

EPITAPH OF AN UIGHUR PRINCE FOUND IN XI'AN

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Abstract

During a symposium held in April 2013 in Beijing, an epitaph written with Chinese and Old Turkic characters found in Xi'an, ancient capital of China, was presented and interpreted. In this short bilingual epitaph, the grief due to the death of a young Uyghur prince who died of disease is stated. The Chinese part of the epitaph is longer than the Uyghur part. There are the English translation of the Chinese part and the transcription, transliteration and English translation of the Old Turkic part of the epitaph in the short text in the appendix. Besides, the presumptive genealogical tree of the prince's family is included.

Key words: Uyghurs, Yaghlaqar clan, Xi'an, Prince Qari Çor.

Şian'da Bulunan Bir Uygur Şehzadesine Ait Mezar Kitabesi

Özet

Nisan 2013'te Pekin'de düzenlenen bir sempozyum ile Çin'in eski başkenti Xi'an şehrinde bulunan Çince ve Runik harfli Türkçe bir mezar kitabesinin sunumu ve yorumu yapıldı. Bu iki dilli kısa kitabede genç yaşta bir hastalık sebebiyle hayata gözlerini yuman bir Uygur prensi dolayısıyla duyulan üzüntü belirtilir. Çince metin Uygurca metne göre daha uzundur. Ekteki kısa yazıda Çince metnin İngilizce çevirisi ile Runik harfli metnin transkripsiyonu, transliterasyonu ve İngilizce çevirisi yer alır. Ayrıca prensin muhtemel soyağacına yer verilir.

Anahtar sözcükler: Uygurlar, Yağlakar boyu, Xi'an, Karı Çor prens.

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1. Introduction

During a Symposium held in April 2013 in Beijing, an epitaph with Chinese and Runic Turkic inscriptions found in Xi'an, ancient capital of China, was presented and interpreted [LUO 2013; ALYILMAZ 2013]. Those interpretations are indeed very fruitful for further scholarly studies but we would like to add some minor improvements for both Chinese and Turkic sections.

2. Chinese Inscription

故迴鶻葛啜王子守左領軍衛將軍

Late Uighur Prince Karı Çor, General of Left Guard Troops¹

墓誌并序

Epitaph with a preface

給事郎守秘書省著作郎賜緋魚袋崔述撰

Civil official of Imperial library, the scribe, upon receiving a fish-shaped scarlet pouch presented (by the Emperor), CUI Shu wrote (this epitaph).

迴鶻葛啜王子則可汗之諸孫

Huigu (=Uighur) Prince Ge Chuo (=Karı Çor) is a grandson of the Qaghan.

我國家討平逆臣祿山之亂也王子父車毗尸

特勤實統戎左右有功焉

When our country crushed the rebellion of the traitor (An) Lushan, Prince's father, Chepishi (=Çavuş) Tigin rendered distinguished service to control and mobilize barbarian (troops).

故接覆之優寵錫之厚殊於他國

Hence (the Emperor) treated him more favorably and rewarded him with more presents than (the rulers of) anyother country.

王子以去年五月來朝秩班禁衛賓籍鴻臚

The Prince came to the imperial court in the fifth month last year, served in the Imperial Guards and was enrolled in the government office for foreigners.

方宜享茲榮耀光于蕃部

(The Prince) enjoyed the splendour and have enlightened the barbarian region.

1 One group of Imperial Guards.

奈何不淑以貞元十一年五月廿日遘疾云殂

How should we deal with this unhappiness? On the 20th of the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zhen'yuan (11th of June in 795) (the Prince) passed away from illness.

享年二十以其年六月七日葬於長安縣張杜原

(The Prince) was 20 years old at death. On the 7th of the 6th month of that year (28th of June)(the Prince) was buried at the Plain of Zhangdu, the County of Zhang'an.

兄王子阿波啜与諸部之属銜哀奉喪

The elder brother, the Prince Apa Çor, together with the members of the tribes shares the grief and mourns the passing.

送終之飾則有詔所司備儀焉禮無其闕

Concerning the funeral decoration, an imperial edict was issued to the office (of rites) to arrange the ceremony and there was no lack of the ceremonial protocols.

嗚呼脩短命也死者生之終

Alas, (the Prince) has died young! Death is the end of life.

乃刻石誌墓云

So (we) engraved an epitaph in stone as below.

蕃之王子兮 氣雄々 生言始兮

死言終 魂神異兮 丘墓同

The Prince of the barbarians (His) mettle is majestic. Birth is the beginning. Death is the end. Soul departs. Tomb stays.

3. Runic Inscription

(a) Transliteration; (b) Transcription; (c) English Translation

1 (a). B W : k m η

(b). bu kimin?

(c). Whose is this?

2 (a). t i s r · b z g k

(b). tisär bāzgāk

(c). If (anyone) says, shivering²

2 The term “shivering” means probably the dreadful appearance against a supreme ruler.

- 3 (a). Y G L Q R • Q a N
(b). yaylaqar qan
(c). Yaylaqar Qan
- 4 (a). a T i ĉ B š
(b). atī čavuš
(c). grandson Čavuš
- 5 (a). t i g n • W G L i
(b). tigin oylī
(c). Tigin his son
- 6 (a). Q a N • T W T Q
(b). qan totoq
(c). Qan Totoq
- 7 (a). a T i S i
(b). atīsī
(c). his nephew
- 8 (a). b ü g ü • b i l
(b). bögü bil
(c). Bögü Bil
- 9 (a). g a : t ŋ r i
(b). gā tāŋri
(c). ge Tengri
- 10 (a). Q a N i n i s i
(b). qan inisi
(c). Qan his younger brother
- 11 (a). Q R i ĉ W R
(b). qarī čor
(c). Qarī Čor
- 12 (a). t i g n • S i N i
(b). tigin sīnī
(c). Tigin his tomb
- 13 (a). Y W G i : T B G ĉ

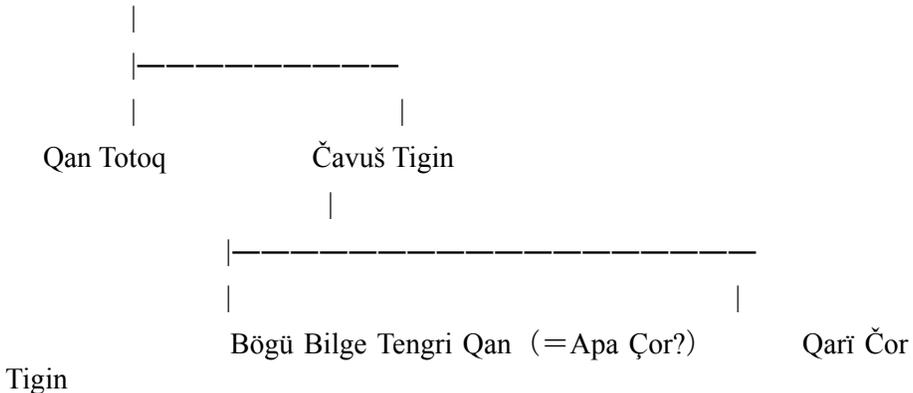
- (b). *yoyī tavyač*
 (c). his funeral feast China
- 14 (a). Q N • Y W G L D i
 (b). *qan yoyladī*
 (c). Qan celebrated
- 15 (a). L G Z i N • Y i l •
 (b). *layzīn yīl*
 (c). Year of the Pig
- 16 (a). L T nč • a Y Q a
 (b). *altinč ayqa*
 (c). in the 6th month
17. (a). y i t i : Y ŋ i Q a
 (b). *yiti yaŋīqa*
 (c). on the 7th day

English translation of the whole Runic inscription

If (anyone) says “Whose is this?” (This is) the tomb of Qarī Čor Tigin, a grandson of the shiver-giving Yaylaqar Qan, the son of Čavuš Tigin, the nephew of Qan Totoq, the younger brother of Bögü Bilge Tengri Qan. Chinese Qan held his funeral feast. Year of the Pig, in the 6th month on the 7th day (28th of June in 795).

Genealogy

Yaylaqar Qan



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