

Turkic mythology

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Animals

The **wolf** and crescent moon are symbols of **Turkic mythology**

The Wolf symbolizes honor and is also considered the father of most Turkic peoples. **Asena (Ashina Tuwu)** is the wolf mother of **Bumen**, the first Khan of the Göktürks.

The **Horse** is also one of the main figures of Turkic mythology. Unlike Europeans, who treat horses as simple transport, Turks consider the horse an extension of the human, one creature.

The **Dragon**, also expressed as a Snake or Lizard, is the symbol of might and power. It is believed, especially in mountainous Central Asia, that dragons still live in the mountains of Tien-Shang and Altay. Dragons also symbolize the god Tengri (Tanrı) in ancient Turkic tradition, although dragons themselves aren't worshipped as gods.

Personalities

Geser (Ges'r, Kesar) is a Mogolian religious epic about '**Geser**' (also known as '**Bukhe Beligte**') a Turkic prophet who taught Türks the new monotheistic religion Tengriism. It is unknown when he lived, and there are not many historical documents that mention him. Tengriism isn't approved by most Muslim scholars, but sura 108 of the Quran has the name Al-Kawthar, in which the word *kawthar* could potentially be read as 'Käusar', which may be an Arabisation of the Turkic name 'Geser'. The name of this sura is conventionally interpreted as "all goods" or "abundance", but this is not certain and many scholars have different opinions on this sura.

The **legend of Timur (Temir)** is the most ancient and well-known. Timur found a strange stone that fell from the sky, an iron ore meteorite. He was a smith and decided to make a sword of it. Few knew about iron in Asia before then. He tried to make a sword from it by using the usual bronze sword making process. He mentioned that this material, iron,

was very easy to change and manipulate, though it was even stronger than bronze. Today, the word "temir" or "timur" means "iron". The melting process was known before in Egypt, but it wasn't used that widely in Asia, because of the very high iron price (much higher than gold) in the Mediterranean and Europe at that time.

Bai-Ulgan (Bai-Ulgen, Ulgen, Ülgen, Ulgan) is a Turkic and Mongolian creator-deity.

In the Bible, **Togarmah, son of Gomer**, was ancestor of the Turkic-speaking peoples. His sons **Ujur (Uyghur: Mongol-Turks), Tauris, Avar, Uauz (Oghuz Turks), Bizal, Tarna, Khazar, Janur, Bulgar, and Sawir (Sabir, a Turkic people, probably of Hunnic origin)** are the mythical founders of tribes that once lived around the Black and Caspian Seas.