

DESCRIPTION OF BOBUR'S PERSONALITY IN PRIMQUL QODIROV'S NOVEL "STARRY NIGHTS"

Otaboyeva Maxfiratxon Alijon qizi

Termiz Institute of Economics and Service
Department of Philology and Language Teaching:
Uzbek Language Program
2nd-year Student



Abstract: *This article highlights the historical and contemporary significance of the novel "Starry Nights" and sheds light on the life and deeds of its main character, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur.*

Keywords: *Babur, Starry Nights, Primqul Qodirov, Amir Temur, literature, history, tragedy*

Introduction

One of the outstanding representatives of Uzbek literature, Primqul Qodirov, created the novel "Starry Nights", which belongs to the finest examples of historical novels in Uzbek literature. It depicts the collapse of the great empire of Movarounnahr, the decline of the Timurid dynasty, and the tragic fate of brothers, uncles, and nephews who, in pursuit of power, raised their swords against one another. Through the events of the novel, we learn about the conflicts among the Timurids, the bloody wars and ruthless massacres brought about by treachery, discord, and immorality, as well as the dire state of the people who had been exhausted by the tyranny of merciless rulers. It also illustrates how easily Shaybani Khan was able to defeat the Timurids.

The main character of the novel, Mirzo Babur, faced cruelty, selfishness, and betrayal at a very young age—when he ascended the throne at only twelve years old. Even today, scholars studying Babur's life marvel at how such a young boy could rule a state. Reading the novel, we come to understand that Babur was constantly supported in governance by Qosim Qavchim, his mother Qutlug' Nigorxonim, and Mulla Abdullah. Babur endured many hardships. Twice he won and lost the great city of Samarqand. His goal was to establish a centralized state, just as his great

ancestor Amir Temur had done. Babur did achieve his dream of founding a vast empire, but not in his homeland where he was born and raised. Instead, he built it in distant lands foreign to him in language, faith, and soil—namely, India. The dynasty he established ruled for nearly three centuries.

As mentioned above, Babur was a descendant of Amir Temur. In the novel, Qutlug‘ Nigorxonim gives Babur Amir Temur’s sword, on which the motto “Rasti rosti” (“Power lies in justice”) was inscribed. Indeed, Babur, like his ancestor, adhered to this principle throughout his life. Although he conquered many lands, he never committed injustice against the innocent and always ruled fairly.

Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur was not only a king and a poet, but also a scholar. His contributions to the treasury of knowledge include an incomplete divan, a poetic treatise on the foundations of Islam entitled Mubayyin, the work Muxtasar, and an alphabet table he himself invented, known as Khatti Baburi. He first introduced this script in Samarqand, where it was used for almost a year. Alongside writing, Babur also engaged in translation. He versified Khoja Ahror Vali’s work Volidiya. Yet, his most famous and invaluable work remains his memoir Baburnama. When his son Humayun once asked him, “Father, when will you complete this book?”, Babur replied, “Only when I die will this book be concluded.” The life and activities of Mirzo Babur cover an ocean of topics—an ocean in which dozens, even hundreds, of literary ships can sail.

Though he did not wish to leave his homeland, fate’s wheel turned mercilessly, forcing him into exile. Babur lived with an eternal longing for his native land. Sleepless at nights, he poured his homesickness into verse:

For long I’ve been without friend or homeland,
For one moment, one breath, I find no peace.
I came here of my own free will,
Yet in my departure, I had no choice.

The great state Babur founded became world-renowned for its power and cultural achievements, enduring for three centuries and leaving a mark in history. His descendants did not survive into the present; the last of the Baburids perished under British colonial rule. Yet the works Babur himself wrote still live on, filled with warmth, continuing to nourish and inspire humanity spiritually.

In conclusion, it can be said that every reader of this novel gains a deep understanding of history and a full appreciation of Babur's personality. Our great ancestor did not live solely for himself like other kings. Until the end of his life, he longed for a handful of the soil of his homeland. The cultural heritage Babur created with the fire of his heart continues to enrich present-day generations. As Edward Holden aptly described, "Babur was a charming personality—a typical ruler of the Renaissance."

References:

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