

VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS OF THE STORIES OF PROPHET NOAH (PEACE BE UPON HIM) AND PROPHET MOSES (PEACE BE UPON HIM) IN UZBEK LITERATURE

Oliya Zayliyevna Bo'riyeva

Master's Student, Asia Technologies University

E-mail: buriyevaoliya@gmail.com

Tel: +99897-875-03-04

ABSTRACT: This article analyzes the literary interpretations of the images of the Prophets Noah (peace be upon him) and Moses (peace be upon him) in Uzbek literature, their artistic representation, and the influence of these narratives on the development of national literature. In particular, through the classical tradition of *Qisas al-Anbiya*, narrative chronicles in classical works, and Sufi metaphors, the semantic content, artistic forms, and socio-spiritual functions of these two prophetic figures are explored. The study applies the methodology of Uzbek literary studies, and the results are obtained through historical-analytical and comparative research methods.

Keywords: Uzbek literature, Noah (peace be upon him), Moses (peace be upon him), *Qisas al-Anbiya*, classical literature, Sufism, artistic interpretation.

Introduction

The literary heritage of Uzbekistan represents a complex literary system in which Islamic culture and national traditions are harmoniously integrated, and within this system, the narratives of prophets play a significant artistic role. The tradition of "*Qissas al-Anbiya*" (Stories of the Prophets), formed on the basis of Arabic-Persian Islamic sources, constitutes an essential component of Eastern classical literature. Drawing upon the Qur'an and religious narrations, the stories of Prophet Noah (peace be upon him) and Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) have been expressed in various literary genres.

These narratives not only convey religious and moral teachings but also enrich the aesthetic potential of the Turkic-Uzbek literary language. For example, in the stories of Noah, the symbolic meaning of the Ark is extensively explored, while in the narratives of Moses, the motifs of faith and freedom are prominently emphasized. These aspects have significantly contributed to the richness of their interpretations within Uzbek literature.

Methodology

The article is conducted within the framework of a structured literary analysis. The main methods employed include:

1. **Historical-literary analysis** – examining the initial forms of prophetic images in classical literary works.
2. **Artistic interpretation** – analyzing narrative texts through metaphors, symbols, and expressive devices.
3. **Comparative approach** – identifying similarities and differences between the motifs of the stories of Noah and Moses.

Results

Literary Interpretation of Prophet Noah (peace be upon him)

The narrative "*Qissai Nuh Nabi alayhissalom*" occupies a stable thematic position in Uzbek classical literature. Through scenes such as Noah's life in the Ark and his dialogues with Satan, the symbolism of the flood as a metaphor for the human spiritual condition is revealed. In this narrative, Noah's Ark symbolically represents the process of moral purification and redemption.

For instance, the episode concerning the disappearance of grape seeds by Satan serves as a moral warning against alcoholism — functioning as an ethical lesson within the framework of the classical narrative genre [3].

In texts related to *Qissas al-Anbiya*, the story of Noah is typically presented as that of one of the earliest prophets and embodies the motifs of life, destruction, and salvation [5].

Literary Interpretation of Prophet Moses (peace be upon him)

In the narratives concerning Prophet Moses (peace be upon him), the themes of liberation, the struggle against Pharaoh, and the essence of faith take precedence. In works such as "*Ilahinama*", stories related to the image of Moses are extensively analyzed, transforming him not merely into a historical figure but into a symbol of moral ideals [2].

According to Islamic narrations, the process of leading the oppressed people out from under the tyranny of Pharaoh constitutes the central plot of Moses' story. In literary representations, this plot expresses the steadfastness of faith, the value of freedom, and loyalty to innate human nature (*fitrah*) [4].

Analysis and Discussion

The interpretation of prophetic narratives in Uzbek literature is not merely a retelling of religious stories; rather, it represents an artistic expression of collective consciousness, historical memory, and socio-spiritual values. In particular, the narratives of Prophet Noah (peace be upon him) and Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) have been reworked in diverse literary contexts and have acquired distinctive artistic interpretations in different historical periods. This analysis critically examines the artistic structure of these two narratives, their expressive devices, symbolic elements, and their moral and social functions within Uzbek literary tradition.

Artistic Structure of the Narrative of Prophet Noah

The story of Prophet Noah occupies a prominent place in Uzbek literature and is widely depicted in classical sources, especially in *Qissasi Rabg'uziy*. In this classical prose work, the narrative of Noah forms one of the central sections and is organized into several chapters that combine biographical episodes, artistic detail, and psychological reflection. The structure of the story is not limited to a simple chronological account; rather, it integrates spiritual experience, moral struggle, and dramatic climax.

One of the most significant symbolic elements in the literary structure of Noah's narrative is the Ark. The Ark functions as a powerful metaphor for the spiritual journey of humankind: resistance against disbelief, perseverance in faith, steadfastness in the face of oppression, and eventual salvation. Within the artistic framework, the Ark transcends its physical dimension and becomes a symbol of inner refuge and divine protection.

Folk traditions have preserved and expanded these symbolic motifs. For example, in the well-known "Story of the Grapes," the episode in which Satan interferes with the cultivation of grapes and attempts to corrupt their purpose symbolizes the moral trial of humanity. The three stages of watering the grapes and their transformation into an intoxicating substance metaphorically illustrate human spiritual weakness and the struggle between temptation and faith. Such narrative elaborations enrich the prophetic story with folkloric imagination and ethical instruction.

Animal imagery also plays a significant role in the artistic design of Noah's story. Episodes such as the mouse gnawing through the Ark or the snake offering unexpected assistance symbolically depict the complex relationship between humanity and the natural world. These elements are layered with moral implications: the mouse may represent hidden trials or internal weaknesses, while the snake's assistance symbolizes unforeseen support in times of crisis. Through these narrative devices, the text conveys moral lessons in an accessible and memorable form.

Another essential feature of the narrative is its metaphorical expression. Noah's prolonged call to his people—traditionally described as lasting centuries—culminates in the great flood, which functions as the ultimate test of faith and patience. While the Qur'anic account provides the foundational plot, Uzbek literary interpretations expand upon it through imaginative detail, psychological nuance, and dramatic emphasis. The flood becomes not only a historical event but also a universal metaphor for moral purification and renewal.

Structural and Plot Analysis of the Narrative of Prophet Moses

The narrative of Prophet Moses likewise constitutes an important component of the historical-literary tradition. In classical Uzbek literature, especially in works such as *Qissasi Rabg'uziy*, the story of Moses is structured around themes that resonate strongly with contemporary literary analysis: confrontation with tyranny, firmness of belief, and the struggle for freedom. The narrative unfolds across multiple chapters, depicting Moses' conflict with Pharaoh, his mission to liberate his people, and his role as a spiritual leader.

In artistic terms, the story of Moses foregrounds social dimensions more explicitly than the narrative of Noah. Whereas Noah's story emphasizes endurance and salvation, Moses' story highlights liberation and collective emancipation. The confrontation with Pharaoh symbolizes not only personal faith but also the spiritual independence of an entire community. Thus, the narrative functions as an allegory of resistance against oppression and the pursuit of justice.

Literary interpretations often enrich the plot with symbolic motifs such as crossing the sea—a powerful image of transition from bondage to freedom. This episode represents a transformation both physical and spiritual. The sea becomes a metaphorical boundary between tyranny and liberation, despair and hope. Through this imagery, the narrative emphasizes faith as a dynamic and transformative force capable of reshaping historical destiny.

The dialogues between Moses and Pharaoh further intensify the dramatic structure. These exchanges articulate ideological opposition: arrogance versus humility, tyranny versus divine guidance. The dialogic form allows the author to present moral arguments in vivid and emotionally compelling ways, enhancing the narrative's persuasive power.

Symbolic Language, Metaphor, and Dialogue

In Uzbek classical literature, prophetic narratives are frequently conveyed through symbolic language and metaphorical expression. Animal imagery, natural phenomena, and mythopoetic elements serve as metaphors for psychological and ethical realities. In Noah's narrative, creatures such as the mouse or the snake embody aspects of human character and moral testing.

Dialogue constitutes another significant artistic device. In folkloric adaptations like the "Story of the Grapes," conversations between Satan and Noah dramatize inner moral conflict. Dialogue transforms abstract ethical concepts into dynamic interactions, making the narrative emotionally engaging and pedagogically effective.

Similarly, in Moses' narrative, metaphor and symbol operate on both personal and collective levels. The struggle with Pharaoh, the miracles performed before the people, and the crossing of the sea all function as layered symbols of faith, perseverance, and social justice. Through these techniques, abstract concepts such as belief, patience, freedom, and resistance to oppression are embodied in concrete artistic images.

Socio-Spiritual Context and Psychological Impact

Prophetic narratives in Uzbek literature serve not only as didactic material but also as instruments for shaping collective moral consciousness. They preserve traditional values while reinterpreting them within changing historical contexts. The story of Noah stimulates reflection on personal faith and moral steadfastness, while the story of Moses inspires contemplation on justice, social responsibility, and liberation.

These narratives deeply influence the psychology of the reader. By presenting moral trials in dramatic form, they encourage identification with the protagonists and internalization of ethical principles. The symbolic richness of the texts enables readers to perceive timeless moral truths within culturally specific frameworks.

Conclusion

In Uzbek literature, the figures of Prophet Noah (peace be upon him) and Prophet Moses (peace be upon him) have been interpreted across various literary genres. The narratives about Noah explore themes such as the inner world of the human being, spiritual purification, and salvation, whereas the stories of Moses express the ideas of freedom, justice, and the struggle against oppression. These narratives have not remained merely as stories derived from religious

sources; through literary analysis, they have become an integral part of the national cultural heritage. This tradition demonstrates that Uzbek literature is enriched with Eastern philosophical thought and moral values.

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