

## VII. 【檀君】：【桓雄】

「HU'AN XUŋU」：「HU'AN XUŋU」

《LORD of BIRCH》：《LORD of HEAVEN》

Hieroglyph 檀 “black birch; sandal” quite obviously reflects the special black Manchu birch \***hu'an** < \***siɣuxan** (cf. Man. **sajɣuwa**), which was widespread in places where the myth of Tan Gun was formed. For some of the tribes living there, black birch was, apparently, a sacred tree, like a 桓 “willow”. And not just a sacred tree. It was a symbol of the mythical World Tree, connecting the earth and heaven worlds. No wonder the text of the legend says that it grew on the top of the highest mountain, on which the son of the Heaven Lord Huan Ung descended. The monk Iryeon was accustomed to using the sign 檀 (MC \**dān*; MKor. *tan*) in the meaning of “sandal” (as it is found in many sacred Buddhist texts), therefore we find 檀君 “Lord of the sandal tree” in the “Legend”, although all the other authors who lived and wrote after him, for the most part, understood the expression 檀君 unambiguously - “The ruler of the black birch”. Due to the fact that the tree under which 檀君 was born was written with signs 壇樹 “altar-tree”, a number of medieval Korean authors wrote down the name of Tan Gun using the hieroglyph 壇, which also sounded *tan*, but meant “altar”. These authors, apparently, are wrong: it is possible to associate 檀 with 壇 only because of the common sound *tan*; phonetisation of 檀 is artificial and should be rejected as the parallel 檀 : \***hu'an** is clear. The explanation for the parallel use of 檀 and 桓 is seen in the fact that the geographical zone, which served as a permanent habitat for the “bear” and “tiger” (the edge of the steppe and mountain forest), captured mainly birch and willow, and this played an important role in the transition of the concept \**siaxuxa(n)* from the language of the conquerors (speakers of the Tungus-Manchu proto-language) into the slang and dialects of their descendants (they began to make a distinction between 桓 \***hu'an** “yellow willow” and 檀 \***hu'an** “black birch”). From the combination of 檀 and 君 “lord, sovereign, ruler” the name Tan Gun was formed -

\***hu'an (x)uŋu** “Birch Lord”. It repeated the name of the hero's father - 桓雄 \***hu'an (x)uŋu** “Heaven Lord”. In the name of Tan Gun's grandfather, Huan In (桓因, \***hu'an in**), appears the name of the ancient Indian god Indra - In (因). It's easy to explain: the words in the brackets explaining who Huan In [謂帝釋也] is, are Iryeon's commentary, and he, as already mentioned, was a Buddhist monk (the explanation itself is a tribute to the religion revered by Iryeon). Huan In's real name was certainly \***hu-an (x)uŋu** “Lord of Heaven”.