

KARAKALPAK FOLKLORE

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Annotation: *The folklore of the Karakalpak people, especially its epic poems, proverbs, and oral narratives, is one of the most important sources reflecting its historical, cultural, and social life. This article analyzes the various genres of Karakalpak folklore and their connection to the people's ethical values, history, and culture. In particular, it highlights the significance of the epic "Jahansha," proverbs, and the meaning of folk prose, demonstrating how concepts such as hard work, justice, and kindness are expressed. Research emphasizes the importance of studying the richness of Karakalpak folklore and its role in uniting the people.*

Keywords: *Karakalpak folklore, epic poems, proverbs, oral tradition, folk prose, scientific research, national culture, historical values.*

The folklore of the Karakalpak people is a major ancestral treasure that encapsulates their historical, cultural, and ethical heritage. The epic poems, proverbs, and oral narratives of the Karakalpak people are important not only for reflecting the history and culture of a specific era but also for portraying the people's modern life, their hopes and dreams, and their ethical values.

The epic poems of the Karakalpak people, such as the epic "Jahansha," feature ancient themes of heroism and wisdom. This epic highlights the people's history, their striving for justice, victory, and goodness. The writing and preservation of the "Jahansha" epic holds great significance in understanding Karakalpak culture and history. These epic poems not only depict heroic events but also reflect the social structure, daily life, aspirations, and desires of the people. Additionally, proverbs in Karakalpak folklore are an unparalleled tool for expressing the wisdom and ethical values of the people in concise and meaningful phrases. For example, the proverb "Whoever finds the eyes of labor, finds the essence of happiness" emphasizes the importance of hard work and how it leads to happiness. Other proverbs, such as "A lazy person is a guest in their own home" and "A lazy person has two friends, one is sleep, and the other is laughter" criticize laziness and encourage action and responsibility.

Karakalpak folk prose also has its own significance. Oral traditions provide the opportunity to describe the social layers, historical events, and lifestyle of the people. The scientific works of scholars such as N. Dawqaraev, K. Ayimbetov, and O. Kojurov have contributed to the classification of Karakalpak prose and its deep analysis.

These academic studies have played a vital role in demonstrating the diversity of Karakalpak folk prose and analyzing it scientifically.

Karakalpak folklore not only reflects the history of the people but also encapsulates their ethical values, worldview, and social environment. Folk works, particularly epic poems and proverbs, summarize the emotional state, ethical norms, and outlook on life of the people. These works, as cultural heritage, are not only significant for the Karakalpak people but also for the entire Central Asian and Turkestan peoples, reflecting their cultural unity and mutual influence.

Studying the collected and scientifically analyzed examples of Karakalpak folklore plays a crucial role in preserving the people's historical and cultural heritage, strengthening their national identity, and transmitting values to future generations. Folklore serves as an effective means of conveying the people's history, traditions, and values. This process is essential in satisfying the Karakalpak people's spiritual needs and ensuring these traditions are passed on to future generations.

Moreover, the study of Karakalpak folklore also contributes to the development of the arts, education, and culture. The oral tradition of the Karakalpak people helps deepen their connections with international cultures, enriching them with new ideas and perspectives. Today, Karakalpak folklore, through scientific research, serves as an important tool for teaching the younger generation about the people's history and culture and preserving national heritage.

The "Qirq qiz" epic is one of the important epics of the Karakalpak people, reflecting patriotism, love for the homeland, and the spirit of heroism. In this epic, the themes of love for the land, fighting for the homeland, and protecting the interests of the people are clearly expressed. The courage, selflessness, and devotion to the people's interests of the heroes deeply impact the hearts of many.

It is evident from the epic that the heroes fight to protect their homeland and its people. Loving the land and the people who inhabit it, standing against difficulties, and ensuring the freedom of the people are the main themes of the epic. In general, this epic serves as a powerful example of patriotism, as it reflects deep love and loyalty to the future of the state, the respect, and dignity of its people.

The epic, with its structure and profound philosophy, encapsulates literary values, presenting the spiritual education and moral views of the people. Through love for the homeland and heroic actions, the protection of the freedom and independence demanded by the people is portrayed. In fact, this epic demonstrates that it still retains its relevance today.

Filled with historical figures, the fate of the Karakalpak people, and important lessons for future generations, the "Qirq qiz" epic is a true legacy that shows our people's loyalty to their homeland and the spirit of heroism.

CONCLUSION

Studying Karakalpak folklore through its epic poems, proverbs, and folk prose is not only important for academic purposes but also for cultural and spiritual reasons. Collecting and scientifically analyzing these works and passing them on to future generations plays a crucial role in preserving and developing the cultural heritage of the Karakalpak people. Karakalpak folklore serves as a priceless treasure that helps shape the people's national identity and preserves their ethical values and worldview.

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