



EARLY EPIC ART IN THE ANCIENT EAST

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Abstract

The epic poem “Bilgamesh”, a model of Eastern literature, is the prologue to the epic poems created on the borders of the West-East, North-South, and its plot later gave rise to many other works, including epic poems. This article provides a scientific analysis of the early epic art of the ancient East, Sumerian culture and literature.

Keywords: Sumer, Mithras, Bilgamesh, Akkad, epic, Babylon, Assyria.

Introduction

Until recently, the cradle of human civilization was the West, ancient Greece, and ancient Rome, and it was interpreted as such. For thousands of years, cultural, spiritual, and scientific research has been conducted based on this view. This view has become the basis for research in the social sciences.

Of course, there were valid reasons for this, and the place where science reached was Greece, which embraced Mount Olympus, where the gods lived under the leadership of Zeus. However, over the past century, as a result of the discoveries made in new archaeological excavations, scientific ideas put forward show that the above view has expired, and that the first cradle of civilization was not ancient culture, but the East.



Ancient East, Sumer, Babylon (Babylon)

It is also the culture of the Sumerians, the unique world of the Sumerians, the literature of the Sumerians. Of course, scientists did not come to these conclusions all at once. There were, and still are, scientists who did not immediately recognize these





innovations and conclusions, and did not want to recognize them. Meanwhile, global scientific research that revised such views continued to increase.

As a result, the research book “History Begins in Sumer”[2] by the American scientist Samuel Kramer drew the attention of the world scientific community to the Sumerians. After all, for several thousand years, humanity did not know that such a people had lived in history. Only in the 19th century, when the secret of the Babylonian cuneiform was revealed, did scientists first learn about the Sumerians.

Thus, the cuneiforms, revealing the culture of the Sumerians, proved that the cradle of human culture was not Greece, but the Sumerians. Toir Efti's research conducted in Russia and published in Uzbekistan called «Sumerians and Etruscans - ancient Turks at the beginning of human civilization»[6] is another research that has been created in recent years and can shed light on this issue in many ways. is considered The book is dedicated to the memory of Henry Rawlinson, Julius Opperto, Arno Peblya and Samuel Nao Kramer, who studied the Sumerian cuneiforms and determined the genetic kinship of the Sumerian language with the Turkic language, so the direction and importance of this book is clearly visible.

In 2012, a book by Uzbek scholar Zoir Ziyotov entitled “The Sumerians and the Turanian Peoples”[5] was published in Tashkent. The book is not named so for nothing. It refers to the connection between the Sumerians, who were the first to open the doors of civilization to humanity, and the Turanian peoples. Of course, it should be remembered that there are many views about the origin of the Sumerians, both denying and confirming each other.[1]

The Sumerian civilization arose between two rivers located in the territory of modern Iraq. The names of these rivers are the Tigris and the Euphrates. But scientists are constantly wondering, “Where did the people and cities that created such a great civilization disappear to?” Where did they really go? Even more interestingly, where did the Sumerians come from? Who are they? The studies mentioned above make serious changes to the views of humanity on history, encourage us to think and reflect. The main conclusion drawn from them is that the Sumerian culture, one of the centers of world civilization, perhaps the most ancient, and the ancient ancestors of the Sumerians, are the Turkic peoples. In particular, in the study by Toir Efti entitled «Sumerians and Etruscans - Ancient Turks at the Beginning of Human Civilization», the idea that the Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Turkmen, Kyrgyz, Azerbaijanis in the Caucasus, Turks in Turkey and other Turkic peoples living in Central Asia today and the Sumerians have the same roots is comprehensively defended. To what extent this is true, new scientific studies will tell, but in any case, the existence of the Sumerian





culture and its being the oldest of the cultures discovered so far, in itself, leads to its position as the root of all cultures.

Jawaharlal Nehru wrote about his impressions of his visits to Uzbekistan in 1955 and 1961 in his book "Discovery of India". Note the following information in the book: "My original tribe and region are Kashmiri in origin. Those who came to Kashmir from Central Asia 4,300 years ago established irrigated agriculture, opened up new lands, organized crops, and established farming, thereby making a great contribution to the development of world civilization. Many works have been written about this by our scientists based on their deep observations." [5] Indeed, the Sumerians, located in the territory of modern Iraq, founded their culture between two rivers between the 4th and 3rd millennium BC and ruled until about 1750 AD. Then they gradually disintegrated under the influence of external forces. Some of these fragments go to Egypt, some to India, and some to Italy. Some remain between the two rivers. Jawaharlal Nehru's idea of Central Asians 4,300 years ago is reminiscent of the influence the Sumerians had on the world 4,000-5,000 years ago.

The first written language in the world is considered to be Sumerian cuneiform. Cuneiform was written on clay tablets. It was discovered within the next 100 years. The sources are said to have been copied entirely from Sumerian (cuneiform) except for the language of the Babylonian culture.

So, when it is said that Babylon gave the world culture, it is now clear that this culture originally belonged to the Sumerians. The Sumerians were the first to create almost everything. They created myths about the creation of the world, discovered farming, animal husbandry, and craftsmanship. They made bricks from sand and soil and mastered building. They also mastered trade, exchange, and forestry, and they understood war and peace, truce and its conditions, the rights of husbands and wives, and when necessary, protected their rights by law, as is done in modern notary offices, sources say.

About 5-6 thousand years ago, the Sumerians wrote about a global flood. The cuneiform texts provide detailed information about this, about who built the first ark, and about the flood. The Sumerians wrote epics, epics, and songs. Examples of them have survived. For example, the epic "Bilgamesh". In this work, the story is sung about how God created the world and man. Interestingly, the stories in the "Bilgamesh" are very similar to the stories in the "Bilgamesh". According to scientists, some of the stories in the "Bilgamesh" were written under the influence of Sumerian stories. It is assumed that this work was done by the copyists of the cuneiform texts. "The fact that the first examples of the stories about Noah, Moses, and Jacob, whose names are mentioned in the Bible, were found precisely in Sumerian literature, in the stories





written on those cuneiform texts, amazes today's reader. It is also worth noting that when approaching the work with comparative typological criteria, the roots of many epics of the world's peoples can be found precisely in the epic "Bilgamesh". For example, it is no exaggeration to say that the roots of Homer's "Illiada", "Odyssey", the Hindu "Mahokhorat", "Ramayana", the Uzbek people's "Alpomish" and many other similar epics drink water from the soil of "Bilgamesh".

Bilgamish is called Gilgamesh in the West. Even in Russian sources it is called that. Why? According to T. Efti, this is done deliberately to confuse. After all, the root of the word Bilgamesh is derived from "bilge", that is, "knowledge". Bilgamesh means the possessor of knowledge, the one who knows everything, and this word is undoubtedly a Turkic word. Since the name of the main character of the epic is Turkic, and it conveys such a deep meaning in Turkic, then the fact that Gilgamesh was originally Bilgamesh would indicate the arrival of the Turks at the dawn of world civilization. However, this point of view was certainly not easy for most scientists to accept.

From the above, it is clear that the epic poem "Bilgamesh", a model of Eastern literature, was the prologue to epic poems created on the borders of the West, East, North and South, and its plot later gave rise to many other works, including epic poems.

In fact, any myth, legend, epic arises on the basis of the product of the spirituality of the people. It serves to give an imaginary interpretation of the realities of nature and public life. The source, the material of epic works, is the development of reality, transformed in fantastic forms. This also applies to myths and legends created in connection with various religions.

Thus, the Sumerian culture and literature are the most ancient part of the history of mankind known to science, and there is no doubt that its study will shed light on many confusing problems.

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