

Endless sea - boundless desert, high-sailing ships- scrap metal

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Abstract: The subject of the study of the proposed article is the drying up of the Aral Sea as a tragedy of the life and fate of the Karakalpak people. In addition, the emergence of the sea is gradually revealed, its invaluable benefits and services rendered to people in difficult times and the onset of devastation in Muynaka. The current sad state of the Aral Sea and the measures taken to improve its ecological condition.

Keywords: Aral Sea, natural shrine, aryk, natural unique, hodzhi, fish population, toxic chemical, isolated reservoirs, mammals, saline soils, flood, Berunian flood, interdisciplinary.

For someone, perhaps, the Aral Sea is just a distant and large drainless salty reservoir in the center of a huge desert, a blue spot on the map of the country. And for Karakalpakstan, this is its life and destiny as a whole. The history and existence of other peoples of Central Asia are closely connected with it: Turkmens, Uzbeks, Cossacks. The sea is not only a kind of natural shrine, the same as for Russians – the Volga. This is not just a natural unique, which does not exist anywhere else in the world. The sea is something more, we cannot do without it.

Just imagine how many of us worry when water stops flowing from a small ditch in our hometown. And if there is a sea in place of the ditch, our problems will increase a thousand times. It's even worse when you can't influence this process and find yourself in a difficult position. Water is life, and at the same time a symbol of destruction and death. For our present and future depend on this life-giving moisture. The drying up of the Aral Sea was also a tragic event for our people. It's not just about a unique reservoir; To a greater extent, the question of the fate of millions of people inhabiting the Amu Darya, Syr Darya and the entire Aral Sea region in general, the fate of several peoples of this region - Karakalpak, Uzbek, Kazakh, Turkmen - is acute.

The Aral Sea was one of the largest lakes in the world, located on the border of the states of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan near Muynak. The name of the district appeared in the 1960s. Until then, these places were called Tokmak. In this area, Khojas were hiding in togas, who were persecuted by the Soviet authorities in the 1930s. Therefore, these lands were later renamed Khojaly. In ancient times, people mined limestone here. Muynak is an oblong island, marked on the map in white. That is why the locals called Muynak ("White-neck"). And the name "Aral" in the Turkic languages means "sea". The appearance of the sea dates approximately from 17.6 thousand BC, when the mountain glaciers of the Pamirs and Tien Shan began to actively melt. The Aral Sea was first named in his writings by the Arab writer Ibn Rustam (920). At the end of the XVII century, the Russian traveler S. Remizov brought drawings of Siberian and Asian lands to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Empire. More accurate and detailed information about the Aral Sea was obtained after the expedition of A. N. Butakov.

The Aral Sea was considered the fourth largest in the world, covering an area of about 68 thousand square kilometers, the length was 426 km, the width was 284 km, the greatest depth was 68 m. There was a large port in Muynak. The Aral Sea basin primarily affects the climatic conditions of the surrounding territories, keeping the temperature and humidity at the same level in summer and winter. Before the tragic situations, the Amu Darya and Syr Darya deltas consisted of swamps, forests and reed fields. There were so many cane fields that they were called the "Reed Sea". Reed groves were a habitat and breeding ground for various animals and birds. It was a haven for millions of birds flying over the archipelago to other countries. In addition, 250 thousand muskrat skins were produced annually in the Aral Sea region. Until 1960, more than 34 species of fish lived in the Aral Sea, such as barbel, salmon, carp, walleye, the famous island fish roach, and an average

of 100 thousand quintals of fish were caught annually. Since 1939, a fish cannery has been operating in Muinak. Canned food, fishmeal, soap were produced at this plant. Even during the war, these products were supplied to help the besieged Leningrad. On December 25, 1921, 14 wagons of fish were poisoned in the starving regions of Russia. Until the seventies, it sparkled with a precious pearl that adorned Central Asia and Kazakhstan, fed millions of people.

Having lost both drains of the rivers that saturate him constantly, he, like an orphan, hiding his tears, began to dry quietly. This period was aptly characterized by one writer who said: "The Aral Sea dies amazingly beautifully." I have to regret that the fish can't talk. It was only Pushkin in the fairy tale "Goldfish" who spoke in a human voice. There used to be huge catfish in the Amu Darya. If only such a catfish had found the gift of speech. He said loudly so that everyone could hear: "Didn't you have a language to tell about our trouble? Why, when the Aral Sea began to lose water and the fish population began to decrease in it, did you not demand from the ministries of Water and Agriculture, the Ministry of Energy to come to their senses, to preserve the waters of the Aral Sea?"

For the first time, a decrease in sea level was observed in the second half of the XX century. According to the observations of scientists, the main cause of trouble is the large-scale construction of irrigation canals, primarily cotton plantations, which began in the 30s of the XX century. Their areas were rapidly increasing, respectively, the volume of water consumed was growing, which was taken from the two main suppliers of the Aral Sea – the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers. This selection reached its peak in the 60s. It is not surprising that the lake began to quickly become shallow. Here are the pages of the sad chronology: 1960 - the area of the water surface is almost 70 thousand square km, 1970 - 57 thousand square km, respectively, 1980- 43 thousand square km and 42 meters, 199- 36.5 thousand square km and 30 meters, 2004-17 thousand square km and 22 meters, 2010- 14 thousand square km and 20 meters. In 1989, the sea split into two isolated reservoirs – the Small and Large Aral Sea. Unfortunately, by the beginning of this century, only 10 percent of the area and a quarter of its volume remained of the former sea.

The drying up of the Aral Sea began to have serious environmental and socio-economic consequences. For example, the climate of the region has changed, it has become hotter in summer, colder in winter, humidity has decreased significantly. Due to shallowing, salinity has increased almost 10 times, almost all types of fish have disappeared, except for the only one – flounder. A huge area of the former bottom was covered with sand and salt, which were mixed with deposits of pesticides and other agricultural pesticides. By the mid-90s, instead of lush greenery of trees, shrubs and grasses, only rare bundles of plants adapted to saline soils and dry habitats remained on the former sea shores. Only half of the local species of mammals and birds have been preserved in the regions. The tragedy of the Aral Sea has also affected people. Many have lost their jobs, the population suffers from respiratory diseases, anemia, cancer of the larynx and esophagus, digestion. Liver and kidney diseases, eye diseases have become more frequent.

The Aral Sea, which once connected the city of Termiz with the Ural railway junction across the Amu Darya River, ceased its function, and by 1981 the movement of ships in the sea stopped completely. All the ships ran aground near the port cities. In a few years, more than 500 ships were permanently stuck in the sand. They were handed over for scrap and only 11 ships remained in the "Graveyard of Ships".



- Who drains the sea?

Impressions of Abdirakhmanova O. (writer, laureate of the Lenin Komsomol of Karakalpakia).

As a child, I heard a lot of fairy tales. One of them talked about how the diva, in order to extinguish a huge fire, drank all the water of the sea, turned the blooming land into a desert. Children who knew such tales were

very afraid of divas. But our literature teacher said, "What are you afraid of? This is a lie, an invention." The geography teacher put everything on a scientific basis: "The water in the sea will not run out even when thousands of divas drink it, because rivers flow into the sea, they constantly replenish it. For example, the Volga flows into the Caspian Sea, and the Amu Darya flows into the Aral Sea."

Of the natural disasters of the sixties, two remained unforgettable in our memory: the earthquake in Tashkent and the flood in Beruni. If, at the time when the Berunian flood happened, someone had suggested that the Aral Sea would drain soon, they would have looked at him as a madman. At that time, no one paid much attention to the report of the Literary Newspaper about the assumptions of scientists that the Caspian and the Aral Sea were beginning to dry up.

In the seventies, all our attention was turned to deserts. Both managers and their subordinates called for:

- We will turn deserts into a flourishing land. We will overcome and conquer nature! Let's do as the proverb suggests: we'll harness a white mare into it, and then tie it up near our house so that it serves better.

The virgin lands of the Surkhan-Sherabad, Karshi, and Hungry steppes were developed. In Turkmenistan and Kazakstan, wherever the water could reach, they began to plow the land and sow various agricultural crops. And we didn't lag behind the others. In a short time, the former fertile massifs of Elikkala were freed from the sands from the sands of the former fertile massifs of Elikkala and Jambaskala, well-known forests were cut down in the areas of Kumzhykkan, Shortanbai. The Amu Darya, once obstinate and wayward, was not left alone, taming it with the Tahiatash obstinate and wayward, taming it with the Tahiatash dam, and then with the Tuyamuyun water intake structures.

- Let's accelerate the development of rice farming in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya! – it was our slogan.

We were in a hurry, without knowing it, to bring the catastrophe closer. The Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers no longer flowed into the Aral Sea. The sea began to run away, terrified of our actions.

And today, when it is more difficult to get to the Aral Sea than to the Caspian, we began to wonder:

- How is that so? We had the sea, why does it disappear?!

Neither schoolchildren nor adults, especially those who make geographical maps and textbooks, know that the sea is drying up. After all, two full-flowing rivers flow into the Aral Sea through them to this day. On the maps, huge rivers – the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya resemble two thick braids of Karakalpak beauties. Winding, they start from the Tien Shan and Pamir Mountains, cover a huge territory and reach the Aral Sea.

Who drains the Aral Sea?

To a certain extent, I, you, he, in a word, each of us who live in Central Asia and Kazakhstan is to blame for this. When virgin lands were being developed, we first of all thought about possible rewards for work. No one counted how much clean water would be used to irrigate new fields. They took water from the Amu Darya and Syr Darya as they had to, just to get more. And the spent, polluted water was drained back into the rivers, resembling the hero of the Uzbek writer Tagai Murat from the story "Song" - Arzu Tursunov, who relieved himself in his own spring. And it turned out, as in the Karakalpak proverb: "Those who live at the sources of the river drink water, and in the lower reaches they drink poison."

But the memory remained. And since the crossing was a peculiar and essential attribute of the life of people of those years, it is probably necessary to tell about it, to pass on the memory of it to those who have not seen and do not know what the Amudarya crossing is.

At the current time, the struggle for the fate of our wealth is still ongoing. For example, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, deeply aware of the severity of the Aral Sea problem, arrived in Karakalpakstan on January 21, 2017 and comprehensively studied the real situation in the region. He justified the need for interdisciplinary research and the creation of regional centers for growing seedlings of desert plants. In order to preserve the unique fauna of our region, it was also proposed to create cross-border protected natural areas in the Aral Sea region. It is extremely important to work together to do everything in our power to preserve endangered species of animals such as cheetah, kulan, saiga and others. The necessity of radically increasing the level of regional cooperation in water conservation, management and rational use of transboundary water resources was emphasized.

The sad state of the Aral Sea is not only problems of biology and medicine, but also problems of morality and morality, problems rooted in the public consciousness. All the inhabitants of the Aral Sea region hope very much for the rapid improvement of the ecological state of the sea.

My soul is a powerless bird
Longing
In gloomy shores.
The Aral Sea is sacred,
My Aral,
Don't die, don't die!
(Farman Kerimzade)

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