

Navruz - a Common Holiday of the Turkish Peoples

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Abstract: Navruz, considered a product of the thinking of the Turkic peoples, has not lost its essence and value to this day. Its history is ancient, and the path of development is bright. Although Navruz, which has absorbed our identity for centuries, is celebrated with different traditions in different countries, it is a holistic system that calls for unity, goodness, and purity. This article presents the traditions associated with the celebration of Navruz using the example of Central Asian countries.

Keywords: Turkic peoples, traditions, Navruz, culture, ritual, nationality, faith, dignity, goodness.

Introduction. How many cultures has humanity experienced to this day? In fact, culture is a historical category. Because it arises, develops, improves in a certain time and place, and sometimes some of its principles are banned and may even be forgotten because they do not fit into the system. National culture is one of the main elements that make a people a nation. The elements that make up national culture include customs, traditions, beliefs, rituals, holidays, etc. It has an important role. Along with religious holidays, national holidays are also common events that bring individuals and communities closer and unite.

It is among the cultural values. For example, incredibly ancient and beautiful rituals have been preserved for us from our ancestors.

Methodology. During the years of independence, the call of our Head of State to restore historical memory increased attention to the study of such folk rituals. Because these rituals, which embody the most ancient spiritual traditions of our people, have absorbed the centuries-old lifestyle, culture, and religious views of our ancestors with rich creative potential, and have formed a perfect system. In this context, the rituals associated with Navruz also have a place. They are valuable in that they can provide information about the mythological ideas of our people, religious views related to nature, ancient lifestyle, and culture of the past in a unique artistic form.

Navruz, which has survived the most difficult trials of history and is considered a part of our culture, traditions, and Uzbek identity, is a symbol of renewal and rebirth. Although it was condemned and even banned by political regimes during the era, Navruz, which is considered a common holiday not only for Uzbeks but also for all Turkic peoples, is today being celebrated more widely, having restored its value and importance.

Results. The term Navruz and the traditions associated with it are not new to us. The reason is that it is an ancient holiday with a history as old as the history of mankind. The Navruz holiday, a unique miracle of our people's thinking, is one of the magnificent values that has come down to us from ancient times. Its structure and elements are permeated with the world of spirituality, from the mythological imaginations of our ancient ancestors to the views of our contemporaries today, and it has always drawn strength and energy from every achievement of the cultural development of mankind. Because of this, it has always been enriched, and sometimes changed and even lost some of its elements, depending on the level of socio-economic development and scientific and artistic thinking of mankind. It should also be noted here that there have been organizational interventions in relation to Navruz from the point of view of the interests of various social groups and classes. For example, according to scientists, during the Sassanid era, it was regulated to celebrate Nowruz as a state holiday

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in the summer. However, the masses continued to celebrate it as usual at the beginning of spring. As a result, there were periods when Nowruz was celebrated twice a year. However, over the years, the ancient tradition, the folk tradition of celebrating Nowruz in the spring, prevailed. Nowruz, not caring about any unusual interventions or attempts to mold it, continued to be nourished by the spiritual life of our people, becoming richer and more perfect. The history of the emergence of Nowruz is associated with the ancient Sumerians. The ancient Sumerians considered lions, bulls, deer and similar animals to be symbols of constellations in the sky, and with the advent of the spring month, a ceremony was held to ensure that crops and livestock would be abundant. During the ceremony, a statue of the Moon God (a bull with a human head) was raised and God was asked to bless the new year.[1.7]




According to ancient Chinese sources, this tradition later appeared in Turkic tribes. The sources state that our ancestors knew the movement of the sun, moon and stars very well. In the most ancient times, the year was initially divided into two parts, summer and winter, and the period of the change of these seasons was of vital importance. After all, when the frosty, cold days of winter ended, warm days began, when the flora and fauna awakened, the trees put on leaves, and the earth put on a lush green dress. Therefore, our ancestors saw in every sign of spring a symbol of goodness. After all, the process of renewal and purification that took place in nature also brought purity to the spiritual world of man.

Discussion. For our ancestors, the sun that illuminates the earth, the soil that is the source of sustenance, water that is the symbol of purity and eternal life, and fire were considered sacred. That is why they opened the doors of their houses facing the sun. They bowed three times to the rising sun in the early morning and to the full moon at night to express their respect. Of course, just as every nation has its own traditions, the traditions and beliefs associated with Nowruz are also different. Even despite being celebrated at the same time, they have different names. In different regions of the Turkic world, we encounter different names for Nowruz. Some of these names, which show the richness of Turkic culture, can be listed in alphabetical order as follows: “Baba Marta”, “Bahor Bayrami”, “Bashay”, “Bash Bahori”, “Bozkurt”, “Cilgayak/Yilbaÿy”. , “Chagan”, “Resurrection”, “Ergenekon”, “Freedom Day”, “Solstice”, “Spring Festival”, “Freedom”, “March 9th”, “Mereke”, “Mesir Festival”, “Meyram”, “Nevruz/ Novruz/ Noy-nuzu”, “Sultan Nevruz/ Sultan Navriz/ Sultan Mevriz/ Nevruz-i Sultani”, “New Year/ New Year”, “Ulustin buyuk kuni/Ulus kuni”, “Awakening”, “Early Summer Festival”, “Yengikün”, “Rebirth”, “New Day”, “New Life”, “New Year”, “Nomad Festival”, etc.



Below, the traditions associated with Navruz are compared and illustrated in tables using the example of Central Asian countries:

<p>Uzbekistan</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nowruz is celebrated on March 21; ❖ Hashar is organized on Saturdays before Nowruz; ❖ On Navruz, sports such as köpkari, kurash, and cockfighting are organized; ❖ On Navruz, people go on holiday and various theatrical performances are organized; ❖ People visit each other's homes to congratulate each other and check on the health of the elderly and sick; ❖ The Navruz table is set. Seven dishes starting with the letter "S" are placed on the table: sumalak, halim, kok samsa, hamsa; ❖ Graves are visited;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Throughout the day, various folk songs, poetry readings, and entertainment are organized.
<p>Turkmenistan</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nowruz is celebrated on March 21; ❖ The Navruz table is set and dishes such as kulcha, borak, katlama, Turkmen patiri, chalpak, sumalak, and pilaf are prepared for it; ❖ There is a belief that the more food there is on the table, the more blessed the new year will be; ❖ There is a tradition of several families gathering together to prepare sumalak the day before Nowruz, and it is distributed on the morning of Nowruz; ❖ On the day of Navruz, various performances are organized and celebrated with entertainment.
<p>Kyrgyzstan</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ There is a tradition of burning pine branches on Nowruz and circulating their smoke around their homes; ❖ Fires are lit in courtyards and squares, and people, young and old, jump from the flames. It is believed that fire drives away evil and gives strength; ❖ The Nowruz table is set, and sumalak and Nowruz goja are served; ❖ On Nowruz, various events are organized and celebrated together.
<p>Kazakhstan</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nowruz is celebrated on March 21; ❖ Everywhere, the hives are organized and cleaned; ❖ There is a tradition of wearing new clothes on Nowruz; ❖ People organize festivals and sing poems and songs; ❖ Dishes such as fried meat, beshbarmak, pilaf, kulcha, katalma, and Navruz gojasi are served on the Navruz table; ❖ On Navruz, competitions such as tug-of-war, wrestling, and horse races are organized; ❖ On Nowruz, sacrifices are made; ❖ A fire is lit in the field and people



	<p>jump over it;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ They congratulate each other and exchange gifts.
<p>Azerbaijan</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nowruz is celebrated on March 21; ❖ Hashar is organized across the country before Nowruz; ❖ On Nowruz, people traditionally give each other gifts and new clothes; ❖ On Nowruz, people go from house to house and sing folk songs; ❖ Cemeteries are visited; ❖ During the day, people go to markets and make various purchases; ❖ There is a tradition of everyone gathering in the square towards evening, lighting a fire, making an intention, and jumping from it; ❖ Various entertainment events are organized on the square; ❖ A festive table is prepared, decorated with painted eggs, cakes, fruits, and a jug filled with seeds and water prepared 15 days before the holiday is placed in the center of the table.
<p>Iran</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nowruz is celebrated on March 21; ❖ A month before Nowruz, a hashar is organized, and all places are cleaned; ❖ A few days before the holiday, people go from house to house, singing songs and reciting various poems, collecting money and various items; ❖ The day before the holiday, people go to the market and make various purchases; ❖ On Nowruz, fires are lit in the squares and people jump from them; ❖ Cemeteries are visited; ❖ There is a tradition of sending gifts and greetings to engaged girls on Nowruz; ❖ A horse race is organized; ❖ After dinner at the festival, seven types of dried fruits are eaten; ❖ On the Nowruz table, along with the



	<p>food, the Quran and seven types of dried fruits are placed in the middle of the table;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ On the morning of Nowruz, intentions are made by eating dates;❖ On Navruz, various entertainments are held and events are organized;❖ Nowruz is celebrated for thirteen days.
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Conclusion. Navruz is not a holiday belonging to just one nation, but rather a common holiday of all Turkic peoples with historical and rich values. The traditions associated with celebrating Navruz are almost the same. It is a grand celebration that calls people to goodness, purity, and mutual solidarity. At the heart of each tradition are elements that encourage only goodness, purity, and good deeds. For people, the arrival of spring has long been the arrival of a New Year, a new day, and the beginning of new dreams and hopes. For this reason, Navruz was welcomed with anticipation. Although Navruz is celebrated with different traditions in different places, it is a holiday of goodness that brings joy and happiness to everyone. Regardless of where and when Navruz is celebrated, it has survived to this day and is celebrated with high spirits. In some countries, Nowruz is celebrated as a holiday of the arrival of spring, in others it is a day of awakening and creation of all beings. In some, it is a day when goodness enters the earth, in others it is a symbol of nature emerging from winter and abundance. In some cases, this holiday is the emergence of nature from nothingness, winter and sleep, into existence, its revival and integration with nature. We must preserve, develop and preserve the holiday of Nowruz, which is invaluable for all Turkic nations, in all its subtle aspects.

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