



BERDAQ: LITERARY HERITAGE AND MODERN SIGNIFICANCE

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Abstract

This article examines the spiritual, social, and cultural significance of the literary legacy of Berdaq (Berdaq Qarg‘aboy o‘g‘li), a prominent representative of Karakalpak literature, in the context of modern society. The study focuses on the key themes of humanism, social justice, patriotism, moral responsibility, and enlightenment reflected in his poetic works. It highlights Berdaq’s role as a народный poet who voiced the concerns, aspirations, and ethical values of his people. The article demonstrates that Berdaq’s literary heritage remains relevant today as an important source of moral education, national consciousness, and social awareness, particularly for the younger generation.

Keywords: Berdaq, literary legacy, Karakalpak literature, humanism, patriotism, moral values, modern society.

INTRODUCTION

In the history of Karakalpak and broader Turkic literature, the literary heritage of Berdaq (1827–1900) occupies a distinguished and influential position. He was not only a talented poet but also a socially engaged thinker whose works deeply reflected the moral, social, and cultural realities of his time. Berdaq’s poetry emerged from the lived experiences of the people, addressing their struggles, hopes, and aspirations with sincerity and moral clarity. As a result, his literary legacy represents a unique synthesis of artistic expression, ethical reflection, and social criticism.

Berdag’s creative activity developed in a historical period marked by social inequality, political instability, and economic hardship. These conditions shaped his worldview and inspired him to use literature as a means of expressing protest



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against injustice, defending human dignity, and promoting moral values. Through his poems and epic works, Berdaq articulated ideas of fairness, freedom, enlightenment, and responsibility, positioning literature as a powerful tool for social awareness and moral transformation[1:7].

In the modern era, characterized by rapid globalization and cultural change, the study of national literary heritage has gained renewed importance. While globalization facilitates intercultural dialogue and access to global knowledge, it also poses challenges related to the preservation of national identity, traditional values, and historical memory. In this context, Berdaq's literary legacy serves as a vital cultural resource that helps maintain continuity between past and present, reinforcing ethical principles and national consciousness. A scholarly analysis of his works allows modern readers to better understand how literature can contribute to moral education, social cohesion, and cultural resilience.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODS

Berdag's literary heritage has been the subject of extensive research by scholars of Karakalpak and Uzbek literature. Academic studies have examined various aspects of his works, including their social orientation, ethical content, artistic features, and historical significance. Researchers have emphasized Berdaq's role as a народный poet who expressed the collective consciousness of his people and addressed pressing social issues such as injustice, oppression, poverty, and ignorance.

Scholars have also focused on the poetic language and stylistic features of Berdaq's works, noting their simplicity, clarity, and close connection to oral folk traditions. His poetry is characterized by emotional depth, moral conviction, and a strong sense of social responsibility, which distinguishes him as a key figure in the development of Karakalpak written literature.

This study employs the following research methods:

- Historical and literary analysis;
- Comparative and logical analysis;
- Literary text analysis;
- Generalization and systematization.



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These methods make it possible to examine Berdaq's literary legacy in a comprehensive manner and to assess its relevance in contemporary social and cultural contexts.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

One of the central themes in Berdaq's literary heritage is social justice, which functions as a core ethical and philosophical principle in his poetic worldview. His poetry consistently exposes various forms of social inequality, openly condemns oppression, and firmly defends the rights, dignity, and moral worth of ordinary people, particularly those who occupy marginalized positions in society. Berdaq does not depict the suffering of the poor and oppressed merely as individual misfortunes or personal tragedies; rather, he interprets them as the direct outcome of unjust social, economic, and political structures that govern society. By adopting this broader social perspective, the poet shifts the focus from individual fate to collective responsibility, emphasizing that inequality and injustice are systemic problems requiring moral awareness and active response. Through his critical and humanistic approach, Berdaq underscores the ethical obligation of society as a whole to recognize social injustice, to challenge oppressive conditions, and to strive toward a more equitable and humane social order[2:33].

Closely connected to this theme is Berdaq's strong commitment to humanism. His works promote compassion, empathy, and respect for human dignity, regardless of social status. Berdaq views the human being as the highest value and calls for moral integrity, honesty, and responsibility in both personal and social life. These humanistic ideas resonate strongly with modern ethical principles and continue to provide moral guidance for contemporary readers.

Patriotism occupies a significant place in Berdaq's poetry. His love for his homeland is expressed through deep concern for the fate of his people, their cultural heritage, and their future. Berdaq does not present patriotism as mere emotional attachment; rather, he links it to active responsibility, moral duty, and social engagement. His works encourage readers to protect national values, preserve cultural traditions, and contribute to the well-being of society.



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In modern times, when issues of cultural identity and national consciousness are increasingly important, Berdaq's patriotic ideas remain highly relevant. His poetry helps strengthen a sense of belonging, historical awareness, and respect for national heritage, particularly among young people.

Berdag strongly advocated for enlightenment and education as essential conditions for social progress. He viewed ignorance as one of the main obstacles to justice and development and believed that knowledge and moral education could transform both individuals and society. In his works, enlightenment is closely linked to ethical improvement, social responsibility, and civic awareness. This educational dimension of Berdaq's literary legacy makes his works particularly valuable for modern educational systems. His poetry can be effectively used to promote critical thinking, moral reflection, and social consciousness among students, contributing to their holistic development[3:17]. By integrating personal morality with social responsibility, Berdaq's literary heritage offers a comprehensive model of ethical behavior. His works demonstrate that individual virtue cannot be separated from concern for society and the common good. Berdaq encourages readers to cultivate honesty, courage, and compassion while actively engaging with social issues and contributing to collective well-being.

As a result, his literary legacy supports the formation of morally grounded, socially responsible citizens who are capable of participating thoughtfully in social life and contributing to the development and cohesion of their community and nation.

Berdag's works possess not only artistic and aesthetic value but also profound educational and cultural significance. The ethical ideas reflected in his poetry—humanism, justice, patriotism, and enlightenment—serve as guiding principles for the moral education of young people. His literary heritage continues to be included in educational curricula, academic research, and cultural activities, ensuring its transmission to future generations[4:25].

Cultural events, literary evenings, and scholarly conferences dedicated to Berdaq's legacy further demonstrate its enduring relevance. Through these activities, his works continue to shape ethical awareness, strengthen national identity, and promote cultural literacy in modern society.



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CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Berdaq's literary legacy represents an invaluable cultural and moral resource that embodies high ethical, artistic, and educational values. His works address fundamental human and social issues, promoting justice, human dignity, patriotism, and enlightenment. Studying and promoting Berdaq's literary heritage is essential not only for literary scholarship but also for the moral and cultural development of society.

In the context of globalization and cultural transformation, Berdaq's works help preserve national values, reinforce cultural identity, and educate younger generations in the spirit of social responsibility and moral integrity. Therefore, the systematic study and dissemination of his literary legacy remain an important task for modern literary studies and educational practice.

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