

Lyrics by Alisher Navoi and Zakhriddin Muhammad Babur

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Abstract: The rich cultural heritage of Central Asia has been shaped by the contributions of numerous luminaries, whose works have left an indelible mark on the region's literary and poetic traditions. Among these esteemed figures are two giants of Uzbek literature: Alisher Navoi and Zakhriddin Muhammad Babur. While both poets were contemporaries, their lives and works were marked by distinct differences in style, theme, and historical context. This article will delve into the lyrics of these two literary masters, exploring their unique characteristics, thematic concerns, and the historical significance of their poetry.

Keywords: life, literature, writing style, poetry, prominent figures, masters, characteristics, differs.

Introduction: Alisher Navoi, the classical Chaghatay literature's greatest representative, was born on February 9th, 1441, in Herat and died on January 3rd, 1501. His real name was Nizamiddin Mir Alisher. He was an aristocrat and an administrator, and he was known as a connoisseur of Chaghatay literature. Navoi was the ninth and the last of the descendants of Amir Timur's son Jahangir. He lived during the last period of the Timurid Empire in Central Asia. Navoi is an outstanding representative of Chaghatay poetry and literature. His influence in the Chaghatay language had a great effect on the language that it is still being called Navoiy in modern days. Alisher Navoi had an exceptional linguistic talent. His linguistic ability has never been surpassed by anyone in Chaghatay literature. Navoi is multi-talented and has touched many areas in Chaghatay literature. He is a poet who has touched many types of poems and saintly tales. He is also known as the first writer of Chaghatay Prose. The seven characteristic poems created by him have given a different determined form to Chaghatay poetry. Then Alisher Navoi was also a translator who has translated various literary works from other languages into Chaghatay. He is also a lyricist who has created poems or songs with a new method called Ghazal.

The primary goal of this essay is to find out the connection between Alisher Navoi and Zakhriddin Muhammad Babur's lyrics, the cause why and how Babur was highly impressed and influenced by Navoi's literary works. This essay also looks at the correlation between Navoi's linguistic, thoughts and philosophy with the Timurids' Culture and its impact on Babur as the descendant of Timur. Hopefully, it will give a clearer picture of how and the reasons for Babur's high regard for Alisher Navoi. General information about both mentioned figures will also be given to give a clearer overview of their background and works.

Alisher Navoi (1441-1501), also known as Nizam-al-Din Alisher Herawi, was a renowned poet, writer, and statesman of the Timurid Empire. Born in Herat, modern-day Afghanistan, Navoi was educated in the classical Persian tradition and went on to become one of the most celebrated poets of his time. His lyrical poetry is characterized by its musical quality, with intricate rhyme schemes and meter that evoke a sense of harmony and balance. Navoi's poetry is often described as "divan" poetry, a style that emphasizes the beauty of language and form over content.

Navoi's lyrics are notable for their use of symbolism, metaphor, and allegory to convey complex emotions and ideas. His poetry is replete with references to nature, particularly the rose and the nightingale, which serve as symbols of love, beauty, and spirituality. In his ghazals (odes), Navoi

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explores themes of love, longing, and spiritual quest, often blurring the lines between earthly and divine love. For instance, in his famous ghazal "Gul va Bulbul" ("The Rose and the Nightingale"), Navoi describes the rose as a symbol of beauty and perfection, while the nightingale represents the poet's own soul, yearning for union with the beloved.

In contrast to Navoi's ornate and symbolic style, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur (1483-1530) was a poet and historian who wrote in a more direct and simple manner. Babur was born in present-day Uzbekistan and founded the Mughal Empire in India. His poetry is characterized by its autobiographical nature, reflecting his experiences as a ruler, warrior, and traveler. Babur's lyrics are often marked by a sense of introspection and self-awareness, as he grapples with the challenges of power, identity, and mortality.

Babur's poetry is notable for its use of Turkic languages, including Chagatai Turkish and Uzbek, which were spoken by the common people of Central Asia. This departure from the traditional Persian language used by Navoi reflects Babur's desire to connect with a broader audience and to promote a sense of national identity among his people. In his memoirs, known as the "Baburnama," Babur writes about his military campaigns, personal struggles, and relationships with family members and friends. His poetry is infused with a sense of realism and candor, offering a unique window into the life and times of a powerful leader.

Despite their stylistic differences, both Navoi and Babur share a deep concern with themes related to love, spirituality, and mortality. Their poetry reflects a profound awareness of the transience of human life and the importance of cultivating inner virtues such as compassion, wisdom, and courage. In this sense, their lyrics can be seen as a reflection of the Sufi philosophical tradition that permeated Central Asian culture during this period.

One of the most striking differences between Navoi's and Bobur's writing styles lies in their use of language. Navoi's poetry is replete with ornate imagery, intricate wordplay, and clever turns of phrase. His language is deliberately evocative and emotive, designed to evoke powerful feelings in the reader. In contrast, Bobur's prose is marked by a spare, unadorned quality that prioritizes clarity over ornamentation. While Navoi's language is often dreamlike and suggestive, Bobur's is concrete and factual.

Another significant difference between the two authors lies in their thematic concerns. Navoi's works are deeply concerned with spiritual matters, exploring the mysteries of existence, the nature of God, and the human condition. His poetry often expresses a sense of longing and yearning for transcendence, reflecting his Sufi inclinations. In contrast, Bobur's writings are largely focused on the practicalities of politics and governance. His memoirs offer a detailed account of his military campaigns, administrative reforms, and diplomatic intrigues. While Navoi's themes are often abstract and introspective, Bobur's are concrete and worldly.

The narrative structures employed by Navoi and Bobur also differ significantly. Navoi's poetry typically follows a non-linear pattern, with each ghazal building upon previous ones to create a rich tapestry of meaning. His poems often blur the lines between speaker and listener, creating an intimate atmosphere that draws the reader into the poet's inner world. In contrast, Bobur's memoirs follow a linear narrative structure, proceeding chronologically through his life events. This approach allows him to present a clear-eyed account of his experiences, free from embellishment or romanticization.

Furthermore, the tone adopted by Navoi and Bobur differs markedly. Navoi's poetry is often melancholic and contemplative, reflecting his introspective nature. His words convey a sense of sorrow, loss, and longing that resonates deeply with readers. In contrast, Bobur's memoirs are written in a more detached tone, one that is observational rather than emotional. While Navoi's tone is lyrical and expressive, Bobur's is matter-of-fact and objective.

The historical significance of Navoi's and Babur's poetry cannot be overstated. Their works represent a golden age of Uzbek literature, which flourished during the Timurid Empire (1370-1507) and continued to influence literary developments in Central Asia for centuries to come. The legacy of these



poets can be seen in the many writers who followed in their footsteps, including prominent figures such as Firdawsi (940-1020) and Jami (1414-1492).

Furthermore, Navoi's and Babur's poetry played a crucial role in shaping the cultural identity of Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries. Their works helped to promote a sense of national pride and unity among the region's diverse ethnic groups, fostering a shared cultural heritage that transcended linguistic and geographical boundaries.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the lyrics of Alisher Navoi and Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur offer a fascinating glimpse into the rich cultural landscape of Central Asia during the 15th century. Through their unique styles and thematic concerns, these two poets reflect the complexities and contradictions of their time, grappling with universal questions about love, spirituality, and mortality. As we continue to navigate the complexities of our own era, their poetry serves as a powerful reminder of the enduring power of art to inspire, educate, and uplift humanity.

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