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The Yakut Evens' Culture of Calendar Holidays: Traditions and Modernity (Symbolism of Rituals)

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The article is devoted to the celebration of the ritual of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East. The author examines in detail the ritual symbolism of the Even ethno-cultural groups residing in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). In the celebrations and ceremonies Evens manifest the ancient cultures of the people associated with the worship of Mother Nature, Fire, sacred animals.

Keywords: Evens, holidays, rituals, calendar, indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East.

The work was fulfilled within the framework of the research financed by the Krasnoyarsk Regional Foundation of Research and Technology Development Support and in accordance with the course schedule of Siberian Federal University as assigned by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.

Ritual holiday activity of indigenous peoples of the North (the Evens in particular) was performed in the most crucial periods of alternations of the seasons: in the periods of nature's birth, bloom, fading away and rebirth. Symbolic features of these turning points were reflected in the meaning of calendar rituals and holidays. The idea of nature's beginning and end, fading away and rebirth, its continuity is common and uniting for rituals and holidays of a full-year cycle.

The Evens' traditional calendar holidays, as well as the ones of the other peoples of the North, were connected with transitional cycles between

warm and cold periods, the end of one cycle and the beginning of another, "aging" and "renewal". "Reflection of time in nature, consecutive change of seasons and celestial bodies' movements ... were perceived as signs of a life process analogous to a human's one and connected with it" (L'vova, Oktiabr'skaia, Sagalaev, Usmanova 1988, p. 45).

Each of these sources is counterbalanced by a period of time with seemingly opposite signs. These are, first of all, morning – evening and spring – autumn. The main characteristic feature of morning and spring as well as of evening and autumn is a change of quality. Spring and morning, autumn and evening are transitional

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