

The mausoleum of Yesset Batyr

The mausoleum of Yesset Batyr is a beautiful and refined monument at the grave of the great son of the Kazakh people, people's protector Yeset Kokiuly. It is located near the village Bestamak, which is situated approximately in 44 km to the south from Aktyubinsk.



The famous batyr and commander Yesset Kokiuly was born in 1667 in the land of Aktobe. In 1710, he was elected the biy (sheikh) of the Tama clan, and had been the leader of the hetynu tribes union since 1722. His birth status allowed him to play a key role in the political life of the Small Zhuz. At the beginning of the 30s of the XVIII century, Yesset Batyr became an adviser and commander of Abulkhair, who was the khan of Small Zhuz. In 1720-45 having taken charge of Khan Abulkhair's army, he and the famous commanders Zhanibek, Bukenbai saved the vast steppes of Western Kazakhstan from aggressive invasions of the Volga Kalmyks, Bashkirs and Turkmen. In 1743, on a petition or Orenburg governor and Decree of the Russian Emperor, he was granted the title of Tarkhan.

Yesset Kokiuly was not only a talented commander of his time, but a political statesman, a true fighter for freedom and independence. Yesset Batyr died at the age of 82 in 1749. He was buried on the hill by the village of Bestamak, near the river Yelek, just 35 km to the south-east of Aktobe.

In 1750 the Yesset Kokiluy mausoleum was erected on the top of the hill. In 1979, in spite of ruling ideology of that time, local people put a white brick headstone on his tomb to honor the great batyr. It measured 1,7m in height, 3 m in width and 0,5m in length. However, it was ordered to demolish the headstone.

In 1992, due to the 325th anniversary, a mausoleum from pink shell stone, brought from Mangystau was erected. This is a monument with cubic foundation and helmet-shaped dome. On the western wall of the construction features a stylized image of the batyr in full length (a 3-meter high bust). The upper edge of the stead has an epigraphic frieze. The center of the chamber features the initial burial mound, encircled with a sarcophagus box made from shell stone. There is a memorial stela and 2 plates with inscriptions in Arabic on the eastern wall. The mausoleum height is 11 meters and 5 meters in width. Architecturally, the mausoleum resembles a yurt, so that it can be seen to travelers. T.Dzhonysbekov designed the mausoleum.

The mausoleum is registered as a historical monument and is included into all tourist routes. It is under the protection of the state. An asphalt road to the mausoleum and a bridge over the river yelek were laid. Gas is supplied to the area. A guesthouse for pilgrims was built. There are separate rooms for guests, as well as for praying and resting. A special area was allocated for cooking and sacrificial offering. Travelers are welcome at any time of the day or night.

The mausoleum is considered to be sacred and no traveler will dare to pass this place without paying homage to the great ancestor.

Used resources: Temirkhan Dosmukhmabetov, etc. "Kazakhstan. The land of wonders"