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Concerning Some Ancient Turkic Titles In Bactrian Documents

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Abstract: The number of Bactrian documents created in the language of the people of the region that included the upper reaches of the Amu Darya, which was called Bactria in ancient times, and Tokhoristan in later times, has exceeded one hundred today. It is known that the ancient Bactrians, belonging to the Eastern Iranian language group, developed their own writing system based on the Greek script in the 3rd century BC. When the Kushan Empire (2nd - 3rd centuries BC) chose Bactria as its base territory, official business began to be conducted in the language of the local population. This tradition continued from the beginning of the 10th century AD, and the chronology of Bactrian sources covers a period of almost a thousand years.

Keywords: Bactria, Tokhoristan, ancient Turkic language, titles, epithets.

Introduction:

After the Kushans, states such as the Chionites (4th-5th centuries), Kidarites (4th-5th centuries), and Hephthalites (420-560) continued this tradition by establishing their centers of government in Bactria (at that time Tokharistan). Even when Tokharistan became part of the Turkic Khaganate from the 580s, the tradition of conducting correspondence, drawing up documents, and minting coins in Bactrian was preserved. Even though, by the end of the 7th - beginning of the 8th centuries, Arabic became the dominant language as a result of the establishment of Arab rule in Tokharistan, the local population continued to use Bactrian in their needs along with this language (until the 10th century).

A significant part of the documents written in the Bactrian language is distinguished by the fact that they reflect titles and epithets related to the administrative system of the Turkic Khaganate. The Bactrian documents, the main part of which was studied by the English Iranologist N. SimsWilliams and translated into English, have not yet been widely studied as historical sources. Therefore, the role of these documents as a source illuminating the history of the Khaganate has not yet been fully recognized. However, the Bactrian-language documents related to the Turkic Khaganate begin in the 640s and continue until the last years of the Khaganate. The documents contain dozens of ancient Turkic titles, and the fact that the opening words (addressee) begin with the form "Servant of the Khakan, administrator of (such and such a kingdom) in the presence of the eltabar" or the occurrence of purely Turkic epithets in relation to officials such as "kutlugh tapughlugh bilga sebuk" ("kutlugh, worthy of service, wise and beloved") makes it necessary to study them as a source of ancient Turkic state traditions.

The documents created in this language mainly refer to the early Middle Ages and reflect the social and political life of the Hephthalites, the Turkish Khanate and the Arab authorities. Most of them were found in the mountainous regions of Northern Afghanistan, and for the first time in the 90s of the last century, N. As the Bactrian documents brought into scientific circulation by SimsWilliams cover legal fields such as sales, leases, gifts, some of them consist of mutual correspondence of officials.

Bactrian documents contain dozens of titles and epithets specific to the rule of the khaganate, such as khakan, eltabar, tudun, tarkhan, bek, along with the expressions $\tau\omicron\rho\kappa\omicron$, $\tau\omicron\rho\omicron\sigma\alpha\nu\zeta\omicron$, $\sigma\eta\rho\omicron\tau\omicron\rho\kappa\omicron$ related to the Turkic word, which was used both as an ethnonym and as a state name in the early Middle Ages.

Chaganango in a document in Aktri language related to the rule of Guzgon, dated 648 It refers to $\chi\alpha\gamma\alpha\nu\alpha\gamma\gamma\omicron$ $\tau\omega\gamma\omicron$ – "Khagan's tax". According to N. Sims-Williams, Guzgan was at that time a separate principality under the Western Turkic Khaganate, and this information should be related to the annual tribute.

In a number of respects, Bactrian-language sources resemble Sogdian-language sources, because they were created under the same management as Sogdian documents, in a region where both local and Bactrian-

Turkic traditions were mixed.

Rub (present-day Rui), one of the provinces of Tokharistan, Bactrian documents (Doc. N, P, Q) drawn up in different years, such as 639, 678, 682, at the beginning of the date and place, there are references to the ruler under whom the document was drawn up in the form of $\iota\alpha\beta\zeta\omicron\delta\omicron\varphi\alpha\rho\alpha\nu\omicron$ $\chi\alpha\gamma\alpha\nu\omicron$ $\tau\alpha\pi\omicron\alpha\gamma\lambda\iota\gamma\omicron$ $\sigma\upsilon\lambda\iota\tau\omicron\beta\eta\rho\omicron$ $\rho\omega\beta\omicron\chi\alpha\rho\alpha\gamma\gamma\omicron$ – "(divine) servant of the owner of the kut, the ruler of Rub, eltabar." Here, the khagan was the supreme ruler of the Western Turkic khaganate, and eltabar was the title of a representative of the local dynasty that ruled the rule of Rub.

Ancient Turkic expression tapuglig (literally "servant, serving, worthy of service") in the meaning of "servant of the khagan" in relation to the ruler of Rub is noteworthy. Because, the presence of this term in Bactrian documents, which is not found in the Orkhon inscriptions, which are sources illuminating the official history of the Turkic khaganate, is noteworthy. In addition to various high-ranking officials - beks - among the ancient Turk, the category of servants - administrators was called * tapugchi. In the work "Kutadgu Bilig" by Yusuf Khos Khajib, the term tapugchi is used in the meaning of a civil servant or administrator in the Karakhanid state. Thus, the roots of this word go back to the period of the Turkic khaganate. This is evidenced in the Bactrian gift document No. Doc.T, drawn up in 710, in the case of a Turkish princess, $\tau\alpha\pi\alpha$ $\gamma\lambda\iota\omicron$ Bulgarian $\sigma\alpha\upsilon\omicron\omicron\omicron\omicron$ (Qad. Turk. "Qutlug' tapug'lug' bilgasebuk") is also confirmed by pompous epithets and titles. Besides, The fact that the phrase $\text{чинанчкангий худай тап у \u044d\u043b\u0438\u0433 санун}$ - "The ruler of Чинанчканд (Турфон) tapuglig sangun" appears in the Pahlavi "Mahrnameg" texts (9th century), which list officials and administrators belonging to the Uyghur (Turfon-Gansu) state, which continued the ruling traditions of the khaganate, indicates that this term is associated with ancient Turkic statehood. In these Bactrian documents, in addition to mentioning local rulers by their eltabar titles, the use of the phrase "servant of the khagan" in relation to them, as the famous Turkologist S.G. Klyashtorny put it, "the granting of Turkish titles to the rulers of subordinate oasis principalities indicated that the khaganate included them in its administrative hierarchy."

At this point, the question arises as to how much the procedure for sending a special representative - tudun,

directly related to the introduction of the title of eltabar by the khaganate in the administration of vassals, was reflected in Bactrian documents. A document written in 702 (Doc.S) on the Gaz khokimiyat near Kunduz, the center of the Tokharian Yabgul dynasty (620-750), states that The expression *yažo taδovo* – “the ruler of the Turks, Gaz tuduni” or “the (former) Turkic official Gaz tuduni” is found. This is consistent with the information given in the Chinese annals that “Tun Yabgu Khagan gave the local rulers the title of eltabar and sent a representative with the title of tudun to supervise them”. That is, Rub and Gaz were close principalities in Tokharistan, and it was not without reason that Turkish titles were used in their administration. After the Turkic Khaganate captured Tokharistan in the 580s, the country was ruled for a while by princes of the Khaganate with free titles, and in the 620s, when Tun Yabgu Khagan’s son Tardushad (d. 630) founded the Yabgu dynasty in Tokharistan, these principalities became his vassals.

Thus, Turkic titles and other terms, which were the product not only of the Turkic Khaganate period, but also of ancient Turkic kingdoms, were reflected not only in the Orkhon-Enasay inscriptions, but also in written sources in Chinese, Sogdian, Bactrian and other languages created a century or two before them. This is evidenced by the Bactrian-language documents briefly discussed above.

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