

ALISHER NAVOI'S "KHAMSA" IN THE VIEW OF WORLD

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Abstract: Khamsa, created by Alisher Navoi, is a collection of five epic poems written in Chagatai Turkish and holds a significant place in Uzbek literature. This work not only reflects national values but also possesses universal and philosophical depth, garnering interest worldwide. Numerous foreign writers and literary scholars have highly appreciated Khamsa for its unique style, cultural values, and inclusion of Sufi teachings. This article focuses on the international analysis of Khamsa and examines its contribution to world literature.

Keywords: Alisher Navoiy, Khamsa, Chagatai language, world literature, Sufism, cultural values, world writers.

Introduction

Alisher Navoi, one of the prominent poets of the 15th century from Central Asia, is celebrated for his Khamsa, which stands as one of the greatest literary monuments in Uzbek and Turkic literature. Khamsa consists of five epics: Hayrat ul-Abror ("Wonder of the Righteous"), Farhad va Shirin, Layli va Majnun, Sab'ai Sayyor ("Seven Planets"), and Saddi Iskandari ("The Wall of Iskandar"). Through these epics, Navoi eloquently conveys human values such as love, morality, justice, and spiritual growth. By writing in Chagatai, Navoi demonstrated that Turkic languages could serve as a sophisticated literary medium, contrasting with the dominant Persian literary tradition of his time. World writers and literary scholars acknowledge Khamsa not only for its literary significance but also for its philosophical value, emphasizing its uniqueness, universality, and rich cultural heritage.

Main Findings and Results

1. Khamsa's Linguistic and Cultural Significance

World literary scholars view Alisher Navoi's Khamsa as a groundbreaking work in the history of Turkic literature. Russian Orientalist V.V. Barthold emphasized how Navoi's choice to write in Chagatai Turkish demonstrated the richness and potential of Turkic culture. By creating a literary work comparable to Persian masterpieces, Navoi endowed Turkic culture with literary independence. Additionally, Turkish literary historian Mehmet Fuat Köprülü stated that Khamsa played a crucial

role in solidifying Turkic cultural heritage, an influence that continues in modern Turkic literatures.

2. Comparison with Persian Literature

Writers and scholars worldwide, especially those familiar with Persian literature, often compare Navoi's Khamsa with the work of the Persian poet Nizami Ganjavi. Persian literary scholar Zabihollah Safa pointed out that, while inspired by Nizami, Navoi tailored his works to reflect values relevant to the Turkic world. In tales like Farhad va Shirin and Layli va Majnun, Navoi blends Persian literary tradition with Turkic values. British Orientalist Edward G. Browne praised Navoi's ability to harmonize Persian and Turkic cultures, interpreting his work as a literary bridge connecting Eastern and Western literary traditions.

3. Sufi Influence and Philosophical Foundation

Navoi's works, embodying Sufi teachings, have attracted the interest of many Western experts. French Sufism scholar Éva de Vitray-Meyerovitch noted Navoi's deep connection with Sufi spirituality, which is apparent throughout his writings. In Layli va Majnun, for instance, Majnun's love for Layli symbolizes a yearning for divine love, urging readers to pursue inner spiritual growth. German Orientalist Annemarie Schimmel emphasized that Navoi's exploration of philosophical issues through Sufism positioned Khamsa among the most profound literary works globally.

4. Modern Interpretation and Gender Issues

In recent years, scholars have revisited Navoi's work from modern perspectives on gender and social justice. American scholar Michael Barry has observed Navoi's portrayal of female characters, such as Shirin in Farhad va Shirin and Layli in Layli va Majnun, as independent and strong, challenging traditional roles. According to Barry, these portrayals highlight emotional and moral depth, which was revolutionary for Navoi's era. Turkish literary critic Murat Bardakçı also noted that Khamsa addresses themes of social justice, showing that Navoi's work has the power to impart universal lessons on gender equality and personal respect to today's readers.

Conclusion

Alisher Navoi's Khamsa has been highly praised by writers around the world from various perspectives. This work stands out not only for strengthening Turkic culture but also for its deep attention to human spirituality and philosophical themes. Navoi's unique views on Sufism and gender issues have bridged diverse cultures, inspiring contemporary readers and earning renewed appreciation. Khamsa is undoubtedly a masterpiece with a unique place in world literature history, and its legacy continues to thrive.

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