

"ARBAIN" AS A MASTERPIECE REPRESENTATIVE OF RELIGIOUS LITERATURE

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Abstract:

This article explores the significance of Alisher Navoi's "Arbain" as a masterpiece of Religious Literature, focusing on its blend of spiritual and artistic elements. It discusses the structure, themes, and impact of the collection, highlighting Navoi's skillful use of religious words to convey profound insights into human emotions and experiences.

Key words: Alisher Navoi, Arbain, religious literature, poetry, Islamic motifs, Sufism, Persian literature, spiritual enlightenment, cultural traditions, linguistic heritage, human condition, divine love.

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Alisher Navoi, well-known 15th-century Central Asian poet and scholar, left an unrepeatable mark on the world of literature with his profound works that professionally blended the spiritual world with the artistic world. Among his notable contributions is "Arbain," a collection of forty poems (40 hadis), which not only presents Navoi's poetic expertise but also serves as a fascinating exploration of the role of religious words in literary texts.

The term "Arbain" translates to "forty" in English, signifying the collection's structure of containing forty individual poems. Navoi composed these poems in the form of ghazals, a classical Persian and Urdu poetic form characterized by rhyming couplets and a recurring refrain. From English literature, psalms are best alternative for this beautiful work– religious poems that are written to glorify God, appraisal for Creator. Psalms are mainly used when referring to the Jewish and Christian bibles and the Book of Psalms. Most have been dated to between the 9th and 5th centuries BC. They were, scholars believe, composed over a total of five centuries at least. The introduction of "Arbain" starts with "Bismillahir rohmanir rohiym" – means "In the name of the kind and merciful God". In and of itself we can state that this work is about religious concepts, and author is giving here deep description of Allah`s features

The content of "Arbain" covers a wide range of themes, including love, spirituality, mysticism, and the human condition, but mainly limitless power of Allah, endless beauty of him is described in a professional way. Navoi's poetry often draws upon Islamic and Sufi motifs, reflecting his deep engagement with the religious and cultural traditions of his time. Through his verses, he explores the complexities of human emotions and experiences, employing rich imagery and metaphors to convey profound insights.

"Arbain" is considered one of Navoi's masterpieces and has had a lasting impact on Persian and Central Asian literature. It shows his mastery of language, his skillful use of

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poetic devices, and his ability to evoke a sense of beauty and transcendence through his words. The collection continues to be studied, admired, and appreciated by scholars, poets, and readers alike for its enduring relevance and timeless beauty. [2, 45]

Central to Navoi's "Arbain" is the exploration of religious themes and motifs. Drawing upon the rich cultural and religious beauty of his time, Navoi weaves together verses that reflect the teachings of Islam, Sufism, and the broader spiritual traditions of the region. Through his poetry, he dives into concepts such as love, devotion, faith, and the quest for spiritual enlightenment, often employing religious terminology to convey deeper meanings.

Navoi's use of religious words in "Arbain" is masterful and multifaceted. He skillfully incorporates Arabic and Persian terms, taking from the linguistic heritage of Islamic scholarship, to imbue his verses with layers of meaning and resonance. These words carry not only their literal definitions but also evoke a sense of reverence, mysticism, and transcendence, enriching the reader's experience.

Furthermore, Navoi employs religious words not merely as linguistic devices but as vehicles for conveying profound insights into the human condition. Whether describing the ecstasy of divine love or the agony of spiritual longing, his use of religious vocabulary adds depth and poignancy to his poetry, inviting readers to contemplate the mysteries of existence and the nature of the divine. [6, 71]

To fully appreciate the role of religious words in Navoi's "Arbain," it is essential to consider the cultural and historical context in which these poems were composed. Central Asia during Navoi's time was a vibrant crossroads of civilizations, where Islam intersected with various indigenous traditions and where Persian literature flourished as a lingua franca of intellectual and artistic expression.

In this context, religious language served not only as a means of expressing devotion but also as a marker of cultural identity and intellectual sophistication. Navoi, presenting this rich heritage, skillfully incorporates religious words into his poetry, thereby enriching his verses with layers of cultural significance and poetic resonance.

The legacy of Alisher Navoi's "Arbain" extends far beyond the boundaries of his own time and place. His innovative use of religious words in literary texts has inspired generations of poets and scholars, leaving an indelible imprint on the development of Islamic literature and culture. In contemporary times, Navoi's influence can be seen in the works of poets and writers who continue to explore the intersections of religion, language, and literature. His "Arbain" remains a timeless masterpiece, inviting readers to delve into the depths of spirituality and poetic expression. [1, 4]

The following stanza is the first of the work "Arbain":

"Yo rabbi, abad, zindanim bar qatarda,
Kov kafirni sevab izlab ur qatarda."

This stanza represents Navoi's initial theme of love, faith, and attendance. This verse begins with the expression "Yo rabbi", the mother of the masses of Islamic enlightenment. The word "Rabbi" comes with the meaning "by the river" and even though it is the 10th day of the month of Muharram, the word "Rabbi" is taken before the Day of Judgment. Here, Navoi mentions the great god, his destiny, the back of man, the one who created and continues.

Then Navoi writes, "Yo rabbi, abad, zindanim bar qatarda" and mentions the search for the king of the cave. The expression "Yo rabbi, abad" was used to talk about a person's residence in the world and in the past. The word "dungeon" represents the place of man in the created world. The search for the king of the cove represents an effort to fulfill one's worldly and worldly demands and problems. It is in a powerful and well-read lecture that the continent expresses its views on the life and goals of man.

In general, this continent represents Navoi's theme of love and faith, and is an important continent for coordinating his thoughts. [5,12]

"Hudoni do'st zulfin abru

Nur tozi, imon tozi yo"

This quatrain stanza is decorated with Navoi's applications representing love to the Lord and religious concepts. It illuminates the intricacies of love and divine, bright and divine rays.

"Hudoni" is a word that presents traces from the holy place of love, and "dost zulfi" is a concept that represents the dream and love of friends. "Abr" is defined by pure and delicate rays, it refers to the purity and subtleties of life, the divine, enjoyable process of the soul. [4,3]

In the last line, "Nur tozi, imon tozi yo" line uses religious words to add the greatness of love and faith. "Nur" is the enjoyment of love, the storehouse of light and divine light, and "faith" is a religious meaning that expresses love and faith. This continent represents Navoi's interrelated, divine and subtleties of love and faith. Here the religious words confirm and attach the greatness of love and faith.

This quatrain is decorated with applications that express the delicacy and majesty of love and faith. Navoi's ways of expressing love and religious concepts are an expression of his masculinity and femininity for his poetry.

Alisher Navoi's "Arbain" stands as a testament to the enduring power of literature to transcend boundaries and illuminate the human experience. Through his masterful use of religious words, Navoi invites readers on a journey of spiritual discovery, weaving together threads of faith, love, and longing into a tapestry of poetic beauty. In doing so, he enriches not only the literary landscape of his own time but also leaves a lasting legacy that continues to inspire and resonate with readers today.

In conclusion, ever-pure love toward God is beautifully depicted in "Arbain" and concepts given in this work have been a reliable base for several writers to create their religious literary worlds.

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