

**THE SELECTED TEXTS FROM ARTICLE: «THE ANCIENT TRIBE
– ALAN»**

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Translation to English language – B.A.Muratov

The Alans were ancient tribe, they known in the tribal structure of the Bashkirs as a clan with the name Elan. ‘Elan’ means ‘serpent, snake’ from the Bashkir language, and meaning coincides with the cult of Kurds and the Yazids, their of worship to the white snake, which among of the Bashkirs and the Kurds has a one common name – Shahmer.



**Photo 1. White snake –
Shahmer**

In the composition of the Kurdish people was the Alan clan, of about 40 thousand families now living near lake Van, in other words, – in the Kurdistan region.

The Stay of Alans in the South Ural is also confirmed by data of archaeology. For example, the burial ground near the village of Levashovo near the town of Sterlitamak There kurgans from the VII-IX centuries AD, In this burial ground are well-represented funeral rites of Alans. Found weapons, horse furniture, silver

buckles for belts, gold earrings. And five silver dirhams minted in Baghdad (one in Kerman), dating from 712 in 770.

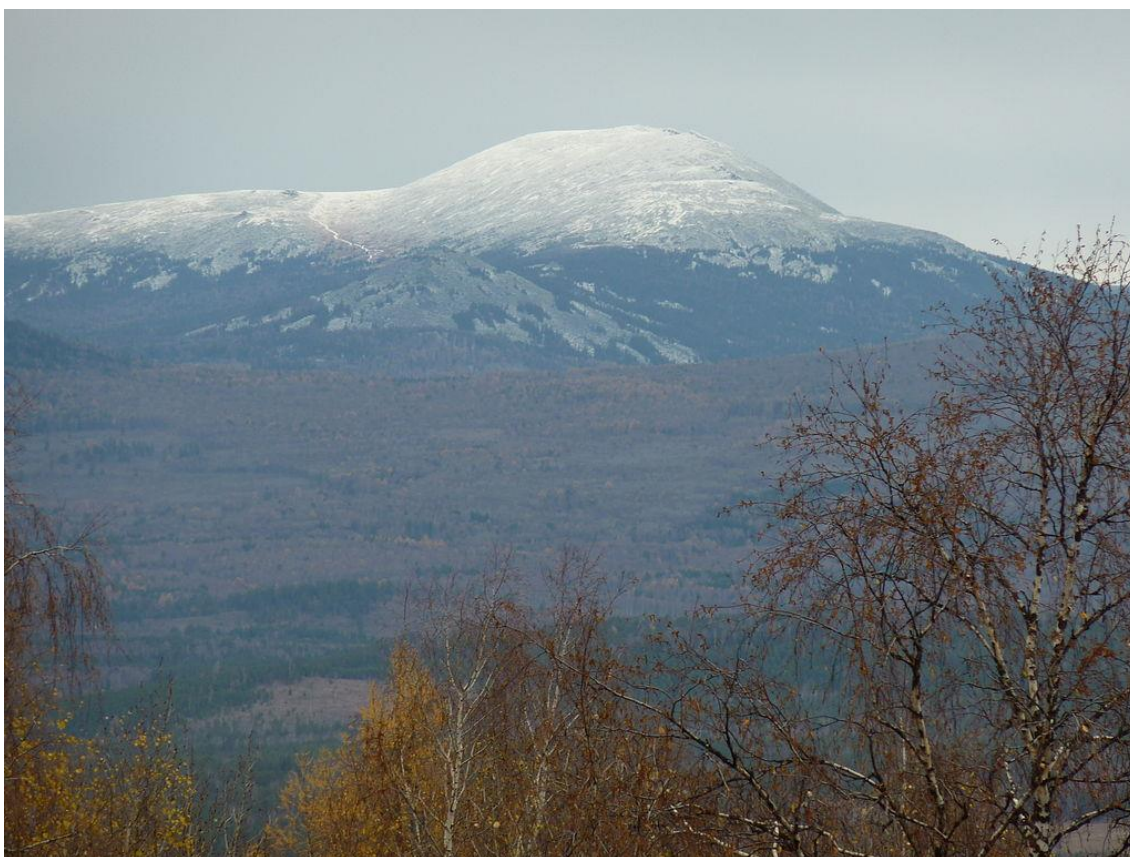


Photo 2. The South Ural

In the burial of Alans warriors found the gold Dinar, dated 705-706, These items tell about commodity exchange and cultural relations Alans of Ural with the countries of the Middle East (Iran, Kurdistan, etc.).

In the beginning AD the territory of Dahae-Massagetaes clans with name Alan stretched from the South Ural to the North Caucasus.

According to data of archeology «Sarmatian process» of North-Caucasian meets with the V century BC to the turn of our era has been carried out mainly through Sarmatian clan with name Sirakes. In this regard, it is necessary to specify that only in the Sarmatian graves of the South Ural and they found jugs Caucasian production[1].

The fall of the domination by Alans comes at the end of IV century BC To 370 g. the Huns occupied the Caspian and the don steppe, i.e. the territory of the Sarmatian-Alanian Union.

Part of Alans-Sarmatians, moving away from the Huns, came to Gibraltar and participated in 451 at Catalaunian field (West of Troyes, France) in the battle with the Huns and in Alliance with the Burgundians, the Franks, the Visigoths defeated the troops of Attila.



Photo 3. Sarmatians

The other part of the Alans-Sarmatians were absorbed by the Huns, and settled on the territory of modern Hungary. Their descendants and seen in Syrian Kurdistan in the city of Aleppo (Aleppo), Yakut al Hamawi (from town Hama – note S.A.) 1179-1229.

In his biographical dictionary, he wrote, as in 1227-1229 he met in Aleppo with redhead Bashkirs (descendants of Sarmatian-Alans – note S.A.) who practice Islam and follow the teachings of Abu Hanifa. These Bashkirs (Baskerd) said that they were subjects of the king of the Un-Kuria, they live in this country in 30 districts. And the Hungarian king does not allow to build for Danube Bashkirs their town with walls, because of the fear of their uprisings. These facts are described by Yakut al-Hamawi, they say clearly that even in the thirteenth century the Danube Bashkirs and Hungarians lived separately, not mixing with each other. We must note that this is not the Sarmatians came to Hungary, which did not yet exist, and quite to the contrary, Hungarians are Huns came to Sarmatia-Alania.

The third group of Sarmatians-Alans settled in the North Caucasus and XII century lived separately from the North Caucasian peoples. This tells us traveler of the XII century, Abu Hamid al Garnati, who traveled to the Earth of Bashkirs and he lived with them about three years.



Photo 4. The Bashkir warrior

Abu Hamid al Garnati exactly said that when he visited earlier the Caucasus, he lived among the territory of Emir of Abu-l-Qasim. This Emir knew different languages, such as: Lazgan (Laks), Tabalan (Tabasaran), Filak (Filak – Armenian?), Zakalan, Gumik (Gumik – Kumyk? – note B.M.), Haydak (Kaitag speaking Dargwa-Dargin group), Sarir (Avars), Kurdish, Alans (Sarmatian-Alanian), Assuen, Zarihkan (?), Turkic, Arabic, and Persian languages. The Abu-Hamid al Garnati indicated are the peoples of the Caucasus, which are known under their own names and today, it means only one thing – the Alans of the Caucasus and the Ossetians were in the twelfth century among different ethnic groups. We should not forget the fact that the Alans of the Caucasus at that time there were relatives with the descendants of the Sarmatians-Alans of the Ural.

Interestingly, Abu Hamid al Garnati describes in detail already reformed by Zoroaster the funeral rites of the Caucasian Alans,

whereas the descendants of the Sarmatian-Alans of the South Ural also still burned the bodies of the dead. The burning of corpses was strictly forbidden by Zoroastrian religion. Because, the tradition of Sacred Fire, by the Zoroastrian religion – was the Holy Cult, and the dead body was not supposed to touch a fire.



Photo 5. The Zoroastrian priest

And most interestingly: Abu Hamid al Garnati was described the cult of the Raven among Bashkirs, which still preserved and in the early twentieth century, among the modern Bashkirs.

The very name 'zargaran' native Kurdish "sir" – 'armour', and 'Zer' – 'gold, brilliant', 'Garan'-'Goran' – 'to grasp, hold', and is also tribal ethnic Kurds – 'Gorani-Gouran'.

Photo 6. The Kurds-Gorani people



Apparently, these ‘zargaran’ were not accepted not Islam and Christianity, and they were the Alans or part of them. Abu-Hamid al Garnati describes these zargaran: «not far from Derbent there is a large mountain, at the foot of which two villages; in them lives a nation called zargaran’, i.e. the armorer (‘the Smiths – note S.A.).



Photo 7. The Alanian temple in North Caucasus

They make any military equipment: chain mail, and coats of mail, and helmets, and swords, and spears, and bows and arrows, and daggers, and all kinds of brassware. All of their wives and sons and daughters, and slaves, and female slaves are dealing with all these crafts. And although they have no arable land and gardens, good and they have more money than others. Because from all sides to bring him all sorts of benefits. They have no religion, but they do not pay the ‘Jizya’. And when they die someone, then give it to men who are in an underground homes; they cut off the members of the dead to free the bones from the meat and marrow, and collect its meat, and feed them black crows, standing with bows and not giving the other birds to eat any of its meat.

But if it's a woman, give her to the men, who under the ground, they take out her bones and feed her meat Korshunov, standing with arrows and not giving the other [birds] closer to its meat. [...] (they) take out the bones of the dead and put them in bags, – the rich and noble – in bags from romescos brocade, and slaves

and the slave-girls – in [bags] of calico, etc. tissue. And hang them in the house and write on the bag the name of the person»[2].



***Photo 8. The territory of Sarmatian tribes
in III century BC to III century AD***

In this description of Abu-Hamid al Garnati of 'zargaran' we meet and the whole ritual of the Zoroastrians, and the cult of the Raven, famous by Bashkirs from Ural and religion is one of the most vibrant ethnic indicators to date. To our days in the composition of the Kurds living genus and Alan so far in the composition of the Bashkirs persists rod Yurmatians – Sarmatians with whom the Alans in the middle ages consisted in ethno-political, military alliance.

The last mention of Alans in the Ural belongs to the XIII century by Rashid ad Din and Ibn Asir, and the first mention of which dates back to the first century in ancient Roman writers.

For example, the Ammianus Marcellinus wrote: «Alans were still known as the Massagetaes» whose stay on the territory of the Ural in the first thousand years BC along with the Sarmatians and their predecessors, the sauromatians – an acknowledged historical fact. Resume: the ancient Alans of the Ural were by the ancestors of the part of modern Bashkirs.

The bibliography and notes:

* Note from the editors of BEHPS: This article titled "Ancient bashkord clan with name Alan" was first published in the monograph S.A.Gallyamov in Russian language: «Башкорды от Гильгамеша до Заратуштры», Уфа, РИО РУНМЦ Госкомнауки РБ, 1999, 196 pages, Pp.74-78. But, sometimes the author of this article – S.A.Gallyamov in his article called the Bashkirs and Sarmatians of the Ural the General term – Bashkord; the Kurds are referred to as Kords; Kurdistan – Kordistan; and Bashkortostan – Bashkurdistan. To avoid confusion, the names of peoples and regions by the editors of BEHPS are given in their modern spelling.

[1] Степи Европейской части СССР в скифо-сарматское время. М. 1989, С.194.

[2] Путешествие Абу Хамида ал-Гарнати ... М. 1971, С.50.

