

III. 【三危】：「**GUR KOŠO(N)**」：《**THREE-HEADED** (MOUNTAIN)》

Ancient legends about the **sacred mountain**, which is the center of the world, are widely spread in the East. In Indian mythology, the mountain of *Meru* is that mountain. According to the ideas of the ancient Hindus, Shiva, the supreme god in Hinduism, lives at the top of Meru. In Tibetan Buddhism, Mount *Sumeru*, which is the cosmic center of the Universe, is revered as sacred. The highest point of the Altai Mountains is Mount *Belukha*. The Russian name for the mountain (literally: *white*) comes from the abundant snow that covers the mountain from its peak to its very base. In the local (South Altai) language, it is called the *Mount Üč-sümer* - “Three-headed mountain”. In northeastern China, the first mountain is called *Baitou-shan* (in Korean reading - *Baektu-san*) “White head mountain”. *Baitou-shan* (白頭山) is a sacred mountain, a place of pilgrimage for all Koreans.

Sign	Legend's Language	Archetype	Related languages
三	* gur «three»	* ɲur ~ * gur «three»	MMong. qurban , qorbān ; Khal. gurvan ; Bur. gurba(n) ; Ord. Gurwa ; Dag. guarba(n) ; Dong. Guran ; Bao. Goraŋ ; Mongor. Gurān «three»
危	* košo(n) «peak»	* košo(n) «protrusion»	Evenk. kočo ; Even. qoč ; Neg. kočo ; Man. χošo ; Ul. χoču ; Orch. kočimdi ‘curved’; Ud. koso(n) «river bend, cape, angle»

The Turkic word for **three** (三) - *üč* has correspondences in Mongolian languages (see above). In Manchu dialects, “**three**” should have been based on the form ***ɲur** ~ ***ɲor** or **gur** ~ ***gor**. The above etymology takes into account the hypothesis of the origin of the Turk. **üč**, Mong. **gur**- from the Altaic root ***ɲiu** [EDAL, 1032]. The hieroglyph 危 symbolizes a **protrusion** (top, peak, rock, steep, cliff, steepness), as well as **curve**. These values are included in the semantic assigned to the TM word ***košo(n)**. The mountain 三危 ***ɲur** (***ɲor** ~ ***gur** ~ ***gor**) **košoⁿ** performed the same function as the **universal tree** - it acted as the **world mountain**. It was a **sanctuary**, and an **altar** was located on its main peak. In world mythology, both images - the universal tree and the world moun-

tain, generally do not displace each other, but peacefully coexist, overlapping one another. The world tree, stretching to the heavens, is also placed on the highest of the three (**Golden, Silver, Iron**) peaks of a giant mountain, where enlightened gods (demigods, spiritual beings) such as *Huan Ung, Tan Gun, Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva*, and others live. This is the “Land of the Chosen”, “The Land of Saints”, “The Land of the Blessed”.