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THE ISSUE OF DIALECTICAL BALANCE BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE, POWER, AND MORALITY IN THE EPIC "SADDI ISKANDARIY"

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Abstract

This scholarly article examines the issue of dialectical balance between knowledge, political power, and morality in Saddi Iskandariy, the concluding epic of Alisher Navoi's Khamsa. Based on the artistic and philosophical interpretation of the image of Iskandar (Alexander), the study reveals Navoi's concept of the ideal ruler. Through an analysis of the epic, the role of knowledge as the guiding force of authority and morality as its limiting and regulating principle is substantiated. Special attention is paid to the issues of justice, responsibility, and spiritual perfection within the context of Eastern political and philosophical thought.

Keywords

Alisher Navoi, Saddi Iskandariy, image of Iskandar, knowledge and power, moral responsibility, ideal ruler, justice, Eastern philosophy

In Alisher Navoi's literary heritage, the epic Saddi Iskandariy holds special scholarly and philosophical significance, serving as the logical conclusion of the Khamsa and synthesizing the thinker's socio-political views. Through this work, Navoi artistically and philosophically interprets the issues of power, knowledge, and morality in harmonious unity. The epic is not merely a narration of historical events but a profound artistic expression of reflections on state governance, social development, and human perfection.

Using the image of Iskandar, Navoi advances the idea of governance guided not by brute force, but by knowledge and morality. In this respect, Saddi Iskandariy is one of the works in Eastern literature that most perfectly embodies the concept of the ideal ruler.

The image of Iskandar in Saddi Iskandariy fundamentally differs from the historical figure of Alexander the Great. Navoi portrays him in accordance with Eastern intellectual traditions as Dhul-Qarnayn—an advocate of justice and a ruler who relies on knowledge. This image is closely connected with the Qur'anic and Islamic interpretations of Dhul-Qarnayn.

In Iskandar's character, power and wisdom are harmoniously united. He is not merely a conquering commander, but a thinker striving to comprehend the world. Throughout the epic, Iskandar's relationship with the philosopher Aristotle serves as an artistic device emphasizing the crucial role of knowledge in the life of a ruler.In the epic, knowledge is elevated to the level of the highest value. Iskandar makes every decision based on learning and counsel. Navoi interprets knowledge not merely as theoretical learning, but as a practical criterion of justice.

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Knowledge appears as the main force protecting the ruler from arrogance and intoxication with power.

Iskandar's journeys across the world are depicted not as external conquests, but as an internal journey of spiritual perfection. Each new land represents a source of new knowledge and experience. This reflects Navoi's belief that knowledge is an endless driver of progress.

Despite possessing immense power, Iskandar is portrayed not as a ruler who acts arbitrarily, but as a person deeply aware of responsibility. The idea that power, if not restrained by moral principles, can turn into oppression forms the ideological foundation of the epic.

BThe wall (sadd) built against Gog and Magog carries symbolic meaning, representing a moral barrier against evil, chaos, and injustice. Here, the function of power is not destruction, but protection and the establishment of order.For Navoi, a true ruler is one who is not indifferent to the fate of the people. Iskandar uses his power in the interests of the populace. His interactions with the poor, the wise, and ordinary people throughout the epic demonstrate his moral maturity.

Justice, in Navoi's interpretation, is considered the main condition for state stability. Iskandar prefers wisdom and compromise over the use of force. This shows that the moral responsibility of the ruler becomes the central idea of the epic.

In Saddi Iskandariy, knowledge, power, and morality do not negate one another but are depicted as interdependent elements. Knowledge gives direction to power, while morality regulates it. The absence of any one of these elements leads to the disruption of social balance.

Through the image of Iskandar, Navoi creates a model of the ideal ruler. In this model, power is governed by knowledge, and morality defines the boundaries of authority. This concept represents a high example of Eastern political and philosophical thought.

The epic Saddi Iskandariy is a product of Alisher Navoi's profound artistic and philosophical thinking, in which the issue of dialectical balance between knowledge, power, and morality is comprehensively explored. Through the image of Iskandar, the thinker substantiates the necessity for society to be governed by educated, just, and morally mature individuals. The ideas advanced in the work remain relevant today and serve as an important scholarly source for understanding contemporary issues of leadership and moral responsibility.

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