



THE LITERARY LEGACY OF ALISHER NAVOIY: A RENAISSANCE POET OF THE TURKIC WORLD

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Abstract

This paper explores the enduring influence of Alisher Navoiy, a 15th-century poet, statesman, and philosopher, who is widely regarded as the father of Uzbek literature. His works, primarily written in Chagatai Turkish, mark the apex of classical Turkic literature and establish a rich foundation for subsequent literary developments in Central Asia. This article examines his key poetic contributions, such as Khamsa, and his socio-political ideologies embedded within his writings. Furthermore, the study analyzes the linguistic, cultural, and historical significance of his works in the broader context of the Turkic and Persianate literary traditions.

Keywords: Alisher Navoiy, Uzbek literature, Chagatai Turkish, classical poetry, Central Asia, Khamsa

Introduction

Alisher Navoiy (1441–1501) remains a towering figure in the cultural and literary history of Central Asia. Born in Herat, now part of Afghanistan, Navoiy's contributions transcend literary boundaries, impacting the linguistic, cultural, and political paradigms of his time. His magnum opus, Khamsa, stands as a testament to his mastery of Chagatai Turkish, elevating the language to a prestigious literary medium alongside Persian and Arabic.

Historical Context

Navoiy lived during the Timurid era, a period of cultural and scientific flourishing in Central Asia. As a court official and close confidant of Sultan Husayn Bayqara, Navoiy played an instrumental role in the patronage of arts and education. This section discusses the socio-political milieu of the Timurid Renaissance, which significantly influenced his works.

Major Works and Themes

Navoiy's literary output spans multiple genres, including poetry, prose, and didactic literature. His Khamsa (Five Treasures), a collection of five epic poems, showcases his





narrative skill and philosophical depth. Themes of love, spirituality, morality, and justice pervade his works, reflecting a synthesis of Sufi mysticism and practical ethics. Navoiy's deliberate choice of Chagatai Turkish over Persian was a pivotal act of cultural assertion. This section examines his linguistic contributions and their implications for the evolution of Turkic languages.

Navoiy's works are imbued with philosophical reflections on human nature, divine love, and social justice. His treatise *Mahbub ul-Qulub* (Beloved of Hearts) encapsulates his moral philosophy and vision of an ideal society.

Navoiy's influence extends beyond literature, shaping cultural identity in Uzbekistan and the broader Turkic world. His works have been a source of inspiration for generations of poets, scholars, and statesmen. This section explores his enduring legacy in contemporary Central Asian culture and literature.

Conclusion

Alisher Navoiy's contributions to literature and culture are unparalleled in the Turkic world. His ability to merge linguistic innovation with profound philosophical insights has cemented his place as a literary icon. Future research should further investigate his impact on global literary traditions and explore translations of his works to make them accessible to a broader audience.

References

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