

CHAPTER 9 – Track 9.4

"Kalk army" (The people's lament/misfortune)

<i>Kulak toygon köz achka,</i>	Our ears are full, but our eyes are hungry.
<i>Kursak toygon tösh achka.</i>	Our stomachs are full, but our chest [inner spiritual world] is hungry,
<i>Jashadyk kanday turmushta,</i>	What a life we lived
<i>Jardamy jok söz achka.</i>	With no hope and empty words!
<i>Jalgan baylyk dep jürüp azyr,</i>	Chasing after false wealth,
<i>Jan düynölör ötö achka.</i>	We became hungry for our spiritual world.
<i>Algyla anda köngülgö</i>	Pay attention then to what I say,
<i>Aytaiyn zaman jöüündö</i>	Let me sing about the time in which we have been living,
<i>Chyndyky aytat akyndar,</i>	<i>Aqyns</i> speak the truth
<i>Chygarbay bir söz tögüngö</i>	Without saying one false word.
<i>Bilgenim azby köp bele,</i>	I know more or less [what happened],
<i>Bilishim menin shart bele,</i>	Perhaps, I had to know these things,
<i>Karegim körböy jakshyny, negedir</i>	Not seeing the good, somehow
<i>Kaygyga batty jash dene.</i>	My young body sank into sorrow.
<i>Emese,</i>	Let me tell you from the beginning,
<i>Bashynan aytyp keleyin</i>	We saw everything [that happened] and
<i>Baarysyn kördük kalp debe.</i>	don't say that I'm wrong.
<i>SSSR kulap kyrgyzga</i>	Not too long ago, the USSR collapsed
<i>Keche ele, Egemen tangy atty ele</i>	And the dawn of independence shone on the Kyrgyz.
<i>El bilgen ajo kerek dep,</i>	We said that we need a leader who knows the people.
<i>Erendin baary birigip</i>	All the intellectuals got together
<i>Es-akylyn chakty ele.</i>	And brainstormed.

<i>Ichinen biröö tandalyp</i>	From among them, one was liked
<i>Ilimpoz jaktan jakty ele.</i>	As he was a man of science [i.e., Askar Akaev]
<i>Iririn bilseng atting ay,</i>	Alas, if we had only known that he would rot.
<i>Ilimde jürsö jakshy ele.</i>	It would have been better had he stayed in academia.
<i>Ajo bol kyrgyz elge dep,</i>	It was Aytmatov who told him to be the president
<i>Aytmatov bagyn achty ele.</i>	And thus brought fortune to his head.
<i>Korkposton somdu kirgizip</i>	He [Akaev] introduced the <i>som</i> without hesitation.
<i>Gerb menen tuubuz ilinip,</i>	And our new state emblem and flag were hung.
<i>Akyly bir az bilinip,</i>	He showed some intelligence,
<i>Arbytyp joldu basty ele,</i>	And made some progress in his work.
<i>Internet jagyn köböytüp,</i>	He increased use of the Internet
<i>Iyneden közdü tapty ele.</i>	And found the eye of a needle.
<i>Manas 1000 atyn chygaryp,</i>	He made the one thousandth anniversary of the epic <i>Manas</i>
	famous,
<i>Maaniker minip chapty ele.</i>	And rode the horse Maaniker. ¹
<i>Chykebizge tayanyp,</i>	Relying on our Chike [Chingiz Aitmatov],
<i>Chet elden dostu tapty ele.</i>	He found friends abroad.
<i>Janynda jaynap jürgöndör,</i>	Those many people who worked in his office
<i>Jakyn bele kas bele.</i>	Were not clear whether they were his friends or enemies.
<i>Kymynday shekti bildirbey</i>	Very secretly and quietly
<i>Kumtördün kenin kazdy ele.</i>	He had dug the gold of Kumtör and
<i>Yrbatyp ulam jarany,</i>	Hurt people's wound
<i>Yrysyn eldin chachty ele.</i>	By giving away people's fortune.
<i>Üch jolu shayloo ötkörüp</i>	By holding an election three times,
<i>Üch jolu mingen takty ele.</i>	He sat on the throne three times.
<i>Ürtük köz kytay maktasa</i>	When the slant-eyed Chinese praised him,

<i>Üzöngü-Kuushtu satty ele.</i>	He sold Üzöngü-Kuush ² to them.
<i>Akyyikat aytsa sulatyp, tigi</i>	He shot the people of Aksy dead to the ground
<i>Aksynyn elin atty ele.</i>	When they spoke the truth.
<i>Shayloonun shaytan oynunan,</i>	Due to the satanic game of the election
<i>Shashylysh küniü batty ele.</i>	His days were quickly over,
<i>Manastyn jeri bütkönsüp,</i>	And as if the land of Manas were finished,
<i>Moskvaga közdöy kachty ele.</i>	He fled toward Moscow.
<i>Eskisin antip aydadyk,</i>	So, in this way, we chased away the old leader, and,
<i>Es-akyly durus dep, anan</i>	Believing that he was smarter and wiser,
<i>Ekinchisin shayladyk.</i>	We elected the second one [Kurmanbek Bakiev],
<i>Ayantka cheyin toy kylyp,</i>	Organized a big feast on the main square,
<i>Ayabay any mayladyk.</i>	And celebrated with such excitement.
<i>"Uluu, Urmattuu, Aziret" dep,</i>	We began using big words,
<i>Ukmushtuu sözdü kamdadyk.</i>	Addressing him as "His Highness, His Honor."
<i>Kalkybyz bashta bilbeptir,</i>	Our people didn't know in the beginning
<i>Kalaaryn tügöl aldanyp.</i>	That they would be betrayed completely.
<i>Chyrkyratyp jyl ötpöy,</i>	Not even a year had passed,
<i>Chymynday janga küch boldu,</i>	And all who criticized his work.
	Faced a difficult fate.
<i>Chyndykyt aytkan baarysyn</i>	All who told the truth
<i>Chynjyrluu küngö tush boldu.</i>	Faced jail with their hands shackled.
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<i>A birok Ak Jol partiya,</i>	He created the new political party Ak-Jol [White Road]
<i>Akyikattyn chin jüzü,</i>	But forgot that the real face of Justice
<i>Ak ekenin unuttu.</i>	Is white.

<i>Tartyp alma mansabyng,</i>	He forgot that wealth looted from people
<i>Kara ekenin unuttu.</i>	Is dirty.
<i>Baaryna kalys kudaydyn,</i>	He forgot that there was a God
<i>Bar ekenin unuttu.</i>	Who was witness to everything.
<i>Zamanga jakshy kalyng jurt,</i>	He forgot that the whole nation
<i>Zar ekenin unuttu.</i>	Was longing for a place to relax.
<i>Karkyra jayloo jaktardy,</i>	The summer pastures in Karkyra,
<i>Kadimki pansionattardy,</i>	The summer resorts [in Issik-Kul],
<i>Kazakka berip kuruttu.</i>	He gave them all to the Kazakhs.
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<i>Nur jaagan kyrgyz elinen,</i>	Or was Nursultan ["Sultan of Light"—the first name of the
	president of Kazakhstan] greater than
<i>Nursultan emne ulukpu?</i>	Your light-shining Kyrgyz people?
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<i>"A" tamga kachyp ketkeni,</i>	The letter "A" fled from the country,
<i>Arbybady eldin ech jeri.</i>	But people's lives didn't get any better.
<i>Körsö "B" tamgaga jagyptyr,</i>	It turned out that the letter "B" [Bakiev]
<i>Murunku "A" tamganin</i>	Liked the notebook [record of bribes]
<i>Kaltyryp ketken depteri.</i>	Left by the letter "A" [Akaev].
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<i>Manastyn iyik mekenin,</i>	Such <i>mankurts</i> ³ came and stamped on
<i>Mankurttar kelip tepsedi.</i>	The sacred land of Manas.
<i>Jeti atasy barktagan,</i>	They sold the land revered by their seven forefathers,
<i>Jerin satty jetpedi.</i>	But that wasn't enough.
<i>Kelechek üchün katylgan,</i>	They sold the gold reserved for the future,
<i>Kenin satty jetpedi.</i>	But that wasn't enough.

<i>Kalk aldynda kalp aytyp,</i>	Telling lies before the public,
<i>Kebin satty jetpedi.</i>	They sold their empty words, but that wasn't enough.
<i>Uluttun tilin kor kylyp,</i>	He humiliated the national language,
<i>Ukmushtun baaryn chong kylyp,</i>	By appointing big shots who knew [no Kyrgyz].
<i>Tilin satty jetpedi.</i>	He sold the language, but that wasn't enough.
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<i>Kep-sözüngdüz urbaym dep,</i>	Ignoring people's concerns and
<i>Kerek bolso puldaym dep,</i>	In order to make money,
<i>GESin satty jetpedi.</i>	He sold the GES [hydroelectric station in Toktogul].
<i>Amerikaga külmüngdöp,</i>	Grinning at the Americans,
<i>Orustarga ming süylöp,</i>	Promising a thousand words to the Russians,
<i>Betin satty jetpedy.</i>	He sold his face, but that wasn't enough.
<i>Ala-Toonun baylygyn,</i>	He loaded on his back the entire wealth of Ala-Too,
<i>Tartyp aldy jetpedi.</i>	But that wasn't enough.
<i>Tarazalap biröönün,</i>	He took away the food
<i>Tapkan ashyn, emgegin,</i>	Of people who earned it with their hard work,
<i>Tartyp aldy jetpedi.</i>	But that wasn't enough.
<i>Telefondon da tyiindy,</i>	He even took [60] <i>tyyyyn</i> from every mobile phone
conversation,	
<i>Kalpyp aldy jetpedi.</i>	But that wasn't enough.
<i>A tügüil agyp jatkan dayradan,</i>	Not even that, they stole the water
<i>Suu uurdashty jetpedi.</i>	From the flowing [Naryn] river, but that wasn't enough.
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<i>Akyry kyrgy chydabay,</i>	Finally, the Kyrgyz have had enough and
<i>Ak üydü közdöy bettedi.</i>	Marched towards the White House.
<i>Oylonup körböy jakshylap, alar</i>	But, without thinking carefully,

<i>Ok menen menen kirdi atkylap.</i>	He began shooting at the people one by one.
<i>Bir kezde ushul Ak üydü</i>	He had said in the past
<i>Avtomat menen korgoym dep,</i>	That he would protect the White House with a machine gun.
<i>Aytkany közgö tartylat.</i>	He had said these words [on TV].
<i>Kyiylgy kayran jigitter,</i>	Many noble young men fell to the ground
<i>Kyiylgan symal bak kulap.</i>	Like trees being chopped down.
<i>Kalk üçhün küyüp ayantka, jalang</i>	Only the beloved sons of ordinary people
<i>Karapaiym elderdin</i>	Who cared for people's well-being
<i>Karaldary baryshty.</i>	Went to the main square.
<i>Korgoshundan korkposton,</i>	Not fearing the bullets,
<i>Korgodu eldik namysty.</i>	They fought for people's honor.
<i>Bolboso,</i>	As you saw,
<i>Karaan kün tüshkön al jerge</i>	The so-called cream of society,
<i>Kakshanyyp kalkym degendin</i>	The well-known eloquent politicians
<i>Kaymagy baryp ölgön jok,</i>	Who always said "my people,"
<i>Sayatchynyn sayragan</i>	Did not go there and
<i>Salmagy baryp ölgön jok.</i>	Die at that tragic place.
<i>Baatyrmyn degen chongdordun</i>	The children of big shots who consider themselves heroes
<i>Baldary baryp ölgön jok.</i>	Didn't go and die there.
<i>Bashka uluttun biri da</i>	None of the other ethnic groups
<i>Batynyp korduk körgön jok.</i>	Dared to go there and suffer.
<i>Jalang kyrgy jyielydy,</i>	Only the Kyrgyz gathered and
<i>Jalang kyrgyz kyryldy.</i>	Only the Kyrgyz were massacred.
<i>Tike karap ajalga,</i>	They looked straight at death and
<i>Titiretti kylymdy.</i>	Shook the world.
<i>Ata-Jurt üçhün, el üçhün,</i>	They died fighting for justice and

<i>Akka moynu sunuldu.</i>	For the sake of their fatherland and people.
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<i>Uluu joldu ulayly,</i>	Oh, my Kyrgyz,
<i>Kyrgyzym,</i>	Let's continue on our great path,
<i>Uchuna jetip maksattyn.</i>	Let's reach our goal together.
<i>Uluttu bölgön küchtör bar,</i>	There are forces that divide the nation,
<i>Ukpayly sözüin akmaktyn,</i>	Let's not listen to the words of the wicked.
<i>Eneng kyrgyz bolgon song,</i>	Your mother is Kyrgyz,
<i>Eldi bölsön akmaksyng.</i>	You are a bastard if you divide the people.
<i>Jeteng kyrgyz bolsong song,</i>	Your seventh forefather was Kyrgyz,
<i>Jerdi bölsöng akmaksyng.</i>	You are a bastard if you divide the land.
<i>Tündük-tüshtük degendin,</i>	May the wishes of those
<i>Tilekterin tash kapsyn.</i>	Who divide the people into "north" and "south" crash!
<i>Jaraksyz keпти ukkanda,</i>	When I hear such nonsense words,
<i>Jan düynö bolot jaradar.</i>	My inner world is wounded.
<i>Öz elin bölüp жүргөндөр,</i>	Dividing one's own people
<i>Özüniün ölgөнү менен barabar</i>	Is like one's own death.
<i>Jeti atasynyn söögün мүрзөдөн</i>	It's like separating one's seven forefathers' bones
<i>Bölgөнү менен barabar.</i>	From their grave.
<i>Dagy aytsam sözdün yrasyn,</i>	If I tell a more bitter truth,
<i>Dartyman alsyz kubatym.</i>	My life energy will become weaker than my illness.
<i>Kokuylar tepse üstünön,</i>	Pressured from above,
<i>Kor boldu madaniyatyng.</i>	Our culture suffered.
<i>Oluttuu nerse jazylbay,</i>	With no serious works being written,
<i>Oor boldu adabiyatyng.</i>	Our literature suffered.

<i>Belgiliüü jazuuchularyng,</i>	Our renowned writers
<i>Belgiliüü gezit arkyluu</i>	Revealed one another's petty sins
<i>Bir-birin kazdy uyatyn.</i>	By writing in popular newspapers.
<i>Jaydak sözdü jazyshpay,</i>	Instead of light works, I wish they had written
<i>Jalpyga arnap chygarma,</i>	Good works for a common cause,
<i>Jaiyshsa deysing kulachyn.</i>	And thus moved people ahead.
<i>Aksakal narky bolboso,</i>	If writers aren't respected as elders,
<i>Alardy kantip ugasyng.</i>	How can you follow their advice?
<i>Karylarga tang kalam,</i>	I'm surprised at our elders,
<i>Kayra turup ardanam.</i>	And I feel embarrassed for them because
<i>Kyiynchylyk uchurda</i>	They could not say their just words
<i>Kalys söz ayta albagan.</i>	At difficult times.
<i>Manas dep ming köz tursa da,</i>	Ignoring the thousand eyes that looked up at Manas,
<i>Maksimdin közün tandagan.</i>	They considered Maksim's eyes [Bakiev's son] to be
beautiful. ⁴	

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<i>Kalkym, emi</i>	My people,
<i>Kalp, kaygyny jyibayly,</i>	Let's not collect lies and sadness.
<i>Konstitutsiya degendi,</i>	Let's not turn our Constitution
<i>Khanstitutsiya kylbayly.</i>	Into a "Khanstitution." ⁵
<i>Jamaachylabay jyl saiyn,</i>	Let's not change it every year, but
<i>Jalpybyz toluk syilayly.</i>	Respect it all together.
<i>Myizamyng tuura ishtese,</i>	If the Law functions well,
<i>Mung-zaryng bolboyt turbayby.</i>	We won't have any complaints.

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<i>Tuura biyde tuugan jok,</i>	A just ruler doesn't bring his relatives to power,
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<i>Tuuganchyl biyde yiman jok.</i>	A ruler who brings his kinsmen has no faith.
<i>Jakynyngdy kyiyn dep,</i>	If you say that your kinsman is smart,
<i>Jakyndatpa janynga,</i>	Don't let him come close to you.
<i>Kim kyiyn menden ele dep,</i>	If you say that no one is smarter than you,
<i>Kirbesin shaytan kanynga.</i>	Don't let Satan get into your blood.
<i>Kalaiyk jardam kylyshat,</i>	People will help you in your work
<i>Kalystyk kylsang baaryna.</i>	If you are just to everyone.
<i>Eger,</i>	If
<i>Jakshylykty kylbasang,</i>	You aren't kind,
<i>Jantalashyp talap jep,</i>	But steal as much as you can,
<i>Jalang baylyk jyinasang,</i>	And accumulate much wealth,
<i>Kalasyng eldin kaaryna.</i>	You will be the object of people's wrath.
<i>Bata emes kargysh kuyulup,</i>	Only curses instead of blessings will pour on you.
<i>Bata albay meken tamynga.</i>	You won't fit in your own land,
<i>Barganyng bilbey kalasyng,</i>	And won't notice how quickly
<i>Tigi Lukashenkonun janyna.</i>	You will find yourself next to Lukashenko. ⁶
<i>Emi körüngön jakka alynbay,</i>	Now, let's not give in to all kinds of provocations.
<i>Bir jalyndyn tabynday,</i>	Like the warmth of one flame,
<i>Bir denenin janynday,</i>	Like the soul of one body,
<i>Bir tamyrdyn kanynday,</i>	Like the blood of one vein,
<i>Yymanduu bashchy tabylyp,</i>	By finding a faithful leader,
<i>Yntymaktuu jashayly, kalkym</i>	Let's live in unity,
<i>Bir kamchynyn sabynday.</i>	Like the handle of one horse whip.

Notes:

1. Maaniker is the name of a racing horse in the Manas epic.

2. *The name of a mountain glacier on the border between China and Kyrgyzstan, which the Kyrgyz government sold to China as a source of water.*
3. *Mankurt: a reference to mindless slaves, made famous in Chingis Aitmatov's novel, A Day Lasts Longer than a Century.*
4. *Here Jengishbek refers to the statement of a well-known senior Kyrgyz doctor, who said that Maksim, president Bakiev's son, had beautiful eyes. The doctor's view was the opposite of that espoused by many Kyrgyz, who thought that he had a cold look and scary eyes.*
5. *The combination of "khan" and "constitution," referring to Bakiev and his family as having total control over the country and its people.*
6. *The president of Belarus, who has alienated almost all former allies and who offered asylum to the deposed Kyrgyz president Bakiev.*