakh, Kirghiz
- Jakip wore a bow and arrows around his waist and made a child
- this child was super white and well-shaped
- he slaughtered a white mare in celebration
- then Manas was surveyed by four prophets, who called him Manas
- envoys from Yarkend, China, Nogoy came, ate in the feast and then declared that Manas would be their ruin
- Manas had a nice crib, all the peoples heard about him and his future might
- the baby boy Manas speaks: he shall open up the path for the muslims and fight the infidels, Muslims will be victorious
- Jakip dons his armor and orders Bakay-khan to him
- Manas wants to scatter the treasure of the Kalmak
- Manas also wants to go on a long journey
- Jakip asks Bakay to guide Manas, show him stuff he has never seen, teach him
- Bakay knew the land where **Adam and Eve** were born
- Bakay should find him a horse, cloak when he is ready
- he will have a giant Koran and Book; show him the right path!
- be the friend and guide, Bakay, even in the afterlife
- Bakay vows to do what Jakip asks and suggests some good raiding
- at 10 Manas shot bows, at 14 he smashed khan's yurts and became one himself
- he raided Bukhara and Kokand, he fought different Chinese tribes

Observations

- they had some strange ideas about how conception worked
- Manas is of course a badass baby
- he has a mentor that will teach him what he needs to know
- the naming of Manas is pretty prophetic
- Adam and Eve appear in this story for some reason
- Manas grows up really fast
- the (un)tying of braids is supposed to help women in labor, good biology
- there is also a ritual of binding the waste of pregnant women in childbirth
- touring tombs and being near apple trees is supposed to "cure" infertility
- apples are also supposed to fix that