

Akyn's Poetry



Colonization of CA by Russian Empire(XIX-XXc)

- Arrival of Russian migrants
- Land issues
- Recruiting Soldiers
- Protests: Andijan Uprising (1898)
- 1916 Uprising (Urkun)

Statistics

- In 1906 106 000 Russian peasants were registered in Turkistan and 69000 were settled in Semirechie.
- In 1916, their numbers increased 3 times more .
- Only in Pishpek Uyezd in 1905-07, 879,219 acres of the best irrigated arable land were taken from dehkans, farmers. In 1907, when the Syuttubulak Jeti-Oguz plots were formed in the Przhevalsky district, more than 33,580 acres of land were taken from the Kyrgyz, on which their winter pastures and residential buildings were located. According to statistics from those years, from 1902 to 1913, the number of Kyrgyz people decreased by 8.9%.
- But the number of Russian settlers was growing rapidly. Gradually, the original inhabitants of the country, like the peoples of the entire Central Asian region, became low status citizens on their own land, which inevitably increased social tension and provoked all kinds of riots, protests, even large-scale rebellions

«Clash of civilizations»

- The “clash of civilizations” was foreseen by the famous akyn Kalygul (19th century) in his poem Akyr Zaman (The End of the world). His song about his time (Zamana) was full of pessimism, because of clash between colonizers and traditional society
- Other akyns followed him: Arstanbek, Moldo Kylych, Isak etc (19th century). They are called “zamanists”, because zamana became central theme in their poems. Zamana poems reflected on sociopolitical catastrophes in late 19th and early 20 c. Invasion of CA by Russian Empire, Oppression of locals by Kokand Khanate, Intertribal conflicts, Urkun (1916 Uprising) influenced on how singers depicted their Time in poems. The end of the world- Akyr Zaman - was the name for that Time.

Literacy and Education

- Jadidism as modernization of Muslims
- By 1909, there were 14 schools in Pishpek Uyezd, 11 in the Przhevalsky Uyezd, and 169 schools in the south of Kyrgyzstan, where Islam was particularly affected.
- The newspapers Russky Turkestan, Samarkand, Tarjiman, the magazines Courier, Bakyt and others were circulated in CA. Moreover, some of them, for example, Tarjiman, often covered events in Kyrgyzstan, the authors were mainly local people. Wealthy people (for example, Shabdans family) regularly received newspapers in Russian, published in St. Petersburg, etc.

Formation of realist written culture (literature)

- Zamanists, describing the reality of their time, turned out to be, in fact, the first **realist akyns** in Kyrgyz literature. And together with storytellers of folk epics, composers (komuzists, kyl-kyyakchy, etc.) they became the founders of modern Kyrgyz culture.
- Manaschy, akyny are not poets in the modern sense, they were considered as messengers of **ancestor's words**. And it is no coincidence that at the head of our - Kyrgyz - **modern culture** are, on the one hand, storytellers of folk epics, fairy talers (manaschi), and on the other, akyns-zamanists.

Kalygul Bai uulu (1785-1855)

- **The aphoristic predictions of the famous akyn Kalygul (oluya) became weeping song for many Kyrgyz during Urkun:**
 - A blue-eyed, light blond Russian will come.
 - All tall, thick grass he will cut.
 - Will protect the
 - mowing from damage.
 - Reddish, blue eyes, wordy speech will speak,
 - The Russians will come and immediately take our lands.
 - Lies oppresses the people, the time of sorrow will come.
 - The old man will forget the past. The son will not respect the father.
 - The woman will forget about shame. The daughter-in-law will not be slim
 - The greedy will come; he will prowl here and there,
 - Their desires will not be removed - These Russians will come.
 - As cheese in butter will live, They seat on Sable pelt .
 - From a copper bowl, feed the dog. But we can't see prosperity, Face difficulties in our life.
 - (Translated by M.A. Rudov)

Kalygul - Doomsday

- The words of the saints are known to us.
- About the Day of Judgment - akyr Zaman.
- To those, the ancestor to whom Adam, Do not escape the akir zaman.
- And people will be weak in fateful days.
- Compared to the previous ones, they will be small.
- And the rootless slave will be a ruler in those days.
- A century will come to live with infidels in the neighborhood.
- In the future, man will be known as a scientist

Arstanbek

When he sang and composed songs about future difficulties and unequal times, people could not stop crying, sobbed both old and young. The core of his songs were the words:

- “There is no land where you could hide,
- There’s no grave where you can lay,
- The Russians are coming, watch out,
- Doomsday (The end of the world) is coming, watch out! ”

According to the testimony of historians, songs and gloomy predictions of Arstanbek acted so strongly on the audience that one of the representatives of the local nobility even ordered to seize the akyn and cut off his tongue.

Toktogul (1864-1933)

- “**Five Boars**”, “**Farewell, my people!**”, “**Song of the Prisoner**”, “**In Exile**”, “**Cursed Age**”
- “**My kerbez**”
- . . . These hands were shackled in shackles - my kerbez.
- Tearing them away from the people, They sent away - my kerbez.
- The keen eyes in the prison yearned, - my kerbez.
- But skilful lips sang - my kerbez.
- All on foot. On foot seven years, On foot - my kerbez.
- In gold mines I crushed the breed - my kerbez.
- Demolished from the royal executioners all adversity - my kerbez.
- Served the exile in agony year after year - my kerbez.

Toktogul about Eshens, Mullahs(religious figures)

- Spreading flattery to the rich man, you mock the poor ...
- So, the righteous and the saint also love to eat deliciously?!
- Why hid foreheads in turban? We cannot figure it out.
- Either a woman, or a man you! Who is so dressed up in a turban, what, tell me, is he different, from wives covered by scarfs?
- So to clear the minds, To the people themselves, Ishan, tell me,
- Is it not a turban, Only a sign of the prude,
- Only a sign of the eternal lie of the clergymen who honors the God,
- And robbery of all Bleeder and liars, Compilers of fables ?!

Toktogul about Russian(imperial) administrators

- Volostnoy, head, don't you know Toktogul's directness?
- How do you rule here,
- Since you are dishonorable and nasty? You are greedy to profit only!
- After all, you are a shameless thief, If in the most difficult year,
- Ruthlessly to the poor. You are the last to take away cattle!
- And why do you value the Ishan who visited you so much?
- Here my guess is correct: Ishan's a turban is as white as snow and your soul is black.
- You, an accomplice of his direct, Because for him and torn,
- That is covered with a white turban Black of your evil deeds!

Evil times by Tktogul

- I soared, like an eagle in the mountains,
- I easily soared high,
- But for my loud song
- Doomed to yearn in captivity.
- I am torn from my mountains, passes, valleys, rivers,
- Why did you tear me to pieces
- My damned and evil time? - asked the akyn, being in
Siberia in exile

Toktogul

- **But in recent years, the akyn has been more inclined to philosophize, traveled around to support the people who have suffered a difficult time of post-revolutionary transformations, collectivization and collective farm construction. His later “sanat” and “terme”, songs are full of thoughts about the transience of time, about the philosophical meaning of life:**
 - If the steed did not ride,
 - If I were forever young,
 - If the world had not changed
 - From the first to the last moons!
 - If the grass forever turns green,
 - If the eyes do not forever grow dull,
 - A beautiful young, If you never become old!
 - If my people were happy, If there were no small orphans,
 - If death never takes smart and young! (Translated by S. Lipkin)

Ysak Shaibekov Goremychniy narod (Weeping requiem), about Lost People,

• **Кайран эл**

- Miserable people starved their horses and their camels.
- Having removed the skin from them, the charyks (shoes) were done by the miserable people.
- Without bed, on the bare earth miserable people slept.
- Not washed, black and dirty you became like a pipe, miserable people!
- How suffering misfortune burns your heart, miserable people!
- All your clothes, all the good you sold, the miserable people.
- And the pen that wrote the songs you sold, miserable people.
- You sell young children - the Light of the soul, the miserable people.
- Make a song about evil fate and will sell it, miserable people! etc.

Jenijok . Poem Akkan suu (Running water)

- Life-giving flowing Water, You bring blessing to all ,Water.
- Rivers everywhere create Water, and in the canals the ever-present Water.
- Water rushes downstream. Water pacifies on the plain.
- Life-giving flowing water, There is no life and day without you, Water
- Even those who did not keep you, Water, who arrogantly did not value you, Water,
- They will run everywhere to look for you then,
- they will run to the far distant lands and ready to give you everything they have ,Water.