

**APOCRYPHAL STORIES  
IN THE FOLKLORE OF THE OLD BELIEVERS  
OF TRANSBAIKALIA AT THE TURN OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup>-21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURIES**

*The article reveals the relationship between oral and written traditions in the folklore of the Old Believers of Transbaikalia at the turn of the century and the connection between folklore and apocryphal literature and examines the oral existence of apocryphal stories among the Old Believers. Since the religious books played a large role in the spiritual life of the family, the influence of written sources on oral folk art was also significant. They provided answers to all the everyday questions, excuses or censures for their actions, explanations for many prohibitions and rules. Therefore, the folklore culture of Semey people was constantly influenced by Christian literature. The authors analyze the forms of existence of the apocryphal work “The Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos” in the folklore tradition of Semey, the structure of the text and its content, the plots/motives of spiritual poems that had been preserved and continued to exist in oral folk legends and apocryphal works at the turn of the 20th — 21st centuries in the Old Believers’ villages.*

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