


















The Sumerian Culture

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YEARS	5200 BP	5000 BP	4400 BP	3000 BP	
HEAD					
LEG					
WATER					
BIRD					

I have already given strong clues about the relationship between Turkish and Sumerian. See article **42-The Sumerian Language** (1). Sumerians settled in the south of Mesopotamia some 5,500 years ago, but they spread far up to Anatolia. All regional languages are offspring of Sumerian. Sumerian language is one of the earliest known written languages. It is claimed that Sumerian is an isolate language, but the language is agglutinative and originates from Central Asia. It preserves the word root intact while expressing various grammatical changes by adding prefixes, infixes and suffixes. The difference in the noun gender does not exist as it does in the Indo-European and Semitic languages. These characteristics are valid for all Ural-Altaic languages.

The Sumerians wrote on soft clay tablets with a stick or wedge-shaped stylus. The "proto-literate" period of Sumerian writing spans c. 3300 to 3000 BC. Records with unambiguously linguistic content, identifiably Sumerian, are those found at *Jemdet Nasr*, dating to the 31st or 30th century BC. This *cuneiform* ("wedge-shaped") mode of writing co-existed with the pre-cuneiform ideographic mode. Ideograms have an abstract or conventional meaning, no longer displaying a clear pictorial link with external reality. Above we see how the Sumerian cuneiform script transformed from recognizable pictographic ideographic forms. It is interesting to observe the transformation that occurred between 3,200 BC - 1,000 BC. There are many words that are identical between Turkish and Sumerian, both in their meaning and also in their pronunciation. Since Sumerian has been out of use for almost 3,000 years, it is astonishing to see that this relationship is still valid. Below we see some more examples showing the similarity between Turkish and Sumerian. This similarity is an indication that both languages have originated from the same Asiatic source.

English	Turkish	Sumerian	English	Turkish	Sumerian
Ancestor	Ata	Adda	Rope	İp	İb
Showy	Alımlı	Alım	Seashore	Kıyı	Kiya
Axe	Balta	Bal	Leave	Kop	Kup
Bore	Burgu	Bur	Race	Koşu	Kusu
Tell	De	De	Fat	Şişko	Gisko
Vertical	Dik	Dim	Father	Baba	Bab
Stay	Dur	Duru	Great	Ulu	Ulu
House	Ev	E	Mind	Us	Us
Male	Er	Ir	Who	Kim	Gim
Cheerful	Güleç	Güleş	Blow	Es	Es

Cylindrical seals were invented in Sumer. Sumerian cylinder seals were usually made of stone (both common and semi-precious stones), such as amethyst, obsidian, hematite, and lapis lazuli. These seals were used for a number of different purposes in Sumer, including for the transaction of business, decoration, and correspondence. Sometimes the images presented on the seal could be quite complex and beautiful. Sumerian cylinder seals were used by various cultures in the ancient Near East, including Akkadians, Hittites, and Persians. When rolled on wet clay, the impression would form a scene. Below we see a cylindrical seal and its impression. We can say that printing was invented by Sumerians.



Some scenes are from the daily life and some are totally esoteric. Below we see an esoteric impression. At the top of the image we see the "Sun God" sending rays of energy to the **tree-of-life**. On each side of the tree-of-life two humans are collecting pomegranates. Behind them two half human half eagle entities are storing the pomegranates into baskets. It must be interesting to read the top inscriptions in order to decipher the encrypted message conveyed in this impression. Being able to read the Sumerian cuneiform script is

another expertise, which needs a special training. But one cannot refrain from admiring the fine art and high level of craftsmanship displayed in this printing technique.



The Sun God resides in the sky and flies like a bird from sunrise to sunset. The Sun God was the prime deity of the Asiatic Turks. They called it "Gök Tengri". 'Gök' means /sky/ and 'Tengri' /God/. The Sumerians being of Asiatic origin depicted the Sun God flying across the sky and sending his life-giving rays to the earth. This symbolism can be found wherever the proto-Turks traveled and settled. See article **25-The Bird Symbolism** (2).

The tree-of-life is another important symbol of the Asiatic Turks. Every year during the last week of December, they dance and decorate around a pine tree. This special day is called "**Nardugan**" and means "the birth of fire or the birth of the sun". "Nar" means both the pomegranate and also fire. The birth of the new sun is actually the birth of the new year and the time when days start to be longer than the nights.

We now understand the meaning of the above picture and why the Sumerians collected pomegranates from the tree-of-life. We also understand why the Nordic nations adopted the habit of decorating a pine tree during Christmas. This habit is clearly a Central Asiatic proto-Turkish shamanic tradition, because shamans used to perform their rituals during sunrise or sunset.

References

- (1) <http://www.halukberkmen.net/pdf/271.pdf>
- (2) <http://www.halukberkmen.net/pdf/40.pdf>