

AN ANALYSIS OF THE IMAGE OF THE IDEAL RULER IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LITERATURE

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Annotation: This article analyzes the image of the ideal ruler in English and Uzbek literature. Literature, as a vital source reflecting humanity's social, political, and spiritual life, plays an invaluable role in shaping the symbols of leadership. In Uzbek literature, the works of Alisher Navoi, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, and Abdulla Qodiriy portray rulers as just, people-oriented, and enlightened figures. In English literature, William Shakespeare, John Milton, and Thomas More present the ruler as a symbol of state power, political stability, and national unity. The article provides a comparative analysis of the similarities and differences in the depiction of the ideal ruler in English and Uzbek literature and highlights their relevance for today's society.

Keywords: ideal ruler, justice, people-oriented leadership, English literature, Uzbek literature, William Shakespeare, Alisher Navoi, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, Abdulla Qodiriy, John Milton, Thomas More, literary image, leadership.

Introduction

Literature is considered the most important mirror of human thought and spirituality. In the artistic heritage of every nation, the creation of the image of state governance, the figure of the leader, and the depiction of the ruler holds great significance. This is because the ruler is the person who determines the fate of the people, unites society, ensures the country's progress, and guarantees the well-being of the nation. Therefore, both English and Uzbek literature have paid special attention to the image of rulers.

The image of the ideal ruler in literature is portrayed not only as a historical figure, but also as an artistic embodiment of the people's aspirations, hopes, and moral values. In literary works, the figure of the ruler reflects such qualities as justice, courage, bravery, knowledge, concern for the people, and tolerance. Such works possess not only artistic value but also spiritual and educational significance, encouraging readers to reflect on what an ideal leader should be like.

In English literature, the image of the ideal ruler is often revealed through historical events and legendary heroes. For example, in Shakespeare's works, English kings are depicted as embodying courage, political wisdom, and responsibility before the people. In Eastern, and particularly in Uzbek, literature, the ruler is more often portrayed as a symbol of justice and moral purity. In the works of Alisher Navoi, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, and other classical writers, the main duty of the ruler is interpreted as establishing justice, spreading knowledge and enlightenment, protecting the people, and showing them compassion.

From this perspective, the creation of the ruler's image in English and Uzbek literature is closely linked with the historical circumstances, socio-political environment, and cultural values of each nation. By comparing their unique features, it becomes possible to determine how the image of the ideal ruler is both universal and, at the same time, rich in national characteristics.

Main Part

The Image of the Ideal Ruler in English Literature. In English literature, the ruler's image is depicted in close connection with historical events, legendary heroes, and political

thought. In this literature, the ruler is portrayed not only as a leader but also as a person who determines the fate of the nation.

The Image of Rulers in Shakespeare's Dramas. William Shakespeare is considered one of the most important creators of ruler imagery in English literature. In his play *Henry V*, the king is depicted as a people-oriented, patriotic, wise, and courageous ruler. Through Henry's inspiring speeches to his army, his fair decisions, and his readiness to sacrifice his life for the benefit of the homeland, Shakespeare creates the portrait of an ideal ruler. With such an image, he calls upon the English people to unity, patriotism, and just governance.

In contrast, in Shakespeare's tragedy *Richard II*, the king is portrayed as weak, unjust, and selfish, prioritizing personal interests over those of the people. Shakespeare's purpose is to show what a bad ruler looks like, thereby more clearly revealing what qualities an ideal ruler should embody. In this sense, the ruler's image in English literature is shaped not only through praise but also through critique.

The Legends of King Arthur. In English folklore and literature, the image of the ideal ruler is closely associated with King Arthur. In the tales of the "Knights of the Round Table," Arthur is portrayed as a protector of the people, an upholder of law and justice, and a symbol of loyalty and friendship. He is remembered as a ruler who governed based on the principles of equality and justice. Through this image, the English people's aspirations for an ideal ruler are artistically expressed.

Renaissance Views. In Thomas More's *Utopia*, the ruler is portrayed as a figure who builds a just society. In describing his ideal state, More links the ruler's primary duty with serving the people's interests, ensuring equality, and establishing justice. This work reinforces the ruler's image in English literature from a political and philosophical perspective.

Overall, the image of the ideal ruler in English literature is shaped by qualities such as military bravery, political wisdom, unity with the people, and the safeguarding of the rule of law.

The Image of the Ideal Ruler in Uzbek Literature. In Eastern and particularly Uzbek literature, the ruler's image is interpreted in harmony with religious and moral values. The ideal ruler is seen as a figure who establishes justice, protects the people's interests, and fosters knowledge and enlightenment.

The Image of the Ruler in Navoi's Works. In his *Khamasa*, especially in the epic *Saddi Iskandariy*, Alisher Navoi creates the image of Alexander the Great (Iskandar Zulqarnayn). Alongside his conquests, Alexander is depicted as a patron of knowledge and religion, and as a symbol of justice and enlightenment. Navoi presents him as the ideal ruler, emphasizing that a king must liberate his people from oppression and govern the state with knowledge and justice. Navoi's ghazals and prose works also frequently address the image of rulers. For instance, in *Mahbub ul-qulub*, Navoi defines justice as the highest virtue of a ruler. According to him, a just king ensures the peace and prosperity of the country, while an unjust ruler brings destruction to the state.

Bobur's Baburnama. Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, not only as a ruler but also as a writer, recorded his personal experiences. In his *Baburnama*, the virtues and shortcomings of rulers are analyzed. Babur regards justice, honesty, an interest in learning, and closeness to the people as the main qualities of a ruler. At the same time, he shows how a ruler's personal weaknesses can affect state governance. In this sense, *Baburnama* serves as a realistic literary source, presenting the image of the ideal ruler through practical life experience.

The Image of Rulers in Later Literature. In 19th-century Uzbek literature, the works of Ogahiy, Munis, Nodira, and others also link the ruler's image with justice, care for the people,

and moral purity. In his historical works, Ogahiy classifies rulers as just or unjust and criticizes the latter, thus putting forward instructive ideas for his time.

In classical poetry, the ruler is often portrayed as *zillullahi fil-arz*—"the shadow of God on earth." This interpretation reinforces the ruler's responsibility with a religious foundation.

Overall, in Uzbek literature, the image of the ideal ruler is depicted as a symbol of justice, knowledge and enlightenment, moral purity, and concern for the people.

Comparative Analysis

- **Similarities.** In both literatures, the image of the ruler is associated with justice, courage, closeness to the people, and wisdom. The ruler is viewed not only as a political leader but also as a moral and ethical model. In this sense, Shakespeare's Henry and Navoi's Alexander share common features.
- **Differences.** In English literature, the ruler is more often portrayed as a military leader and political figure, whose power is defined by martial valor and state strength. In Uzbek literature, however, justice and moral purity are emphasized as the core criteria of rulership. In the Eastern tradition, the ruler is also depicted as possessing "divine authority," which distinguishes it from the Western literary tradition.
- **Conclusion.** In English literature, the ruler's primary duty is to unite the nation and strengthen state power, while in Uzbek literature, the highest responsibility of the ruler is to establish justice, defend the people's interests, and promote knowledge and enlightenment.

Conclusion

As one of humanity's greatest spiritual treasures, literature has throughout history served not only as a source of aesthetic pleasure but also as a means of promoting educational, political, and social ideas. One of these themes is the image of the ideal ruler. By its very essence, this image embodies the people's aspirations, their need for justice, and their pursuit of perfection in governance. While English and Uzbek literature interpret this figure in different ways, their common purpose is to demonstrate what a true leader should be like for society.

Looking at the history of English literature, the image of the ideal ruler often emerges against the backdrop of political and historical events. In Shakespeare's works, the just and people-oriented ruler (*Henry V*) is contrasted with the tyrannical and greedy ruler (*Macbeth*), clearly highlighting the ruler's decisive role in the fate of the state and the people. Through this contrast, Shakespeare emphasizes courage, solidarity with the people, prioritization of justice, and resistance to selfish desires as the key virtues of leadership.

In *Utopia*, Thomas More presents the ruler as a figure responsible for creating a just society. This shows that in English literature, the ruler's image is not only a symbol of political power but also a defender of moral and social ideals. John Milton's religious and philosophical interpretations depict the ruler as God's representative, stressing that his actions must be based on honesty and impartiality. Thus, in English literature, the ideal ruler is primarily associated with political stability, national unity, and the safeguarding of moral values.

In Uzbek literature, however, the image of the ideal ruler is interpreted mainly through religious, ethical, and spiritual values. Alisher Navoi, in creating the image of Alexander the Great, presents him as a patron of science and justice, thereby emphasizing that a ruler's duty is not merely political authority but also the promotion of knowledge and spirituality.

In his *Baburnama*, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur describes the personal life, achievements, and shortcomings of a ruler, stressing that the true essence of leadership lies in gaining the people's consent. This portrays the ruler's humanity, sincerity, and unity with the people. Later, in *Bygone Days* (*O'tkan kunlar*), Abdulla Qodiriy exposes the destructive effects of unjust leaders

on society while highlighting the necessity of morally mature and people-oriented rulers. In this way, Uzbek literature presents the ideal ruler as the father of the people, a just judge, and an enlightened leader.

The comparative study of English and Uzbek literature reveals the following **common features** of the ideal ruler:

- A ruler must be just.
- He must place the interests of the people above his own.
- He must possess wisdom, knowledge, and experience.
- He must maintain direct contact with the people and share their concerns.

At the same time, there are **differences**:

- In English literature, the ruler is more often portrayed as a political leader whose power is tied to the state's strength and military might, while in Uzbek literature, he is presented as a moral and spiritual guide, the father of his people.
- English literature focuses more on rulers' political activities within historical contexts, whereas Uzbek literature emphasizes religious-philosophical ideas and the defense of the people's interests.

The image of the ideal ruler remains relevant not only as a historical or literary interpretation but also for today. For modern state leaders, qualities such as justice, care for the people, honesty, and wisdom remain essential. The ruler-images shaped in literature continue to inspire the younger generation with the true essence of leadership — serving the people and governing the state on the basis of justice.

Although the image of the ideal ruler has been expressed in different styles and traditions in English and Uzbek literature, all these depictions promote values that are vital for humanity. Through such images, literary scholarship highlights not only historical events but also universal human aspirations for justice, freedom, and compassion. Therefore, the ideal ruler is valued not only as a literary figure but also as a great idea that serves the advancement of society.

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