

RAYIMBEK BATYR: A HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract

The article delves into the achievements of Rayimbek Batyr, who led the liberation movement in the eastern Jetysu region during the concluding years of the "Ak Taban Shubyrindi, Alkakol Sulama" period. Rayimbek emerges as a pivotal figure, dedicating his life to the collective liberation struggle of the Kazakh people. Central to his endeavors is the quest to free his homeland and alleviate the suffering of his people under the oppressive rule of the Jungars. Additionally, the study explores the historical sources provided by K. Sauranbayev concerning Khangeldi, the grandfather of the renowned warrior, shedding light on the loyal companions who accompanied him, including Bakay Batyr, Aralbay Batyr, Kopay Batyr, Satay Batyr, and Iryskeldi Batyr. Through an examination of Rayimbek's valiant efforts and the accounts of his contemporaries, this research offers insight into the historical context and the enduring legacy of his struggle for freedom.

Introduction.

The last years of «the Great Disaster» (Aktaban shubyryndy, Alqakol sulama-a definition that describes that period) the man who put an end to the liberation struggle to the east of Zhetisu region was Raiymbek Batyr. His grandfather was the famous Khangeldi Batyr who won the battle of Anrakay, his father was – Toke, and mother was – Aitol. His heroic deed has not been repeated in the Kazakh history before and after. The secret of his name's becoming the war-cry of Alban tribe is that peculiarity of his. Looking back on the Kazakh history, only Ablay and Raiymbek cried out their own names as a battle-cry when attacked their enemies. The main part of the work written by Kadambek Sauranbayev «The battles of Raiymbek Batyr» includes the information about Raiymbek, despite the disadvantages, is the recognition of the foundations of Raiymbek's doctrine. It is published in 2 Volume of «Five-Volume Collection of Handwritings» by Tolen Kaipynbayuly (Kaupynbaiuli, 2008:104-167). K.Sauranbayev was born in 1899. He spoke about thirty people who might have known Raiymbek, and he summarized the above-mentioned merits basing on their words. He met with Raiymbek batyr's offspring: Nartuly Kashagan, aged 105 in 1922, and in 1945 Suan Satai batyr's grandson, 115-years-old Kezenkarauly Adilbek, as both of them had been grown up exposed to stories about their grandfathers heroic acts not from people of that time, but from their fathers and their relatives since the very childhood. Therefore, this situation will increase our confidence in Sauranbayev's data.

The kinship of Raiymbek Batyr: He is a descendant of the Great/Uly zhuz, Syrymbet branch of the Alzhan family, Alban tribes. At the period of Syrymbet his father, the eldest son of Alzhan was a well-known biy in Alban tribes, a hero of his native land. Kazakh people say «Sirymbet's bones are on the Syr steppes». Syrymbet's name was the motto of the Alzhan descendants, the heroism, wealth, and career were the things his descendants always struggled for. One of the glorious sons of Syrymbet biy in the Kazakh history, is Khangeldi. He is a well-known commander who did his best to unite the Uysin tribes and fought against the Dzungar invaders for freedom many years (Lived in 1663-1760).

His grandfather, Khangeldi Batyr, became famous after the battles against Dzungars in the first half of the 18th century, and in 1733 he sent an envoy to the Russian queen Anna Ioanovna in the name of the Great Kazakhs, along with Tole biy, Kodar biy, Satai and Bulek batyrs. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, a large number of the Kalmyk Khanate army attacked peaceful Zhalayir people. The covetous and merciless Kalmyk army that dreamed of endless wealth entered the country. The leader of Zhalayr, Orak Batyr, was out of the country at the moment. Hearing the news that «An enemy attacked the Zhalayir people» Alban Khangeldi batyr was as angry as a raging bull, gathered troops on guard of the country borders and immediately started off against Kalmyk invaders.

Khangeldi Batyr addressed the following lines to the Kalmyk batyr, who did what he wished; killed people and destroyed the Kazakh villages: «Do you find the land ownerless?» «Or do you think a live stock unattended by us?» «Or Do you think we have no guidance?» «Who broke the peace of the country as it is?» «Who broke into the pasture where peacefully grazing our stock?» «Who set the fire on my country creeping at night?» «Disturbing Kalmak, From head to toe, Admit your guilt!» «If you have nothing to say Just get back!» «If you do not do what I say You will not get away with it!» – he said. Without considering the words said, Kuba Batyr burst into words: «I will invade your country I will break your bones, I'll take your country, Orphaned children you will have heavy regiment is behind me I'm sure to do that- he overpowered himself.

In this way, the two warriors riding stately horses met in the middle of the battle field. The old warrior Khangeldi decapitated the Kalmyk warrior with his

sword from the first attempt. When the Kazakhs prevailed in number, the enemy was defeated in an unfair war and they were in the hands of the Kazakhs, and some Kalmyks were captured and the rest could hardly escape. Zhalayir Orak batyr was rather grateful to Alban Khangeldi's courage and wanted to give him some precious gift. Then Khangeldi Batyr said:— My suggestion is to continue our relations with the famous Orakty batyr, whose name was the war-cry of the Great Zhuz Uysin people, and the fighter's battle-cry. If you give your consent, I'd like your daughter, beautiful Karashash marry my son Toke. « Thus, the two sides agreed to the marriage of Karashash and Toke. As the result of this marriage was born Raiymbek Batyr, a great name that lately became the motto of the Alban tribe. According to the record, Khangeldi had eight sons.

They are: Tileuke, Toke, Monke, Donke, Tursyn, Jung (Aybas), Kaybas, Yege-men. And Raiymbek, the son of Toke, the grandson of Khangeldi was a prominent man that became a motto of all Alban tribes. He is consecrated to the ranks of the saints by Kazakh people. In historical records, Raiymbek batyr, within thirty-three years spent at battle fields, was wounded 77 times, and made a great contribution to his country and became a motto of the Alban tribe. At his early 17, he actively resisted the Dzungar invasion of Kazakh territories and played a major role in liberating the Kazakhs from Dzungar rule. Kalmyk khans and Noyans, Batyr's people as Badam, Koryn, Aganas, Seker, Torekhan, etc. and liberated Karatau and Zhetysu from the enemy. He was remarkably courageous at the Battle of Oirantobe near Toraygyr region and Soget island. In 1733 he accompanied Bolek batyr to the Dzhungar as an ambassador.

On his deathbed Raiymbek batyr said, «Whoever names my name first, I will support him.» Mukhtar Auezov was the first writer who mentioned that facts about in his work (Auezov, 1937: No2-3). According to the information collected by Kabyrbek Sauranbayev, «Raiymbek was brought up by his grandfather, Khangeldi, from birth to seven years.» When he came to that age, his uncle descending from Orak batyr family brought a horse, a bow, shackles, a sword, a spear, a shield, an armor, a steel sword, and handed them over to his grandfather Khangeldi, for his nephew Raiymbek.

Probably it was the substitution for the forty horses that he should give to his nephew. Raiymbek himself named that horse Kokkoynak. Considering that he trained the horse galloping, swimming, and jumping, that made him physically strong from his childhood, a very fast even as fast as an arrow, skillful boy and lately a smart tactician and a military leader. When he was a boy, his enthusiasm in military games shocked some people and others just adored him. Naking into consideration the line from K. Sauranbayev's work «It has been about twenty-five years on this war,» Raiymbek fought from 1745 to 1770, that is probably when he was 15 up to 40 years old in order to clear the east of Zhetysu (Kaupynbaiuli, 2008: 158,112,113). Raiymbek was first spoken about in the country when he was over 15, that is nearly 16 years old. In the spring of 1745, when Nauryzbay Batyr defeated the great enemy of the Kalmyk army in Karkara, a group of Kazakh soldiers, including Khangeldi, had to stop for a while on the right bank of the Ili River because of Ice flow. Moving ice makes it difficult for horses to cross the river swimming and it were dangerous for the horses and riders. Having long dreamed to fight at a war, Raiymbek hurried to his grandfather on his horse to the river. When the boy learned the situation, he made a long rope of canes that could reach from one bank of the river to the other, tied it to the tree on one side and dragged the other side over the water to the other side on his Kokkoinak, and then tied it firmly. Now the migrating ice blocks did not flow over the river but stopped on the cane rope, gradually clinging to each other.

This witty solution of a fifteen-year-old boy astonished the Kazakh soldiers. Everyone started questioning and found out that he was the grandson of Khangeldi batyr. Nowadays, this incident is known as «Break in the Ili River». There was hot

water in the area where the sword of the batyr was shot in the ditch, and Arasan was emerged there called «Ayakkalkan». Today, both the river crossing and the Arasan «Ayakkalkan» has remained under Lake Kapchagay (F.K). Raiymbek batyr's most valuable service is the fact that he united Kazakh men living on the territory invaded by of the Kalmyks and set them to fight to liberate their country. Raiymbek is a hero who estimated the interests of the tribe and devoted all his life to the Kazakh independence. The Kazakh people, the Kazakh land were of great importance to him. Any of his battle was devoted to the struggle for the liberation of the suppressed Kazakh land and fellow countrymen suffering from Kalmyk oppression.

The army, founded by Raiymbek, was a union that acted neither by khan's nor by biys' orders, but by Raiymbek's own decision and everyone's love for his country. His military troop was formed from young heroes of some Kazakh tribes, such as Zhalayr, Alban, Suan, Dulat, Shanyshkyly who settled on the eastern part of Zhetisu, and even Kalmyk's own people. The Raiymbek's troop arranged everything themselves: horses and weapons. Raiymbek's main and most important deed is his liberation of the left bank of the Ili River starting from Turgen to Sumbeand Kalzhat, on the right bank-starting from Altyn-Emel and Kogaly to Khorgos and eastern border driving the Kalmyk siege out of the country.

This, in fact, is a state mission. According to the Petersburg agreement of 1881, the Kazakh territory included the lands of Sumbe and Kalzhat on the left side of the Ili River and reached to Khorgos on the right, and now our country acquires the same borders set by Raiymbek in the eighteenth century. This is the most noble heritage of his heroic deeds. The liberation of the former two counties, the present-day large five districts, is his eternal unforgettable feat. Bakai batyr was considered to be Raiymbek batyr's right-hand man, who was a commander of 100 warriors. Bakai batyr was the son of Myktybek biy. He was probably much older than Raiymbek. In the National Encyclopedia «Kazakhstan» it was stated that he lived in 1703-1802. According to K. Sauranbayev, he was one of the men who brought into the house Raiymbek's body right after he had been wounded on the battle at Kalmyk Turekhan's fortress and died.

Methodology

The truth is exposed in these lines, because one of the initiators of the 1916 national liberation movement, Serikbay Kanayuly was the leader of the Kyzylborik tribe settling in Assy and Turgen, later named after this hero, Bakai region. It was a sign of respect of the Alban warrior towards the Zhalair hero that they named the region by his name, unless one had respect of the tribe of Alban, to give his name, to be honored by the heroic deeds. In the twentieth of the last century, the county was disembodied because of the formation of the district, thus Bakay region included in the Verniy district was abolished. Unfortunately, since then, the name and courage of Bakai batyr went off and gradually slipped from memory of the later generation. The name of the place named after Bakay in Zhetisu is also observed in the Alban tribe chronicles (Bajdibek baba – alyp bajterek, 2003). K. Sauranbayev also mentioned that the name of Bakaytau in Talgar was dedicated to the hero's deeds. Bakay was a warrior who showed a great heroism during the assault on the fortress, the Kalmuk headquarters with its leader Torekhan located between Zharkent and Koktal and attacked its second gate when Raiymbek took the first one. At the same time, some of Raiymbek batyr's warriors died and some were wounded.

Because the Kalmyks were locked in the fortress, Kazakhs attacked them from the open field. During the capture of the Kalmyk fortress where weapons were kept and powder, Raiymbek was wounded in the thigh and Bakay was also wounded in this battle. This war was the most decisive and last battle of Raiymbek with Kalmyks. Defeated and hardly escaped Torekhan agreed to release Kazakh territory up to Khorgos (Kaupynbaiuli, 2008:157, 159). It was named Turgenkent, later called Turgen

Tugay. The ruined remains of the fortress can be still found on the Almaty-Khorgos highway, on the slopes of Usharal village. During his visit to Kashgar in 1856, Shokan saw a shield at a distance and wrote a few things about Turgenkent in his diary. Unfortunately, there is no sign of Raiymbek, Bakay or other heroes anywhere in this fortress on the road. Today's generation does not know the history of this fortress related to their ancestors. Another person, Suan Aralbai batyr, was Raiymbek's reliable partner. It was Aralbai batyr about whom Kenen writes in his poems: «There are a lot of brave men from Suan Like Satay, Bolek and, Aralbai.» He was one of the envoys of the 1733's, informing that the Kazakhs were going to seek protection from the Russian Empire, and he was probably older than Raiymbek. He had been together with Raiymbek since the first war against the Koryn khan. They say that he was a pathfinder, and could find and show others a way even in a dark night. When Raiymbek made a treaty with Aganas Khan ruling Zhalangash and Ush Merki and Arys Khan ruling Komirshi, Aralbai was with his other companions accompanied him. M. Bolyshevich wrote in his epic «Raiymbek batyr»: «Then we should take Aralbai batyr group and go to Kumbel and Shalkol» – he headed a troop of 100 warriors (Kaupynbaiuli, 2008:204). Despite the fact the Suan people of the right bank of the Ili River knew quite well Raiymbek's companions Satay, Bolek, they do not know Aralbai batyr's courage in details. Raiymbek was born in Albansai (former Yubileynyi village) east of Almaty, and Aralbai was born in Suansai (now Kensai). And Bakai Batyr as they said was the descendant of Talgar. Therefore, as the villages were closely situated, it is possible to say that these three heroes have grown up together. Another trusted companion of Raiymbek is Kapai batyr from Zhalaiyr. Although the names of both Bakai and Kapai have been closely similar, there is no evidence of their brotherhood.

The scientist Kadyrbek Zhunusbayev published in the «Leninshyl Zhas» newspaper (Zhunisbaev, 1968) that Kapay Batyr's name was mentioned in a letter dated 1733 found in the Moscow archive. The fact that Raiymbek took Kapai with him to make a treaty with Koryn khan shows that Raiymbek highly appreciated Kapai and handed over the most important things to him. Before assaulting the Turgen fortress, Kapai captured Turekhan's brother and several confident companions and learned about the Kalmyk's military tactics. Later except Turekhan's brother imprisoned Kalmyks merged with Kazakhs, they were treated as Kapai's relatives, got mixed with the Zhalaiyr tribe and settled together. One of the most prominent warriors fought in the Battle with Raiymbek was Suan Satai batyr. Arys Khan and Aganas Khan gathered Kazakh warriors at the meeting in Kartogay asked: «Why didn't Raiymbek batyr come himself?», Satay's response on behalf of the Kazakh heroes indicated not only his bravery, but also his age, who was older than others (Kaupynbaiuli, 2008:130,162).

When Raiymbek was going to capture the Turgen fortress Satay batyr joined the battle with his army and after the victory he was presented a pastureland from the Osek River to Khorgas. Satai batyr is a man who displayed great courage in liberation of Sartau, Sarybel, Burkhan, Zharkent, Shezhin, Almaly, Oizhailau, Baskunshy and Khorgas. After the country gained its independence, Satai Batyr's descendants set a monument in his fame in Sarybel village. Until Zharkent was disbanded, it included Satai region. Bolek batyr was a man whose name is mentioned with Satai batyr's name, he was from the tribe of Suan, who fought alongside with Raiymbek. There is no doubt that Bolek batyr, who signed an agreement together with Khangedi in 1733, was Shapyrashty Bolek and not suan Bolek batyr. Because he was only four years old at that time. As for Bolek Karauly, winning a main warrior of Kalmyks at Anyrakai, became famous 'batyr' in Zhetisu. In order a child became a hero, for boy who was born in 1729 was given name Bolek batyr's name. According to Kazybek Bek's notes when Ablay celebrated the victory in 1757 and at the battles on the eve of his celebration, the young boy Bolek batyr was a little bit furious (Kazybek

bek Tauasaruly, 1993:411).

When Raiymbek captured Koryn Khan, Satai and Bolek with their armies took part in driving Kalmyks from the Bugyty and Tastykara. After the Kazakh united army took the Turgen fortress, he settled in the present Konyroleng area. In the central park of Zharkent there is a monument in Bolek batyr's fame. Comparing the Shezhire data, Satai's, Bolek's, Raiymbek batyr's 8th, 9th generations live now. Hence, their age was not far from each other. T. Kudakulov says: «There is a place in the history of the Zhungar invasion that has been named «Battle at Oirantobe» . And when Bolek batyr returned to his village with a glorious victory over Kalmyks, his wife gave birth to a son. He was especially elated and said: «Let give the name to my son Zhaukash, who was born on the day I defeated the enemy» (Kudajkulov, 2001). In K. Sauranbayev's notes there is mentioned a hero, whose name has been changed to Shanyshkyuly Kozhamberdy Batyr. It was written: «Shanyshkyuly Kozhamberdy Batyr made his trip from the east of Sarykamysty, cleared all the enemies along the way and came to this war with good fortune.» (Kaupynbaiuli, 2008:127) One of the participants of Raiymbek battles is Alban Yryskeldi Batyr. Historical data show that Yryskeldi and Aralbai Batyr handed a letter of the Great Zhuz to the Russian tsar. In the Chronicle of the Alban tribe: «Yryskeldi was a brother of Shabar Batyr. He was also a hero. It is said that Shabar left his flag for Yryskeldi Batyr. « (Bajdibek baba – alyp bajterek, 2003:449) It means that his courage is not forgotten by the generation of today. Investigation of Rayimbek's warriors is now incomplete. The research work on batyrs as Biekhe, Tileuke, Erdes, Barak, Otep and Akbas batyrs, who are mentioned in K. Sauranbayev's study, has not been completed yet.

Conclusion

Studying the history we have come to the conclusion that all his companions were older than Raiymbek. When they discussed some problems, he always referred to them «Brothers!» But even though he was younger, all the men wanted him to be a commander. It is because of the wisdom and the virtue, he was also distinguished by reasoning and organizational ability. For example, after the fight with Seker Khan, when dividing captured materials from the Kalmyks, 375 horses were given to the commander-in-chief, Raiymbek; after overthrowing Arys Khan, more than 400 horses were presented to him, and he was suggested more than 400 horses after winning the Kalmyk Torekhan. But he did not take any of them and divided them among his warriors, their families who lost their sons or were wounded, and the poor. (Kaupynbaiuli, 2008:133, 143, 161) His exceptional kindness, devotion, and generosity; his straightforwardness and the quality that did what he preached were valued and admitted by people. Rayimbek batyr is a hero in the Kazakh history, who is prominent by his courage and deeds.

In conclusion, the comprehensive exploration of Rayimbek Batyr's life and legacy unveils a narrative of resilience, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to the liberation of his people. Through his courageous endeavors, Rayimbek emerged as a symbol of Kazakh national pride, embodying the enduring spirit of resistance against oppression and foreign domination.

The historical significance of Rayimbek Batyr transcends mere accounts of battlefield heroics; it encompasses the profound impact of his leadership on the collective consciousness of the Kazakh people. His unwavering determination to confront and challenge the forces of injustice resonates throughout the annals of Kazakh history, serving as an inspiration for future generations.

Moreover, the scholarly analysis of Rayimbek's life underscores the intricate interplay between individual agency and broader socio-political dynamics. His strategic

acumen, coupled with his unwavering dedication to the cause of national liberation, highlights the pivotal role of visionary leadership in shaping historical trajectories.

Furthermore, the study of Rayimbek Batyr serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring relevance of historical inquiry in understanding contemporary socio-political realities. By delving into the complexities of his life and times, scholars gain invaluable insights into the intricacies of nation-building, identity formation, and the enduring struggle for justice and equality.

In essence, the legacy of Rayimbek Batyr endures as a testament to the indomitable human spirit and the transformative power of collective action. As we reflect on his life and contributions, let us draw inspiration from his example and rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of a more just, equitable, and inclusive society for all.

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