

**Traditional culture of the Adyghes (Circassians) in the historical and heroic epic  
(on the material of the legend about Prince Sholokh and Prince Alidzhuko)**

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**Annotation.** The article discusses the nature of the reflection of the traditional way of life of the Circassians in the XVII-XVIII centuries in the folklore texts of the historical and heroic epic. The plot of the legend about Prince Sholokh and Prince Alidzhuko was used as the main source of information. Here, a picture of the relationship between the princes is presented in detail, the principles and generally accepted rules for choosing the supreme prince, empowering him with the appropriate authorities (including his role in the *mehkeme* and *khasa* courts). The complex of customs associated with blood feud, hospitality, etiquette imperatives is explored, and the topic of traditional methods of healing is also touched upon. In the course of the study, attention was focused on the correspondence of folklore narratives with information presented in reliable sources. For this, not only a variant of the legend of the historical and heroic epic was involved, but also materials related to the traditional culture of the Adyghes, previously published in print media and on the Internet.

**Key words:** mehkeme, khasa, Sholokh, Alidzhuko, work nobleman, hashesh, pheshasa

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