

CHAPTER 12 – Track 12.2

"Chyngyz ölbös bolsochu" ("Tribute to Chingiz Aitmatov")

<i>Aytaiyn sözdün chyndy2gyn</i>	Let me tell the truth,
<i>Arman küin,</i>	Alas,
<i>Azaptuu boldu bul kylým.</i>	It [the twenty-first century] was a sad century for us.
<i>Manastan kiyin kyrgyzym</i>	After Manas, my Kyrgyz,
<i>Maktanych bolchu Chyngyzyng.</i>	Your Chingiz was your pride.
<i>Aytmatov Chyngyz jarkygan</i>	We used to say that Chingiz
<i>Ak tangybyz dechü elek.</i>	Was our white dawn.
<i>Aytylyp bütpös düynödö</i>	We used to say he was a world saga
<i>Dastanybyz dechü elek.</i>	That had no ending.
<i>Aalamdyk adabiyattyn</i>	We used to say that
<i>Arstanybyz dechü elek.</i>	He was the lion of world literature.
<i>Aalamda sizdey az ele</i>	The world had few people like you.
<i>Ala-Too bolup ugulchu</i>	Just the name of our father would sound
<i>Atabyzdyn aty ele.</i>	Like our Ala-Too Mountains.
<i>Alysky bashka ölködö</i>	In faraway foreign countries,
<i>Al öziinchö masele.</i>	He was a different story.
<i>Tarykhty bilbey kee bir el, bizdi</i>	Those peoples who didn't know our history
<i>Taanybay kalsa ech ele.</i>	And forgot who we were,
<i>Kyrgyzdyn debey kyrgyzdy</i>	Used to know us as the Kyrgyz,
<i>Chyngyzdyn eli dechü ele.</i>	As the people of Chingiz.
<i>Emi oshol</i>	Now,
<i>Atabyzdy köralbay,</i>	Unable to see our father and
<i>Atabyz bar dey albay,</i>	Unable to say that he is alive,

Engirep turbuz kaygydan

Ekh arman,

Esibizge kelalbay.

Ak jamgyr bozdop tökköndöy-oy,

Arman,

Ak boroon ulup ötköndöy,

Ala-Toonun bashynan,

Ak möngü erip köchköndöy.

Atasy ketti uruktun,

Aylasyz düynö kömgöndöy.

Aalamyng kaldy tomsorup

Asmandan Aydy bölgöndöy.

Elibiz eey kyrgyz kaygyda

Er Manas eki ölgöndöy.

Ak dayra bolup aktyngyz,

Aalamdy tirep böksörböy.

Ordunda ushul shum düynö

Oo kachan turgan özgörböy.

Jalgandyn ushul myizamy

Jazmyshka aalam köngöndöy.

Kökürök tütöp turabyz

Köktön bir Kündü bölgöndöy.

Kaygydan kyrgyz elibiz

Kan Bakay kayra ölgöndöy.

Unable to come to our senses,

Oh, alas,

We feel lost in deep grief.

As if the rain were pouring tears,

Alas,

As if a blizzard blew by sounding like a howling wolf.

It is as if the white glacier on the Ala-Too Mountains

Has melted and slid down.

The father of the nation has left

And we have no choice but to bury him.

Your world is left behind alone

As if the moon became separated from the sky.

Our Kyrgyz people are grieving

As if their hero, a second Manas, had died.

You were like a white river that flowed fully,

And lifted the world up.

This devious world never stood

In one place without changing.

It is the law of the false world

That makes the entire world submit to [God's] order.

We stand now with our hearts burning

As if the sun became separated from the sky.

The Kyrgyz people grieve so much

As if Khan Bakay¹ has died again.

Ömürdün jolu burulush,
Özüngüz joktop turubuz.
Köz ötkönchö jaryktan,
Kör tirликтin kulubuz.
Ayrmangyz atake--siz
Andaydan biyik turdunguz.
Akyldyn alip jarygyn
Adamzatyna sundunguz.
Ala-Toonun koynunan,
Atylyp chygyp bulaktay,
Alp dengizderge kuydunguz.
Atlanttyn ar jagyn kayra

Aziyaga burdunguz.
Altyndan ordo kurbastan,
Ata,
Akyldan ordo kurdunguz.
Biz jürbüz--
Ayalym, bala,tuugan dep,
Siz,
Aalamga kyzmat kyldyngiz, oooy...

Atagy kylym karytkan
Asyl jan eleng daanyshman.
Özgö elder bizden köp süiyüp sizdi
Özümdük kylyp alyshkan.

Life has difficult turns,
We mourn your death.
Until we pass away from this world,
We live as slaves of our daily suffering.
But you were different, dear father,
You stood above them.
You took the light of wisdom
And gave it to mankind.
You flowed like a spring gushing
From the heart of the Ala-Too Mountains
And poured into giant seas.
You turned the world's attention beyond the Atlantic
Ocean
To Asia.
Instead of building a palace from gold,
Father,
You built a palace from wisdom.
While we went around being proud
That our wife gave birth to a baby boy,
You
Served the entire world...

You were a noble, wise man,
With century-old fame.
Other nations loved you more than us
By making you their own.

<i>Kün batyshtyn ar jagy</i>	People who live where the sun sets
<i>Gülsary atka jem berip</i>	Gave food to the Gülsary horse ²
<i>Künügö taptap bagyshkan.</i>	And trained him well every day.
<i>Jamilany engseship</i>	They all longed for Jamila ³
<i>Jabyla süyüp kalyshkan.</i>	And fell in love with her.
<i>Akbara menen Tashchaynar</i>	Akbara and Tashchaynar ⁴
<i>Alardy da bilet alystan.</i>	Are also known in faraway lands.
<i>Kayra emi sizdey chygaby</i>	Will there be a man like you again
<i>Kalkyn turgay jerinin</i>	Who can make not only his people known
<i>Karyshkyryn jurka taanytkan.</i>	But the wolves of his land?! ⁵
<i>Ekh arman!</i>	Oh, alas!
<i>Jyldyz öchpös bolsochu,</i>	I wish the stars would never fade away!
<i>Chyngyz ölbös bolsochu.</i>	I wish that Chingiz would be immortal.
<i>Kyraanynyn ölgönün</i>	I wish that the Kyrgyz
<i>Kyrgyz körbös bolsochu.</i>	Would never see their hero die.
<i>Aalamdan echen el joktop,</i>	Many people in the world mourn your death,
<i>Asman da joktop Jer joktop.</i>	Even the sky and the earth mourn your death.
<i>Bardyk aalam ölkönün</i>	All the leaders of the world
<i>Bashchylary teng joktop,</i>	Equally mourn your death.
<i>Elim menen koshulup</i>	Together with my people,
<i>Erlmirbek uulung men joktop.</i>	I, Elmirbek, your son, mourn your death.
<i>Birok,</i>	But,
<i>Aytmatov jashayt ömüрдө,</i>	Aytmatov will live on,
<i>Ak jyldyz bolup tagyldyng</i>	For he became an eternal shining star
<i>Asmandyn kökirögündө.</i>	Pinned onto the chest of the sky.

Notes:

1. Bakay: one of the main characters in the epic *Manas*--an elderly wise man who served as Manas's adviser.
2. Gülsary: the name of a horse in Aitmatov's short novel *Farewell, Gülsary!*, written in 1966. The novel narrates the life journey of an old, golden chestnut horse in parallel to the life journey of an old man, Tanabay, who is a hard-working *kolkhozchu*, a collective farm worker who strongly believes in communist ideology. In 2008, Kazakhstan's state film company produced a new film based on *Farewell, Gülsary!* using the same title.
3. Jamila: the main heroine in Aitmatov's short novel *Jamila*, written in 1958. After reading the story, the French writer Louis Aragon called it "the world's most beautiful love story." The novel describes the difficult World War II years in a Kyrgyz village and the romance between a young married woman, Jamila, and a young man, Daniar, a soldier who returns wounded from the war and ends up working in the collective farm.
4. Akbara and Tashchaynar: a wolf couple (Akbara is a she-wolf and Tashchaynar a he-wolf) in Aitmatov's short novel *Place of the Skull* (*Kyyamat* in Kyrgyz, *Plakha* in Russian), written in 1986. The novel tells the story of a wolf pack that comes into contact with humans.
5. The reference is to the wolf couple in *Place of the Skull*.