

Section 4. Theatre

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CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL HERITAGE. ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE EPIC POEM "ALPOMISH"

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Abstract

The epic poem "Alpomysh" is a priceless masterpiece that, like other epic poems, embodies ancient ideas. This epic poem occupies a special place not only in Uzbek, but also in world epic poetry. In addition, the epic poem "Alpomysh" has educational significance and has been studied in a new spirit for centuries. This article discusses the patriotic ideas in the epic poem "Alpomysh", stage interpretations of the work, traditional Bakhshi music, the language of the work, events held by UNESCO as a cultural heritage, and its place in the lives of the youth.

Keywords: *Epic poem, interpretation, freedom, virtue, example, epic, an image, scene, folklore, a play, monologue, episode, character, accent, director, documentary film*

Introduction

Constructive dialogue between the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Republic of Uzbekistan is developing steadily, and partnership relations are strengthening. Today, additional measures are being implemented in priority areas within the framework of the country program adopted by UNESCO for Uzbekistan for the first time. With the support of UNESCO, number of major events are being organized in our country, such as the "Sharq Taronalari" Bakhshi art, handicraft festivals, and the Maqom art conference (Press Service of the National Center for Human Rights Republic of Uzbekistan, 2019).

In particular, at the 16th session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Paris, France, the "Art of Bakhshi" was included in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. At the initiative of Uzbekistan, under the auspices of UNESCO, the millennium of the epic poem "Alpomish", which has come down to us with the help of the art of Bakhshi, was widely celebrated around the world. An example of this is the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the celebration of the thousandth anniversary of the creation of the epic poem "Alpomysh". The first paragraph of the resolution states that proposals from the Academy of Sciences

of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Writers' Union, and the "Spirituality and Enlightenment" public center to celebrate the thousandth anniversary of the creation of the epic poem "Alpomish" on a large scale with the participation of UNESCO should be accepted (Karimov I., 2021).

The epic poem "Alpomish" is a priceless masterpiece that embodies the ancient imagination of the Uzbek people and has been sung by epic artists for centuries. It has more than forty variants and different versions. Each version and variant requires separate research. This epic poem is considered an ancient, artistically high example of epic creativity, occupying a special place not only in Uzbek but also in world epic poetry. The epic poem "Alpomish" can be called a dictionary of the ancient rituals, customs, secrets, and "taboos" of the Uzbek people. Because not every epic has found such a broad artistic expression of the cultural life of our people. It is important that various customs and ceremonies such as going hunting before the birth of a child, getting money for a childbirth, naming the child, wedding planning discussions, placing a herald, etc., have an essential place in the "Alpomish" epic poem (Jabbor Eshonkulov, 2015).

Speaking about the place of this particular epic in our national culture, it is a heroic song that has been passed down from generation to generation by our ancestors. Because the image of the folk hero sung in this epic is shining an inspiring light on the hearts of young people. It serves as an example to enrich their spirituality. The process of writing of this epic, which is sung with equal passion about patriotism, nationalism, pure human virtues, and pure feelings of love, began in the 1930s. The version of the epic written by the poet Hamid Olimjon in 1930 is considered the most complete. Since then, a number of folklorists have written down various versions and variants of the epic poem "Alpomish". However, it is gratifying that for many years, the bakhshis of the Surkhandarya region have been studying the peculiarities of the school of epic poetry, further improving and refining this wonderful example of folk oral creativity, and now adapting it to the previously sung versions. The epic is distinguished by the accuracy of the locations where the events take place, the vividness of

the imagery, the richness of the language, and the accurate description of the customs and traditions characteristic of the people of the Surkhan oasis. The main hero of the epic, Alpomish, shot an arrow from a bronze bow at the age of seven and received the title "Alp". If we take into account that Alp means the owner of power, we are sure that this epic is an artistic expression of our centuries-old national statehood (Ruziev I. & Fayziev T., 2019).

The epic poem "Alpomish" has served as a source of inspiration for every generation of artists. This epic poem, consisting of fourteen thousand verses, plays an important role in Uzbek theatrical art. In order to connect the ancient past with the present time, and to familiarize it with today's youth, this epic has even been presented in the animation genre. It can be said that the epic has its place in the musical theater. Traditional music and harmony of words in the work encourages the actors to approach their profession more deeply in the creative process. Based on the motives of this epic, playwright Sobir Abdulla completed the play "Alpomish" in 1943. However, the final version of the play was read and discussed by 1949 in the dramaturgy section of the Writers' Union of Uzbekistan, and was recommended for staging in the theater. The first stage performance was presented to the audience on December 21, 1949, at the stage of the Mukimiy Musical Theater, in collaboration with director Muzaffar Mukhamedov and composer Tokhtasin Jalilov. Later, this play was revived and staged in 1963 by director Nemat Dosthojaev. The character of Alpomish was created by actors Makhmudjon Gafurov and Tursunali Valiev in the musical theater named after Mukimi. Farogat Rakhmatova and Zaynab Samieva received public acclaim as Oybarchin. In 2001, based on the play of the poet and writer Usman Azim, the play "Alpomish's Return" was staged by the director Valizhon Umarov in the musical theater of Andijan and Muqimiy Musical Theater.

The main achievement of the play and performance is that the spectators see in it not a lifeless picture of distant history, but the vital relationships of living people. The story on stage seems to take place not in the distant past, but in the present day. This work was even interpreted by student actors. In May

2011, 4th-year students of the Acting Department of Musical Drama Theater of the Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts (now the Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture), under the direction of director Nasrullo Kobil, turned to the musical drama “Alpomish” by playwright Sobir Abdulla and composer Tokhtasin Jalilov, and presented it to their audience at the institute’s teaching theater. The talented teacher-director N. Kobil speaking about this epic: “This work is a masterpiece of Shakespearean quality, with the dramaturgy of Sabir Abdulla and the music of Tokhtasin Jalilov written to a very high standard. Because during the process of working on this work, I was convinced of one thing, that the work cannot be shortened. However, due to the small number of students, some places had to be shortened.” (interview 2) The language of the play is rich. It skillfully uses folk proverbs and vivid expressions. These serve to reveal the character of artistic images and enhance the impact of the events of the work. The events in the work are very natural and relevant to all periods of times and generations (Ibragimova U., 2019)”.

Film director Khabibullo Fayziev directed the film “Alpomish” in 2000 based on the script of writer Usman Azim. The film was created in the historical drama genre and was shot in Boysun city and mountainous regions of Surkhandarya. Cinematographer Sultan Mirzaakhmedov made the beauty of nature even more spectacular under the music of composer Enmark Solikhov, that viewers are emotionally transferred to the times of Alps. Actress Umida Fayziyeva, who played Alpomysh’s mother and Boybori’s wife in the film, expressed these thoughts about the film. “Alpomish’s mother is a responsible, intelligent woman. She is responsible not only for her family, but for the all commonalty. She is a woman of great pride and faith, capable of giving wise advice to her husband and son in difficult situations. Since the film is in the epic genre, I tried to exaggerate the situations, feelings, and experiences of my character. This character is completely different from my previous roles. It was not easy for me to express the sufferings of Kuntugmish, a woman who was a captive of evil and did not bend her will even under insults. I consider the image of Kuntugmish to be one of

the most brilliant characters created in Uzbek classical works. Kuntugmish is an image that embodies the dreams, hopes, and will of the Uzbek people (Nodirova F., 2001)”.

Our national traditions, the core of our spirituality, were formed and perfected in the bosom of the family, on the threshold of the neighborhood, and our customs, values, and traditions, which have been passed down from our ancestors to generations over the centuries, are also symbols of our nationality and have great value.

Youth is the largest and most dynamic segment of society, which is why monitoring and leading them into the right direction is one of the most pressing issues of our time.

The role of national values in raising a mature generation that can understand the purpose and essence of these current ideological and spiritual attacks and has its own opinion and independent outlook against them is incomparable. National values serve to help a person understand himself, gain national pride, become a person who is proud of his nation and its history, who strives for high ideals and is hardworking, who is faithful and fair, who respects his ancestors and elders, and who considers the fate of the country to be mutual with his own (Narzullaev O., 2021).

Another important way of ensuring the youth’s activity is the formation of national customs and traditions in their minds. National traditions are embedded in every sphere of our life, and these traditions are an explanation of which nation we represent to, that is, a proof of who we are. Because the national traditions that are unique to spiritually perfect youth, moral qualities such as generosity, kindness, thoughtfulness, honor, shame, chastity, modesty, magnificence, patience, hospitality, tolerance, childishness, volunteerism, and hard work are found in the traditions. Therefore, respecting national values is the main sign of respecting the nation itself. Our national values, formed over thousands of years, combined with the cultural and spiritual wealth created in the present era, accelerate our development and help ensure ideological and spiritual purification. All types of values are considered tools that serve for a person, especially young people, to live a prosperous life, live freely, and achieve spiritual and moral maturity (Isaev K., 2019).

In conclusion, it can be said that the epic poem “Alpomish” has been sung for a lifetime by famous Bakhshis who have lived in different regions of our country. They also taught it to their disciples who were growing up in their own countries, thus ensuring the longevity of the epic. Every genre of folk oral literature, especially epics, directly or indirectly serve the purpose of educating the younger generation. A person raised in the tradition

of folk oral creativity learns to build relationships, to be respectful, and to be noble. That is why we study the oral art of our nation as one of the main factors of folk pedagogy, we try to convey it to young people as much as possible, to arouse interest in this arts. A person who reads the epic “Alpomish” will never have a feeling of malice in his heart, on the contrary, loyalty and love for the motherland will increase even more.

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