

KIPCHAK SEITKUL

At days when barymta was still a common custom, KipchakSeitkul lived together with thirty hovels of beggars. One day he started thinking of a way to make them rich and live more decent life. They might start trading, but for this they had no money. The barymta was no way for them either — if a man lives from barymta and cattle raiding, one day it may happen that his foes will come to raid him as well; as old people like to say, it's barymter who loses his head at the end.

After good consideration, Seitkul decided that first of all he had to find a new place for them to settle. He had visited lot of possible sites, and finally his choice fell on the valley of Kabyrga river in Turgay prairie. He liked the place best for it was far enough from both Urgench and Kokand, and also there were no Bashkirs or Kalmyks nearby. On the other hand, should something bad happen, they would still be close enough to Kipchak people.

For one more winter he thought everything over, and when the summer came, he and his ill-clad beggars abandoned their old site and moved to Kabyrga river. Seitkul's older brother, who traveled a lot and earned his living with thievery and barymta, refused to leave Turkestan. He was deaf to his brother's words and advices, and stayed on their old place with few hovel owners.

When Seitkul came to the Kabyrga banks with his people, he grabbed the ketmen himself, gave the ketmens to thirty men as well, and together they started to till the land and prepare it to sowing. By example of what they have seen in Turkestan, they drained water from the river to aryks and thus watered their fields.

When the time came to harvest, they cut and gathered crops. All surpluses of grains were exchanged for cattle from nomads staying thereabout.

After they were good settled at the new place, Seitkul started to increase the number of crops every year. They have placed rahats near one aryk, and since then used rahats to convay water to the crops (at those times only wheat, barley and panic were planted). They continued to trade surpluses of grains for cattle, and so they came to be rich.

The beggars from different clans who dwelled nearby began to join Seitkul'saul and in some five or six years it comprised more than four hundred houses.

At long last, Seitkul those who joined him, had lot of cattle in their households, and Seitkul himself gain great respect among people of his aul and auls around it. But then he began to think of how to secure all their possessing, that were achieved with hard work, and protect it before foes — raiders and wolves. So he gathered his people for a council. Together they decided to build high greensward wall on the river bank in the place, which was considered the most suitable, and assign shepherds and armed guards to the cattle.

After that was done, nomads, who had some plans for their cattle, realized, that those people were united clan, obeying one leader, and dared not to raid them anymore.

When his people were finally calm and safe, Seitkul gave them a piece of advice, saying that they should trade their cattle in Bukhara and Kokand and from there bring goods that might be of use for Kazakhs. Every year, just before the harvest time he held bazaar (something like market) in the place, shielded with greensward wall. Nomads get used to that tradition and came to bazaar every year bringing their wool and leather, and peasants brought their grain and goods. Thus, not only with farmer, but also with trade Seitkul managed to enrich his aul even more.

Seitkul's older brother, who hoped to get wealthy by thievery and raiding other people's cattle, was seized by some unknown persons and killed. Turkestan emir took all his cattle since it was all the property of thief and robbed his family. Seitkul spent few years in search of his brother's family, but it is said that he found them finally and brought them into his aul.

According to the information from honorable sultan Tleuseidalin, Seitkul had died near the year 1830.

Till this day thousands of people follow the advice of this outstanding man, who had taught his tribesman farmery, and settle on the banks of Kabyrga river.

It often happens in Turgai prairie that those, who get poor or have no luck in finding job, became farmers, and if they are not lazy and work hard enough, very soon they became as prosperous as others.

Are sentences TRUE or FALSE?

1. Kipchak Seitkul lived with thirty hovels of beggars.
2. Kypchak Seitkul went to Turkestan with his older brother
3. Kipchak Seitkul and the beggars moved to the Kabyrga river
4. Kipchak Seitkul and the beggars traded their surplus grains for cattle
5. Kipchak Seitkul built a high greensward wall to protect their cattle
6. Seitkul had died near the year 1840.
7. KipchakSeitkul's aul comprised more than four hundred houses.

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box

Thirty, kabyrga, turgay, beggars, wall, armed, guards, , greensward, tleuseidalin, shepherds
1830

1. At days when barymta was still a common custom, KipchakSeitkul lived together with _____(1) hovels of _____(2)
2. He had visited lot of possible sites, and finally his choice fell on the valley of _____(3) river in _____(4) prairie.
3. According to the information from honorable sultan _____(5), Seitkul had died near the year _____(6).
4. Together they decided to build high _____(7) _____(8) on the river bank in the place, which was considered the most suitable, and assign _____(9) and _____(10) _____(11) to the cattle

How did Seitkul and his people prepare the land for sowing?

- a. They built a greensward wall.
- b. They exchanged grains for cattle.
- c. They drained water from the river to aryks.
- d. They gathered crops from the fields.

What happened to Seitkul's older brother?

- a. He was killed by unknown persons.
- b. He joined Seitkul's aul.
- c. He was seized by the Turkestan emir.
- d. He became wealthy through thievery.

What did Seitkul and his people trade their cattle for?

- A. Wool and leather
- B. Grain and goods.
- C. Money and jewelry.
- D. Tools and equipment.

Match the words with their definitions:

Cattle raiding

is the act of stealing live cattle, often several or many at once.

Beggar
money or food

is a poor person who asks others, or begs, for

Hovel
in bad condition

a small home that is dirty and

Aul
Central Asia.

a small village or settlement found in

Shepherds

a person who tends and rears sheep