

## THE USE OF RELIGIOUS LEXICAL UNITS IN UZBEK FOLKLORE

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### *Abstract:*

This article analyzes the use of religious lexical units in Uzbek literature themes of kindness, redemption, and spirituality, enriched with religious elements and moral teachings.

*Key words:* Uzbek, folktale, Grateful Dead Man, kindness, redemption, spirituality, religious elements, moral teachings, afterlife, compassion, forgiveness, gratitude, hospitality, blessings, generosity.

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Uzbek folktales are a treasure trove of cultural heritage, offering a glimpse into the rich asset of Central Asian traditions and beliefs. Embedded within these narratives are elements deeply rooted in Islamic culture, reflecting the profound influence of religion on the collective imagination of the Uzbek people. In this article, we embark on a journey to explore the significance of Islamic religious words in Uzbek folktales, discussing the intricate connections between faith, folklore, and identity.

Religion has always played a central role in shaping the cultural landscape of Uzbekistan. With Islam being the predominant faith, its influence extends beyond the realm of worship to permeate various aspects of daily life, including storytelling. Uzbek folktales serve as vessels through which religious concepts, values, and symbols are transmitted across generations, embodying a fusion of faith and folklore.

### *Language and Symbolism*

Words hold immense power in Uzbek folktales, serving as conduits for spiritual meanings and moral teachings. Islamic religious words such as "Allah," "Prophet Muhammad," and "Quran" are imbued with profound symbolism, evoking reverence and awe. These words serve as reminders of divine presence and guidance, infusing the narratives with a sense of sacredness and moral clarity.

Central to many Uzbek folktales are moral lessons derived from Islamic teachings. Stories often revolve around themes of justice, compassion, and humility, echoing the ethical principles espoused by the Quran and the Hadith. Through the adventures of protagonists grappling with moral dilemmas, folk narratives convey timeless wisdom passed down through generations, fostering a sense of moral responsibility and social cohesion.

Islamic religious words in Uzbek folktales often serve as triggers for divine intervention and miracles. Characters invoke the name of Allah in times of adversity, seeking solace and divine assistance. Miraculous events unfold, demonstrating the power of faith and the benevolence of the Creator. These narratives reinforce the belief in the unseen and the miraculous, instilling hope and resilience in the face of challenges. [3, 67]

### *Rituals and Traditions*

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Uzbek folktales also reflect the rituals and traditions associated with Islamic culture. Customs such as prayer, fasting, and pilgrimage are woven into the fabric of narratives, depicting the importance of religious observance in daily life. These portrayals from folklore emphasize the importance of spiritual rituals in achieving divine proximity and fostering religious devotion.

#### Cultural Identity and Heritage

The incorporation of Islamic religious words in Uzbek folktales serves to reaffirm cultural identity and heritage. These narratives serve as repositories of collective memory, preserving the legacy of Islamic civilization in Central Asia. By celebrating the rich tapestry of faith, folklore, and tradition, Uzbek folktales reinforce a sense of pride and belonging among the Uzbek people, fostering cultural continuity amidst the winds of change. [2, 89]

Another story revolves around an old man and his donkey. One day, while traveling through the countryside, the old man encounters various challenges and obstacles. Each time he faces a difficulty, he calmly responds with wisdom and patience, relying on his faith and trust in a higher power. While the story may not explicitly mention Islamic teachings, its themes of wisdom, patience, and reliance on a higher power resonate with Islamic principles of faith and resilience.

"Alpamish" serves as a rich masterpiece of Uzbek folklore, where religious lexical units are seamlessly woven into the fabric of the narrative, enriching the story with layers of meaning and cultural significance. Through its portrayal of heroic deeds, moral dilemmas, and spiritual themes, the tale continues to resonate with audiences, reflecting the enduring influence of Islam on Uzbek literary tradition. [6, 45]

One Uzbek folktale that incorporates religious words and themes is "The Grateful Dead Man." This tale revolves around a deceased man who returns from the afterlife to help his family after they show kindness to a stranger. The story touches upon themes of redemption and forgiveness. The deceased man's return from the afterlife is motivated by his desire to atone for his past sins and seek redemption through acts of kindness. This aspect of the tale reflects religious teachings about the possibility of repentance and forgiveness. The concept of gratitude plays a significant role in the story. The deceased man expresses his gratitude towards the family for their kindness, and in return, he becomes a source of blessings and assistance to them. This emphasizes the importance of gratitude in attracting blessings and goodwill. The tale introduces elements of the afterlife and spiritual realms, suggesting a belief in the continuity of existence beyond death. The deceased man's temporary return from the afterlife serves as a supernatural element in the story, reinforcing religious beliefs about the soul's journey beyond physical life. [1, 12] Throughout the tale, religious words and phrases are used to emphasize moral and spiritual themes. These words may include prayers, blessings, or expressions of faith that underscore the religious context of the story within Uzbek culture.

In the intricate web of Uzbek folktales, Islamic religious words emerge as threads that bind together faith, folklore, and identity. Through these narratives, the spiritual heritage of Uzbekistan is passed down from generation to generation, transcending time and space. By unraveling the significance of these words, we gain insight into the profound interplay between religion and culture, illuminating the enduring legacy of Islamic civilization in the heart of Central Asia.

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