

## On the Ancient Myngtepa Ceremonies

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**Annotation:** This article provides information about ancient national ceremonies, customs and their importance in the life of society in the Fergana Valley. Also, in the article, opinions are expressed that Mingtepa, one of the ancient cities of the Fergana Valley, has a special place in the history of Uzbekistan. Through the materials found in Mingtepa (Ershi) archeological monument, the customs, religious and national rituals of our ancient ancestors and the impact of these rituals on the socio-economic life of the valley population are described.

**Keywords:** Ancient Fergana (Dawan, Day-yuan) state, Mingtepa city, Western Han state, Sima Qian, "Historical Memories", Aravon rock paintings, material objects found in Mingtepa city, Zoroastrianism, "Yellow Dragon Attack" historical novel, "Interested" ceremony.

### INTRODUCTION

The ancient customs and traditions of the Uzbek people are national values that have been formed and developed over the centuries. These customs, traditions and rituals are the product of a certain historical period, which appeared as a result of the influence of a certain way of life and well-being. These ceremonies serve to unite people, support each other, and strengthen the bond of love. There are some traditions and national ceremonies that not only lead people to spiritual perfection, but also promote a healthy lifestyle. Such rituals define its own characteristics and characteristics in the life of each nation.

#### Literature review (Literature review):

The literature and sources about the history of the ancient Fergana state and the national traditions of the people of Mingtepa can be divided into written and archeological sources. A.N.Bernshtam, Yu.A. Zadneprovskiy, B.Kh. Matboboev explained the results of their archaeological excavations in their scientific works.

Written information can be found in Shiji - "Historical Memoirs" by Sima Qian, a court historian of the ancient Western Han Empire. Sinologist N.Ya.Bichurin, who first translated this work into Russian, and later N.M.Küner's translations also gave brief information about ancient national ceremonies of Ferghana.

The historical novel "The Attack of the Yellow Dragon" by Mannop Egamberdiev, which illuminates the national ceremonies of ancient Ferghana in an artistic way, through images. This novel is based on Chinese and Uzbek sources about the ancient state of Ferghana.

One of the researchers, S. Yoldashev, conducted a research on the ancient folk games of Ferghana. In the scientific research, the information about the national games of ancient Ferghana, their importance in the socio-economic life of the population is highlighted.

#### Research methodology (Research Methodology):

An attempt was made to use historicity and logic, observation and other scientific approaches and methods in the coverage of the article. Таҳлил ва натижалар

**(Analysis and results):**

It is known from history that a number of factors influence the creation and development of national rituals and traditions that have been inherited since ancient times. One such factor is lifestyle. Every ceremony, which has become an age-old tradition of the people, gives the spirit of nationalism. Observations show that, like all other nations, the customs, traditions and rituals of the Uzbek people are the product of a certain historical period and have been formed and developed in the way of life of ancient states.

One of the ancient states existing in the territory of Uzbekistan is the state of Ferghana (Davan, Day-yuan), which is considered one of the countries of special importance not only in the history of Uzbekistan, but also in the history of the world. In the ancient Fergana valley, there were national ceremonies with their own characteristics. During the study of the history of this state and archaeological research, valuable information about the ancient customs and national ceremonies of the people of the valley was revealed. It is known from history that world-famous heavenly horses were bred in ancient Ferghana. Therefore, many national ceremonies of the valley were mainly associated with the horse. According to historical sources, horses were bred mainly in the city of Ershi. According to archaeologists, the location of the city of Ershi corresponds to the ruins of the present-day Mingtepa city.

Mingtepa, one of the ancient cities of the Fergana Valley, is located in the eastern part of Andijan region, 38 km from the center of Andijan city. In the distance, located in the center of the current Marhamat district. According to historical sources, Mingtepa was the center, that is, the capital of the ancient Fergana (Day-yuan, Davan) state. This majestic city, located on the Great Silk Road mentioned in Chinese written sources, was world famous for its handicrafts, agriculture and "heavenly vultures". Mingtepa city ruins, archaeologist scientists A. N. Bernshtam, Yu. A. Zadneprovsky, N.G. Gorbunova, B. X. According to the conclusions of Matboboev's research, it was determined that the capital of the ancient Fergana state was the city of Ershi. The sources found as a result of the archaeological research conducted in the ruins of Mingtepa serve to substantiate information about the ancient past history of Mingtepa, the life of its peoples, traditions, national rituals and religious ideas.

The objects found in the ancient Mingtepa give more information about the religious rituals of the inhabitants of this land. In the burial mounds found in the Mingtepa region and its surroundings, information about the beliefs and burial rites of the local population has been revealed. In the 1950s, when 7 tombstones of the Marhamat cemetery were studied, it was found that people were buried in the tombs in a unique family style and consisted of stone mounds. The corpses were buried in graves 0.6-0.8 meters deep. It was found that human bones were laid on their backs, with their heads facing west. Yu. Zadneprovsky burial of corpses in this form was also found in the monuments of Dalvarzin and Shorabashot. Various ceramics, jewelry, and stone objects were also placed next to the corpses. B. Abdulgazieva said that the inhabitants of this land mainly performed Mazda-faith funerals.

A joint Uzbek-Chinese archaeological expedition has been conducting research in the city of Mingtepa since 2012. During the study period of this expedition, a total of 38 graves were excavated in Mingtepa city cemetery in 2016-2019. In the graves of this cemetery, you can get information about the unique burial rites of the people of Myngtepa. Archaeologists say that the dead were buried individually in graves with their hands on their backs, placing one to four objects next to the corpses. The graves were placed very thickly, and the heads of the deceased were directed in different directions. The anthropology of the deceased was studied by Dr. Wang

Minghui, head of the anthropology department of the Institute of Archeology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. In one case, human and sheep bones were found mixed together. In one grave, a pottery vessel with dog bones and teeth (click) was found. Once it was found that a dog's body was placed in a round urn with an earthen pot. It is a Zoroastrian tradition to bury dogs with people. The discovery of these graves shows that the people of ancient Mingtepa mainly believed in Zoroastrianism. The study of these tombs will provide new information about the burial rites during the Dawan dynasty.

There is also information that the people of the ancient Davan state worshiped the sun, fire, horse and ancestral spirits. Archaeological materials found in ancient Mingtepa show that the inhabitants of this land also worshiped the horse, the sun, fire and other animals. Among the findings of Mingtepa, ceramics with zoomorphic (animal) images serve to substantiate the above opinions. Animals such as hyena, pigeon, peacock, humo bird are depicted on the pottery fragments. A picture of a horse scratched on a piece of pottery was found in the ruins of Mingtepa. The head and tail of the horse have not been preserved. However, the picture of the horse was reconstructed based on its remaining parts.

In addition, we can see the worship of the horse and the sun in rock paintings found near Mingtepa. A.N. An example of this is the depiction of thoroughbred horses of ancient Fergana in the Aravan rock paintings near Mingtepa studied by Bernstam. The behavior of animals is clearly expressed in Aravan rock paintings. Especially the horse's body shapes, long slender legs, strong body, long curving "swan neck" neck and small head above it are uniquely elegant. It turns out that these images are very similar to the images of "heavenly horses" mentioned in Chinese chronicles. Also, Aravan petroglyphs contain human images in motion. Human figures can be seen performing a religious ritual rather than hunting. A. N. Bernstam claims that these images can be an example of belief in the solar cult.

The image of a horse and a dancing man can also be seen in the images of new rock paintings found on Ulug'tog Mountain, located 10-12 km south of Mingtepa. These images may also depict a ritual associated with the cult of the horse and the sun. In Zoroastrian religion, in the early "Yasht" (hymns), the horse totem is associated with the sun god Mitra. Places with images of horses were objects of worship and religious rituals. Human actions in these pictures may be dedicated to breeding horses. Near the city of Mingtepa there is also Otmozor cemetery, which can be seen as another example of consecration of the horse in Mingtepa.

It is recognized by archaeologists that the 4.85-thick foundation found in the city of Mingtepa and the majestic building above it may have been a place of religious ceremonies.

Mingtepa (Ershi) is considered the homeland of thoroughbred horses, and there is information that ceremonies related to horses were held. In the Fergana valley, many folk games related to horses, such as "goat-kupkari", "mass goat game", "race", "crowd race", "girl chasing", "picking up a scarf from the ground", "fighting on a horse" are a legacy of centuries-old ancestors. is happening. Games such as "Capricorn" and "Kiz kuvdi" have a special place in the life of the people of Myngtepa. "Capricorn" folk game has been organized among our people since ancient times in various events and ceremonies and continues to this day. Uloqchitepa monument located in Mingtepa region (Rovot neighborhood, Marhamat district, Andijan region) may have been the place of this ceremony. It turned out that the origin of the toponym of the Uloqchitepa monument is related to this ceremony.

The "Kizquvdi" ceremony is recognized as one of the traditions of the people of Mingtepa. Mannop Egamberdiev's historical novel "The Attack of the Yellow Dragon" skillfully describes this

ceremony. This ceremony is also directly related to the horse and was held between girls and boys who have reached the age of puberty. A boy and a girl met each other through the "Kizquvdi" ceremony. A young man who loves a girl riding a horse will have to catch up with her and take her on his horse. This was the first condition of the event. In the second condition, a girl riding a horse shoots from a bow. And the guy who is chasing him will have to knock down the arrow from the bow. In the third condition, a boy and a girl fought. Only the young man who passed these three conditions was able to marry the girl he loved. The organization and holding of such folk games is based on certain rules and norms, and served to make young people morally and physically fit and to form such qualities as agility, vigilance, mastery, honesty, and respect for the opponent. Because of such rituals, Ersh people (Mingtepa people) who grew up to be strong and brave, fought against the external enemy.

To sum up, in ancient times in Ferghana Valley, especially in Mingtepa, the ceremonies were manifested mostly through the religious imagination of the people. As a result of the research, it can be known that the people of Mingtepa mainly had Zoroastrianism, as well as various totemistic views. Rituals also arose and developed as a product of these views and at the same time lifestyle. Breeding of thoroughbred horses and consecration of the horse in the ancient city of Mingtepa led to the emergence of rituals related to the horse. To this day, among our people, rituals related to horses, such as "goat-kopkari", "public goat game", "race", have been preserved as a legacy from our ancestors. These ceremonies contribute not only to spiritual perfection of people, but also to physical strength. Further development of such national ceremonies in the future will help our people, especially our youth, to become mature people in all aspects.

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