

THE ROLE OF VALUES IN THE SPIRITUAL PERFECTION OF SOCIETY

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Abstract:

This article explores the role of values in the spiritual perfection of society, with particular attention to the historical roots of the culture of the peoples of Central Asia, especially the Uzbek nation. It examines the social, philosophical, moral, religious, and artistic worldviews and ideas embedded in national values, and highlights their significance in shaping a morally rich and spiritually advanced society.

Keywords: National identity, values, morality, social ethics, oral folklore, fairy tales, legends.

INTRODUCTION AND RELEVANCE

The Central Asian region has historically held a prominent place in the global community due to its development of science, culture, philosophy, religion, literature, and art. Our ancestors created rich material and spiritual values. One of the most significant cultural achievements of the peoples of Central Asia is the invention of writing. The history of writing in the region dates back to ancient times. Around the middle of the first millennium BCE, Aramaic script became widespread, forming the basis for later Khwarezmian, Sogdian, Kushan, Orkhon-Enisei, and Uyghur scripts. The invention of writing played a vital role in expanding and deepening human knowledge and worldview. The ancient sources written in these scripts help us better understand our distant past and the origins of our cultural values.

As this indicates, the roots of the cultural history of the peoples of Central Asia, particularly the Uzbeks, as well as their social, philosophical, ethical, religious, and artistic ideas and perspectives, date back to ancient times.

METHODS AND DEGREE OF STUDY

The issues of enhancing the spiritual environment of society, educating youth in the spirit of national values, and preserving these values have long attracted the attention of scholars. Uzbek scholars such as Q.N. Nazarov and J. Tulenov have studied the types of values and their role in social life. In this research, historical and comparative analysis methods have been applied.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The oral literature of our ancestors reflects their social and economic life, customs, traditions, culture, language, and philosophical worldview in a unique artistic and philosophical form. Myths, legends, epics, songs, lyrical poems, proverbs, riddles, and other forms of oral tradition constitute some of the oldest and most diverse elements of national culture. These forms of art,

passed down orally from generation to generation, represent the collective creative power of the people.

Myths, legends, stories, songs, and proverbs are not mere echoes of the past but are sources of knowledge, spiritual wisdom, and moral guidance. By examining them, we understand that the people always had hopes, dreams, and aspirations and constantly strove toward a better future. These folklore elements often contain specific social messages and reflect the people's response to social and economic circumstances. They encouraged productivity, addressed societal challenges, and offered moral and intellectual growth, helping individuals understand life, the universe, and their purpose within it.

One of the oldest forms of oral literature in Central Asia is mythology. For instance, the Avesta expresses a central idea of the struggle between good and evil, light and darkness, and happiness and misfortune. Similar themes are also found in the myths of other nations. In these myths, Ahura Mazda symbolizes the world of good, while Ahriman represents the world of evil. Key mythological characters like Mitra, Anahita, Kayumars, and Jamshid personify this battle of dualities.

Mitra is described as the god of the sun, who brings light, warmth, and prosperity, while Anahita symbolizes fertility and water. Kayumars is portrayed as the first human created by Ahura Mazda, and Jamshid represents a golden age of just rule and prosperity.

As in many Eastern cultures, cosmological myths also emerged in Central Asia, depicting the people's understanding of the universe, stars, and fate. In many such stories, the sun and the moon are revered as symbols of life and maternal care.

Over time, myths and legends in the region evolved, incorporating new events, beliefs, and ideas, thereby enriching the cultural heritage of humanity. In addition, values related to agriculture and Navruz celebrations formed ceremonial traditions that reflect the people's lifestyle, worldview, and aspirations.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, the influence of values on human development can be summarized in the following aspects:

Firstly, values are positive informational assets that have passed the test of time and express the unique mentality of a nation;

Secondly, they are the foundation of a nation's spiritual wealth, an invaluable heritage of ancestors, and a reflection of national identity and uniqueness;

Thirdly, values play a crucial role in the moral development of youth, shaping their worldview and contributing to self-awareness;

Fourth, in the context of globalization and increasing ideological threats, values are a strong safeguard against the invasion of mass culture and help foster patriotism and humanity;

Fifth, by educating the younger generation in the spirit of values, society can more easily combat negative phenomena, strengthen individual responsibility, and prevent alienation from national identity.

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