

Walnut game

Walnut game is a popular children, mainly boys, game played in the fall when the walnuts are harvested. Usually this game is played by children of 7 to 18 years old. In some ways this game is similar to knucklebone game and sometimes can be played in mix with shagai bones. The game is played in different way in different parts of Tajikistan, for example in Darvoz and Rash region there are «walnut game» known as «chorpai» and «zangul» and these types are played in mix with shagai.

In «chorpai» game boys draw a line on the ground and each player puts one walnut on the line. Than they throw shagai on the ground and depending on which side the shagai lands they chose who plays first. Whoever's shagai lands on the «horse» side he goes first to attempt to shoot the walnuts with his shagai from a chosen distance. The walnuts that roll further from the line where they were put are «lost» that is the player wins them. The «zangul» type of the walnut game is played in similar manner.

In Istaravshan and Ghonchi regions walnut game is played in the following manner; players draw two parallel lines on the ground and leave a 4-5 centimeters distance between them. Than they put walnuts between these two lines and each player tries to heat him or her from the 2-4 meter distance with another walnut. The player who succeeds to heat two or more walnuts and they roll out from the lines continues the game and the players take turn after one another. The winner gets the walnuts he hits and rolls out from the line.

In Hisar region this game is played by kicking the walnuts over the ground. The first player will kick his walnuts and the next has to aim the first player's walnut and hit it with his walnut by kicking it.

This way each player will be attempting to hit each other's walnuts. The player who manages to strike the previous player's walnut wins that walnut and this way the game goes on. If the game takes place by the brook and the player's walnut falls into the stream he takes it out and he called it «obash» and leaves it away from the brook to dry before it can be played with it again.

Another type of walnut game is called «ghelon», which is played by 2 persons. In this game players take their walnuts and role them along the steep and whoever's walnut hits the other is than considered to win.

There is yet another type of the walnut game called «davarabozi». In this game players will draw a circle everyone will put their walnuts in the middle of the circle. They than determine a distance from which one by one will shoot at the walnuts. Whoever manages to hit the walnuts and bring it out of the circle wins the game.

