




# Силерниң кичээнгейиңерге бараалгадыптайн. Шыян ам, |


 Turkic language, predominantly spoken by the people of Tuva, a nominally independant Republic of Russia. Located in southern Siberia, Tuva covers a vast landscape of mountains, forests, pastureland, and tundra.

Шыян ам, |  
Once upon a time, 

Ver. 2  
 Designed by  
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Huge thanks to:  
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 This language is not Russian.  
s Tuvan.

Today, with the dominant culture and language of Russia encroaching on the Tuva Republic, the efforts of linguists like Dr. David Harrison, are crucial.

Through his work, Harrison meets and documents the stories of many storytellers, shamans, and everyday Tuvans. Mr. Shoydak-ool Khovalyg, is one such storyteller whose retelling of the Tuvan epic: **Boktu-Kiris Bora-Seelei,**  acts as the basis for both the animation and this pamphlet.


While the animation seeks to add helpful visuals to this oral story, this pamphlet is intended to further clarify meaning and context for English speakers.

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In the evenings, with chores done and animals in their stockades, these campsites became the perfect setting for folktales and epic stories.

Each translated line of the story begins with a corresponding number, and each audible pause in the recording is marked by a vertical line. Like all other Tuvan epics, this story begins with a common opening phrase...

18. 

While most Tuvans now lead sedentary lives, traditionally they are a nomadic culture. Along with their animals, they would typically migrate campsites 4 to 5 times a year. 

1. **Шыяан ам**, эртенгиниң эртезинде, бурунгунуң мурнунда, |  
1. Once upon a time, in the very earliest morning of time, before the long, long ago,  
2. эки шагның эктинде, багай шагның бажында, | 3. элик-хүлбүс,  
2. at the end of the bad times, before the good times, 3. when the deer and doe,  
сыын-мыйгаа эзиминде | сыңышпас, 4. арга-чуңма, койгун, торлаа  
the wild elk stag and elk doe overflowed from their woods, 4. the mountain goat, the hare, and the grouse overflowed from  
аргазында сыңышпас, | 5. магаданчыг бай-байлак, эки шагда чүвең  
their forests, 5. a rich, wonderful, and plentiful good time it was, so they say.  
иргин. | 6. **Шыяан ам**, аралчалаар чыраа, саяк 7. Аян-Кула аъттыг, |  
6. Once upon a time, riding along on a mixed-gait brown horse with black mane and tail, 7. named Ajan-Kula,  
8. алдын ышкаш каас, чараш 9. Бора-Шээлей кыс дуңмалыг, |  
8. was splendid as gold, handsomely dressed Boktu-Kiris, 9. with his younger sister Bora-Seelei.  
10. Бокту-Кириш, сайын эри чоруп тур эвес бе. | 11. **Шыяан ам**,  
10. Boktu-Kiris of the Sayin clan. He was going along, wasn't he? 11. Once upon a time  
Бокту-Кириш, Бора-Шээлей 12. алышкылар дээрге | эди эгин  
Boktu-Kiris and Bora-Seelei, 12. these two siblings, had meat piled higher than their shoulders,  
ашкан, 13. малы бажын ашкан, | 14. өвүр черниң өзенинге дөңнеп  
13. and livestock reaching higher than the their heads. 14. In a southern land in a hollow on a hill they rounded up  
хавырар 15. өле-була чылгылыг, | 16. ары черниң аргазынга  
15. the herd of gray horses. 16. In a forest on a northern slope  
17. дөңнеп хавырар ала-шокар инектерлиг, | 18. хову черниң  
17. they rounded up the striped and spotted cows. 18. On a wide and even plain  
делгеминге 19. дөңнеп хавырар хоор-сарыг тевелиг, | 20. каспал  
19. they rounded up the brown and yellow camels. 20. At a cliff in a  
черниң хаязынга дөңнеп хавырар 21. кажаа сыңмас, хараган дег  
ravine they rounded up 21. their sheeps and goats they were as numerous as tumbleweeds  
хөй өшкүлүг, | 22. кайгамчыктыг бай-шыырак, ажыл-ишчи  
and nearly didn't fit into their pen 22. Amazingly rich, wealthy, and hard-working were the siblings,  
23. алышкылар чүвең иргин ийин оң. | ...  
23. so they say.