

## **Kol-Shubar. Return**

**Kol-Shubar is a little-known name of a true patriot who lived in Kultegin times. This name should become a symbol of bravery, courage and despair. Kol-Shubar offered himself in sacrifice to his nation. Can we say that it was an act of paganism, which should be considered as some kind of demonstrations of barbarism.**

716 A.D. February

An important event occurred in Karabalyk kagan near Otuken on the Orkhon shore. Bilge kagan, a commander-in-chief of the army Kultegin, Tonyukok and others participated in the meeting. Kagan Suluk who had risen in revolt in the West with assistance of Tang dynasty, which had organized punitive operations against the Turkic Khaganate, became the main theme of discussion.

Baka Tanirken made a report, “Sulku became a Kagan of the Turgesh. Having disobeyed u, he sent an ambassador to Tabgash kagan and asked for a 10000 people army and presented furs and jewellery to the kagan”.

Bilge kagan got interested in Suluk origin. He was told that Suluk was a descendant of Ozheli Sary, from the time of Istemi rule, people had been divided into Kara and Sary, and Suluk reunited them.

Everyone understood how difficult situation was, because enemies had been waiting them everywhere. It was dangerous to stay idle. That winter, Kultegin and Tonukok decided to attack Kirghizes, who had been closer to them than the Turgesh and only after that to aim at the Turgesh which had been waiting help from Tibet and Tabgsh.

Kirgiz had never given in without a struggle, and that time they urgently armed and attacked the enemies. Their files were numerous.

Kunchik khan was killed in that battle and people bowed their heads before Kultegin.

While Kultegin’s army was resting in the foothills of Kogmen, the Turgesh united with the Tabagash and reached foot of the Zhair mountain. Their army consisted of more than 10 tumens. When warriors got to know about it, they started to panic. People wondered how Kultegin 4-tumen army would fight a 10000 army of the enemy. Even Kultegin himself was in confusion.

An old man suggested to go to a holy woman called Buryl-saka who lived on the top of Altay mountain and listen to her advice.

Through the cold and storms they reached her dwelling, but clairvoyant told them frankly that they would lose future battle. Nevertheless, Kultegin was persistent and asked for help.

Buryl saka told him that they had shed a lot of blood and a human sacrifice was necessary for gaining victory in that war. Kultegin could not believe that there was a man who would dare to do this act of bravery.

Suddenly a tall, 50 years old man appeared in front of the army and said that had not had neither wife, nor children whom he could return to. It was Kol-Shubar, who voluntarily sacrificed for him to help sovereign and nation to win the war. He hoped that his blood would bring victory and every warrior would return to his family.

Everyone was astonished by his bravery and determination. Kultegin, having collected his thoughts, promised Kol-Shubar that his names would be pronounced like a prayer and he would become their guardian and strength. Everything was prepared: Kol-Shubar's head was wrapped in red cloth and dagger pierced his body two times. White snow got splattered with dark red blood, soon it started to pour put in streams.

It was a real sacrifice before a real battle. Everything was over Kol-Shubar was gone, but his determination to give life for the sake of his nation inspired martial spirit in Kultegin army. The leader had never been such strive for victory. After a prayer, his army set out. Everyone understood that is could be the last day of his life, but they stayed as brave as ever. It was a great honour for any warrior to die on a warpath in the name of his nation.

It was bloody battle. People fought like animals without mercy. It was a real war! Heaven favoured Kultegin army and his soldiers defeated an army of 10 tumens. Their offering turned out to be sacred!

The name OF Turkic khaganate rang all over after that stunning and unbelievable battle. For some people it was a symbol of courage and rebelliousness, while for others it became a reason of fear and danger. Since then Turkic khaganate had dominated and had been venerated as God, and its people had been stronger than ever before.

This victory became a kind of second wind for warriors, their new era. Kultegin and Tonuykok made a decision to spare Soluk khan's life and he became a living reminder that his army which had considerably exceeded the army of Turkic khaganate had not been able to defeat it.

Kultegin and Tonuykok repeatedly won victories in further battle, having enlarged their army and strengthened their military and economic status; consequent expansion of territory became a natural result of their success.

Who knows, perhaps name, strength, and spirit of Kol-Shubar, who had wished that every warrior would have had a place to return to, heartened and emboldened Kultegin and his army.

It is very important to Tukic nation to feel and know that your relatives wait for you, because wherever you go, whatever battles you have to take part in, you should always return to your roots.

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