

## NAURYZ HOLIDAY AND KAZAKH NATIONAL TRADITION – THE BASIS OF YOUNG PEOPLE EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

The main direction of the article – is a historical origin of a great holiday “Nauryz” which has been developed within many centuries and since then is a holiday of people in the world; it also has impact on upbringing of the youth. The main issue is celebration of Nauryz in Kazakhstan; it must be the basis of education and upbringing of the youth. Kazakhs call March as "Nauryz", believing that it is the period of awakening the nature, peeling a thunder, beginning of spring. Celebration of Nauryz is associated with many traditions. Since 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2009 year Nauryz was included UNESCO, in representative list of materialistic cultural heritage of humanity, from this time 21<sup>st</sup> of March is declared as International Day Nauryz.

**KEYWORDS:** Spring Equinox, Welfare, Renovation, Constellation, Prayer

### INTRODUCTION

Celebration of Nauryz is the day when the heavenly bodies: the constellations and the stars after a year of cycling come to the point of their initial stay and start a new path-circle. If the word «Nauryz» dates back to ancient Iranian combination of two words and means: now the «new» and rose «day», in Kazakh language the word «Nauryz» has several meanings:

- The name of the first days of the year;
- The name of the first month of every year animal cycle;
- The name of the New Year holiday;
- The name of the treats brought by this holiday;
- The name of the genre of poetry and song.

According to the ancient nations of the Kazakhs and their ancestors of the Turks, every year is divisible by 6 months of summer and 6 months of winter. The boundary of this division is the first day of New Year, Nauryz, the spring equinox. The role of Nauryz holiday that has got so many period, centuries had been very different to Eastern people. The preparation and history of this holiday is very different from other holidays, but one knows, and one does not know about the formational history of Nauryz.

Nowruz (Persian: *دججژتэ*, IPA: [nouruz], meaning ("The New Day")) is the name of the Iranian New Year in Iranian [6] calendars and the corresponding traditional celebrations [3]. Nowruz is also widely referred to as the

"Persian New Year" [4]. Nowruz is celebrated and observed by Iranian peoples and the related cultural continent and has spread in many other parts of the world, including parts of Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Caucasus, South Asia, Northwestern China, the Crimea and some groups in the Balkans. Nowruz marks the first day of spring and the beginning of the year in Iranian calendar. It is celebrated on the day of the astronomical Northward equinox, which usually occurs on March 21 or the previous/following day depending on where it is observed. As well as being a Zoroastrian holiday and having significance amongst the Zoroastrian ancestors of modern Iranians, the same time is celebrated in parts of the South Asian sub-continent as the new year. The moment the Sun crosses the celestial equator and equalizes night and day is calculated exactly every year and Iranian families gather together to observe the rituals. Originally being a Zoroastrian festival, and the holiest of them all, Nowruz is believed to have been invented by Zoroaster himself, although there is no clear date of origin [1]. Since the Achaemenid era the official year has begun with the New Day when the Sun leaves the zodiac of Pisces and enters the zodiacal sign of Aries, signifying the Spring Equinox. Nowruz is also a holy day for Sufis, Ismailis, Alawites, [2] Alevis, and adherents of the Bahá'í Faith [5].

The term Nowruz in writing, first appeared in Persian records in the 2nd century AD, but it was also an important day during the time of the Achaemenids (c. 548–330 BC), where kings from different nations under the Persian empire used to bring gifts to the Emperor, also called King of Kings (Shahanshah), of Persia on Nowruz. The term *Nowruz* is a Persian compound-word and consists of:

**Now** (Old Persian *nava*) means "new" and has the following cognates, in English *new*, in Latin *novus*, German *neu*, Sanskrit *nava*, etc. The Persian pronunciation differs in the many dialects of the language: while the eastern dialects have preserved the original diphthong (IPA: [nʤuroz]), the western dialects usually pronounce it with a different diphthong (IPA: [nouruz]), and some colloquial variants (such as the Tehrani accent) pronounce it with a monophthong (IPA: [noruz]).

**Roz** (also with various pronunciations, such as *ryz*, *rose*, *rooz rozh*, or *roj*) means "day" in Middle- and Modern Persian. The original meaning of the word, however, was "light". The term is derived from Avestan *\*rowch-*, itself derived from Proto-Indo-European *\*leuk-* (l <-> r and k <-> ch sound changes are common in Indo-European languages), and is related to Sanskrit *ruci*, Latin *lux*, Armenian *luys* and, in fact, English *light*.

Nauryz Meiramy or Nauriz was taken from Iran's traditional New Year celebration called Nowruz. It is believed that the first celebration of the holiday was made even before Islam was introduced in ancient Kazakhstan. Nauryz Meyramy is one of the important and the most anticipated holidays in Kazakhstan. Apart from Iran, the holiday is also celebrated in other countries in Central Asia such as Afghanistan and Azerbaijan. Although the holiday is non-religious in nature, it was tied up to a number of legends such as the awakening of mother nature and the triumph of good over evil with spring representing the former and winter representing the latter.

The celebration of Nauryz Meyramy was halted and made less festive during the occupation of the Russian Empire in the country in the mid-19th century. However, it remained to be part of the people's way of life and has managed to exist until it was formally reinstated in 1988, three years before it finally declared independence from Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) on December 16, 1991. Kazakh nation, held long period of formation, in which participated many tribes and nations, occupies an important place in the history of Eurasia is one of the oldest ethnic groups. It is the successor of the cultural heritage of all peoples, participated in its formation, so the Kazakh people - one of the richest people in cultural terms.

Culture of Kazakhs until the twentieth century remained nomadic, but not looking at it for thousands of years has gone of not less complex and interesting cultures of other peoples. Nomadic Kazakhs have developed their own way of thinking and social organization, which is synthesis of cognitive forms of East and West. As a result of this mixing most developed traditions, rites and customs. Since the lives and welfare depended on endurance, strength, dexterity and sharpness, special attention was paid to the steppe Raising children these qualities from early childhood. Therefore, many Kazakh rituals in one way or another connected with birth, childhood, adolescence and legal age a young man. The main tradition of the Kazakhs, which eventually transformed into a feature of national character is hospitality. In the Kazakh society, there is an unofficial law voiced in ancient times. It says “Meet a guest as a God's messenger”. Hospitality is considered a sacred duty in the Kazakh society. At all times, the steppe inhabitants did their best to please the guest. Therefore, each traveller going on the road, knew that he would be welcomed anywhere in the Kazakh land. Respect for the elderly is another positive feature of the Kazakh people. Traditionally, a child from early childhood is taught moderation and honesty when dealing with older, wiser and life experienced people. There are some traditions and customs associated with the reception that are held in Nauryz holiday:

- **Konakasy:** A custom associated with treat of a guest. Kazakh people since ancient times were famous for its hospitality. Kazakhs always reserved the tastiest food for guests. Guests are divided into three types. "Arnays konak" is a specially invited guest, "kudays konak" – a random stranger, "kydyrma konak" – an unexpected guest. It should be noted that if an owner of a house for any reason refused to honor the custom of Konakasy he could have been penalized;
- **Konakkade:** A tradition under which a landlord has a right to ask a guest to sing a song or play a musical instrument. Konakkade is a test of guest art and a pledge of fun feast;
- **Erulik:** If new settlers came to a village erulik was arranged in their honor - a small celebration that allowed to quickly adapt to the new location. Also, the custom erulik includes assistance in settling domestic newcomers. Neighbors provide them with firewood, drinking water, etc;
- **Toy Dastarkhan:** A special form of celebration, organized for holiday or during it. Sports, music, singing competitions (aitys) and jumps are organised in addition to the gatherings during Toy dastarkhan.

Upbringing the child in family is closely connected with the traditions and customs and there are given traditions and customs associated with birth and upbringing of the child:

- **Shildehana:** A celebration that is associated with childbirth;
- **Besikke Salu, Besik Toy:** A holiday, hosted after the installation of the newborn in a bassinet. As a rule, organized on 3-5 day after dropout umbilical cord at the kid;
- **Esim Koyu (At Koyu):** Is a naming ceremony that can be conducted within the framework of shildehana or during celebrations on the occasion of laying a newborn in a bassinet. Execution of the rite was confided to the most respected people, who among other things blessed a baby;
- **Kyrkynan Shygaru:** A ritual performed on the fortieth day after birth that includes bathing baby in 40 tablespoons of water, and the first haircut and nail cut;

- **Tusau Kesu:** The Kazakh custom, a day when the baby took his first steps into the tent was invited to the oldest and most respected people in the village. He had a knife to cut the special ropes, beset baby's legs (cut put). This was done to ensure that in future the kid could walk nicely and run fast;
- **Sundetke Otyrgyzu:** Is a rite of circumcision. The ceremony is held when a child is 5-7 years. This day parents call Mullah to their yurt who conducts the procedure. During that Mullah gets a generous reward. A big festival to which all the relatives and friends are invited is organized on the occasion of sundetke otyrgyzu. Guests usually make generous gifts to the hero of an occasion and his parents.

## CONCLUSIONS

No wadays, it has become a truly national holiday of spring, work and unity. It is dear to all the people's living in the multinational Kazakhstan. The ancient holiday of Nauryz has naturally become a part of the modern life, preserving the old traditions and these traditions and holiday mentioned above give and present spiritual wealth to youth and bring them up, call them to keep their ecology, the unity of the country, friendship and love among nations that live in Kazakhstan, respect older people, to be intelligent and kind.

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