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Barrows “with Moustaches” and Other Archaic Beliefs of Kazakhs

**Marat Syrlybaev¹, Ulan Umitkaliev², Zhanagul Omirbekova³,
Daniyar Tleugabulov⁴ and Gany Omarov⁵**

^{1,2,3,4}**L. N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan, 010000**

⁵**Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 050040**

E-mail: uumitkaliev@bk.ru

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ABSTRACT Widespread in Central Kazakhstan, barrows “with moustaches” of the early Iron Age’s Tasmola culture have been the object of attention for archeologists for more than half a century. The complex of the barrow “with moustaches” usually consists of two separate mounds. There are a “big” mound from the western side and the “small” one from the eastern side from which departs to the east the two stone ridges (“moustaches”). The authors note that there is a consensus in the concepts and opinions of researchers on the functions of burial mounds in the ancient society. The authors consider that it is inadequate to represent the barrows “with moustaches” only as funerary monuments. The aim of this paper is to consider these type of monuments as a complicated complex performing cult-ritual functions. The authors made the first attempt to link semantics of these barrows with pre-Islamic archaic beliefs of the Kazakh people.