

The calamity of land is the calamity of people

“Mangilik el” bedrocks are Earth and Water. The mountain Tengri was sent to Turkic people by Tengri himself that is why no one except “caravanners” is able to set foot on these lands; no stranger should quench his thirst from local rivers and waters and lands should be taken by Kahagan’s descent from father to son, from mother to daughter.” Thus, an inscription on ancient monument “Tariat”: “Protect Eastern borders and borders to the West of Altay, the Kogmen Mountain, as it is the mountain of Tengri created by Tengri himself and inhabited by people of noble blood”, explains origin of these sacred lands. Explanation can also be found in lesser writings of “Kultegin”: “If ancient Turkic khagan lives in Otyuken gorge, then people will be provided for. If you stay there, then you will preserve “Mangilik eldik” and Turkic people will be satisfied”. Oglans, knowing about it, put up a fight against “enemies”, attacking them from every side, liberated many lands and made those, who opposed them, to bow down. They conquered lands from Kadyrkan gorge up to Iron gates. This is how Turks settled in these lands.

Thus, there appeared a dream among Turks about some eternal, carefree “promised land” in the form of petroglyphic directions. Even when the land revived and a new generation emerged, this sacred dream would leave an imprint on people’s hearts. As a result, legends about searches for “Promised Land” were created by Zhidelibayssyn korkyt and Assan Kaygy. Land is the guarantor of “Mangilik El”. Modu Chanyu, living in the IV century B.C., agreed to give his wife and horse to enemies, who were provoking him. When they asked for a piece of waste, barren soil, he refused, “You can sacrifice your wife and horse for the sake of your people. All of this will be made up for, but Earth is a symbol of Motherland, eternal heritage of the nation. A wife and horse can be found, but not the land, so we should fight” Kunanbay used to say, “The nation is growing, but the land is not getting revived and is not expanding”.

Two thousand and five hundred years separate Modu from Kunanbay, but nomads’ respect for the land and nationality policy have not changed. The reason is “Mangilik el”, which descends from sire to son as a dream, but in peacetime we separate a piece of our native land with our own hands.

Alashorda intended to create a democratic republic, the main idea of Alash was succession of land by people, because main problem of the Kazakh state is a land, as the land is Motherland, economy, defense, spirit, culture and honour. A state can not exist without land. Every nation, every man of arms should protect his nation and land. A state deprived of its lands loses its freedom and independence. Land is a state property and main guarantor of the concept of Motherland. Thus, a position of “Mangilik El” should be based on a sacred principle of one’s own land. In this case, an ancient dream will coalesce for eternity with today’s dream, and today’s dream will coalesce with tomorrow’s one. Otherwise, land being a property of 13- 15 latifundists can not be a “Mangilik El” abode. Even if people in Crimea say, “Land is our property. We can join any state we want. Let’s hold a referendum”, neither United Nations Organization nor European Union will be able to act because their main principle is based on private property protection.

Thus, if we do not turn our attention to this matter and solve an issue of private property on national referendum, then “Mangilik El” position will stay unclear, because “Mangilik El” should possess eternal land, which will support and shelter it. When I saw information that more than 90 % of hunting entities, which belong to reserves, considered as gold and foreign exchange reserve of Kazakhstan flora and fauna, are appropriated by our “brother”, I recalled Arkankergen and slaughter in Almaty nature reserve.

Now I should make some concrete examples to addition of the above. Five years ago I visited Akkol in Torgay, homeland of Akhmet Baytursynov. Akkol is a lake, occupying a territory of 2000 sq. kilometres. It is located 600 km. from Arkalyk and 500 km. from Torgay. This is the lake which saved Torgay people from starvation. In 2006, it transferred to private hands and people from 17 districts were left without fish. Local soil is barren, unfit for sowing. Cattle do not consume the only grass which grows here. The only food source is fish. Over the last years, Akkol grew shallow and fish in the lake got rotten and was left on the bank. "It is a shame that this summer we were collecting and burning dead fish up, for free. That man did not let us fish at the lake", say Akkol residents. It turned out that the owner of the lake does not fish himself and does not give permission to fish to others. As a result water grew shallow and fish began rotting. If fish rots, it may cause diseases. What should people, deprived of the only food source, do?

Another example is eastern Kazakhstan. Some day local grasses were taller than human height, but the main problem in Semey was hay shortage. You can not mow grass in Altay because it is private property. Whose land is this? Anyone's, but Kazakh's. Another example is a heavy crop in 2014 in Kazakhstan, which was not taken in. The reason lies in the fact that major fertile part of the land in the West, almost all sowable lands belong to agrarians. All grain elevators in Western regions belong to "strangers" (G.Musrepov). Of course, it is more profitable to store latifundists' crop rather than that of small manufacturers.

Minister of Agriculture can not solve this problem because different pieces of land belong to different people.

A scholar Amankeldy Aytaly said, "delimitation of borders with Russia is a great achievement. In November 2005 a session on account of defining the border between Russia and Kazakhstan was held. A 500-page book in two languages gives description of every metre of ground, including lakes, rivers, forest and mountains. Our President Nursultan Nazarbayev and President of Russia Vladimir Putin settled this matter in a single day. We accomplished ratification with great enthusiasm. 36 deputies made a stand against "cession of lands", but Putting managed to make them change their mind because besides Kazakhs there are not so many supporters of Russia. Situation in Ukraine, Baltic seashore and Caucasus is known to everyone. At the same time, some boundary issues remain unsettled to this day. Nevertheless, it was a major breakthrough back then. The protocol was sent to UNO and became legal".

Although we seized our lands, we can not regulate problems within our own country. Around 30 million hectares of land behind Balkhash is a military ground. Kazakhs can not pasture cattle in those lands. There are missile firing ranges in that place. We are told that, "This is the country's defense; those rockets will protect not only Russia, but us as well. We can even not settle the matters of using our own resources, of effective land use and spiritual issues without assistance".

Land is the guarantor of Kazakhs' independence, thus we should turn our attention back to this problem. Probably this issue should be settled with the help of national referendum. Our current situation resembles a picture from an old History textbook, where a Russian man is standing on the ground with one leg up. Alikhan Bokeykhanov said that "Until native Kazakh lands get entirely developed in compliance with modern science and techniques, land should not be transferred to private hands or settlements". Land is our Motherland, and Motherland can not be sold or turned into private property. Today Kazakh land is deprived of its historical proprietor, but the concept of "Mangilik El" without land does not make sense at all.

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