



Teaching Wisdom and Virtue: The Educational Legacy Of Jami and Navoi's Epics On Alexander

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Abstract: This study explores the moral and educational legacy of two prominent Eastern literary figures—Abdurahman Jami and Alisher Navoi—through their epics *Khiradnomayi Iskandariy* and *Saddi Iskandariy*. The primary aim is to examine how these works instill virtues such as generosity, contentment, justice, and moral responsibility in readers, especially within a pedagogical context. Utilizing comparative literary analysis and thematic interpretation, the research investigates the ethical messages conveyed through allegories, fables, and narrative episodes involving Alexander the Great. Methodologically, the study analyzes selected stories from both authors to illustrate their philosophical and didactic intentions. For instance, Jami uses Sufi allegory to emphasize contentment and spiritual wealth, while Navoi presents realistic scenarios to illustrate the practical benefits of generosity and virtue. One notable example is Navoi's tale of a merchant who unknowingly redeems his lost son through an act of selfless giving. The results highlight that both poets, despite stylistic differences, converge in their portrayal of moral excellence as the foundation of human fulfillment. These works serve not only as literary masterpieces but also as enduring educational resources that promote ethical development. Their relevance persists in modern times, offering valuable lessons in moral conduct and spiritual growth.

Keywords: Human Perfection, Generosity, Righteousness, Contentment, Humility, Ambition, Faith, Patience.

Introduction

Abdurahman Jami and Mir Alisher Navoi, these two outstanding thinkers, geniuses and major representatives of classical literature, occupy a prominent place in world fiction. Abdurahman Jami's *Haft Awrang* and Alisher Navoi's *Khamasa* differ in narrative structure but share a common emphasis on fundamental human virtues such as justice, generosity, ambition, integrity, and asceticism, enhancing their literary and philosophical significance.

In *Khiradnomayi Iskandariy*, Jami conveys these virtues through Sufi philosophy, whereas Navoi integrates them into real-life scenarios. For example, the concept of generosity is illustrated in Jami's work through a story where a man tells his wife: "What you spend for others is truly yours, while what you hoard belongs to others." This reflects the belief

that generosity brings spiritual rewards, and what is given away returns in one form or another.

It should be noted that the works and creativity of great thinkers of the past, the poet Abdurahman Jami and the poet Mir Alisher Navoi, play an invaluable role in shaping the spiritual and moral education of youth, their worldview, and the enrichment of culture. Their creative and social activities are vivid examples of friendship between fraternal peoples, service to ours, and play a major role in the spiritual and moral education of young people.

Methodology

Navoi elaborates on generosity in *Mahbub ul-Qulub*, particularly in the eleventh warning, where he asserts that generosity is so fundamental that even a non-Muslim who practices it may attain paradise. He argues that just as a human cannot exist without flesh, they cannot exist without generosity. Furthermore, he warns against false generosity, labeling it a moral flaw.

Jami presents a similar lesson through a fable in which a wise man gives a pouch of silver coins to his wife. She later explains that she divided it into two halves: one for charity and the other for personal needs. The wise man remarks that the part given away will return in blessings, whereas what is kept may not necessarily benefit them in the long run.

Result and Discussion

Navoi offers a more detailed example in a dramatic story of a merchant and his son. A wealthy merchant from Adam province embarks on a trade journey, but bandits attack his caravan, causing him to lose his son. In despair, the merchant searches tirelessly, carrying a hidden pouch of gold. Eventually, he reaches a distant land where he finds a crowd gathered around a captive accused of murder. The captive can only be freed for a ransom of one thousand gold coins. The merchant, without hesitation, pays the ransom—only to realize the captive is his lost son. The merchant's generosity not only saves his son but also earns him the king's favor, bringing him even greater wealth and honor. Navoi uses this tale to highlight the profound rewards of selfless giving.

Moral Lessons in the Epics

Both Jami and Navoi emphasize that human dignity is rooted in moral virtues. They caution against vices such as greed, deceit, and vanity, which degrade one's character.

Jami conveys this message through the fable of a camel and a fox. The camel, burdened with carrying salt, meets a fox who suggests immersing itself in water to lighten the load. The naive camel follows this advice, and the salt dissolves, making the journey easier. However, the next day, the owner loads the camel with wool instead. When the camel

attempts the same trick, the wool absorbs the water, making the load even heavier. Realizing its mistake, the camel scolds the fox:

Ки бодаш зи рӯи замин ном гум,
Ки бар ман раво дошт ин уштулум.

"Woe upon those who mislead others, For they bring only hardship and regret."

This fable, akin to Aesop's The Donkey and the Salt, teaches the importance of responsibility and wisdom in decision-making.

In Saddi Iskandariy, Navoi underscores the significance of fulfilling one's duties with sincerity. Through the dialogue between Iskandar (Alexander the Great) and a prince who chooses a life of begging, Navoi suggests that every individual has a divine mission. The tale of Abu Said Koragon, a ruler who loses his kingdom due to his lack of justice, further reinforces this idea.

Contentment as a Virtue

One of the most cherished qualities in these works is contentment. Jami, through the words of the sage Pythagoras, teaches that satisfaction with one's fate leads to peace. He illustrates this with a story about a child who, despite holding a large piece of bread, cries because his appetite exceeds his portion. The sage admonishes:

Машав чун хасон сухраи ҳирс-у оз,
Ба чизе, ки имрӯз дорӣ, бисоз.
Махӯр ғам, ки фардо чӣ пеш оядат,
Дари ризқ бар рӯ кӣ букшоядат.
Зиҳӣ тифли нодон, ки дар даст нон
Бувад баҳри нони дигар хунфишон!

"Do not be enslaved by greed like the ignorant, Be content with what you have today.

Do not worry about what tomorrow may bring,

For the gate of sustenance shall always open."

A man in Baghdad encounters a boy crying while clutching a large loaf of bread. When asked why he is weeping, the boy replies: "My appetite is great, but my bread is small. The more I eat, the less remains. I fear running out of food."

Navoi does not present an identical story but integrates the same lesson into his works. In Mahbub ul-Qulub, he writes: "He who has contentment has no sorrow." This idea is further reinforced in the tale of a man who finds a hidden treasure but loses everything due to insatiable greed. Had he been content, he would have avoided ruin. Similarly, fish that constantly seek deeper waters end up in the jaws of a shark.

This aligns with the Sufi concept of Wahdat al-Wujud (Unity of Existence), which teaches that true fulfillment lies within. Seeking it elsewhere only leads to dissatisfaction.

Conclusion

The epics *Khiradnomayi Iskandariy* and *Saddi Iskandariy* offer profound moral lessons on generosity, justice, honesty, patience, and contentment. Through allegories, fables, and historical narratives, Jami and Navoi emphasize that spiritual enlightenment is attained through virtue, selflessness, and faith. These timeless teachings remain relevant, guiding individuals toward moral excellence and a meaningful life.

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