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### **THE IMAGE OF ALISHER NAVOI IN CONTEMPORARY UZBEK DRAMATURGY: THE SPIRITUAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE CREATIVE PERSONALITY**

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#### **Annotation**

This article examines the image of Alisher Navoi in contemporary Uzbek dramaturgy, focusing on the spiritual and philosophical interpretation of the creative personality. It analyzes how modern playwrights reinterpret Navoi not only as a historical figure, but as a universal symbol of moral responsibility, intellectual depth, and artistic integrity. Special attention is given to the dramatic representation of Navoi's inner world, his ethical choices, and his relationship with society and power. Through dramaturgical analysis, the study reveals how Navoi's image serves as a medium for expressing modern concerns about the role of the intellectual, the mission of art, and the continuity of national and cultural values in the context of globalization.

**Keywords:** Alisher Navoi, contemporary Uzbek dramaturgy, image of the creator, creative personality, spiritual and philosophical interpretation, national identity, moral responsibility, intellectual figure, dramatic art.

In contemporary Uzbek literature, dramaturgy occupies a special place as a genre that directly reflects social consciousness, historical memory, and philosophical reflection through stage action and dialogue. One of the most significant tendencies of modern Uzbek dramaturgy is the renewed interest in historical



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personalities, particularly outstanding creators who shaped the spiritual and cultural foundations of the nation. Among such figures, Alisher Navoi stands as an unparalleled symbol of intellectual depth, moral responsibility, and creative perfection. His image in modern drama is not limited to a biographical or historical reconstruction; rather, it becomes a philosophical and spiritual model through which contemporary playwrights explore the mission of the artist, the relationship between creativity and power, and the enduring values of national identity.

The reinterpretation of Alisher Navoi in contemporary Uzbek dramaturgy reflects the broader cultural processes of post-independence Uzbekistan, where historical heritage is revisited in light of modern realities. In this context, Navoi is portrayed not merely as a poet of the past, but as a timeless embodiment of ethical integrity, humanism, and intellectual freedom. The dramatic image of Navoi serves as a medium for addressing urgent questions: What is the role of the creative personality in society? How should an intellectual respond to injustice and moral crisis? Can art remain independent under political pressure?

This article aims to analyze the spiritual and philosophical interpretation of Alisher Navoi's image in contemporary Uzbek dramaturgy. It examines how modern playwrights conceptualize Navoi as a creative personality whose inner struggles, ethical choices, and social responsibility resonate with the concerns of the present age [1].

Alisher Navoi occupies a central position in the cultural consciousness of the Uzbek people. Historically known as a poet, thinker, statesman, and patron of arts, Navoi represents a synthesis of creativity, wisdom, and public service. In classical literature, his legacy is primarily associated with poetry and philosophical prose, but in modern dramaturgy, his image expands into a multidimensional dramatic character. The philosophical significance of Navoi



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lies in his conception of humanity, justice, and spiritual perfection. His works emphasize the moral duty of the individual, the value of knowledge, and the pursuit of inner harmony. These ideas make Navoi particularly relevant to contemporary dramaturgy, which seeks to address existential and ethical dilemmas faced by modern society.

In drama, Navoi becomes a symbolic figure through whom playwrights articulate philosophical reflections on time, power, and morality. His historical distance allows dramatists to create a dialogue between past and present, using Navoi's voice to comment on contemporary issues without direct didacticism. This symbolic function transforms Navoi into a timeless intellectual archetype [2].

One of the defining features of contemporary Uzbek dramaturgy is its focus on the inner world of the creative personality. Unlike traditional historical dramas that emphasize external events, modern plays prioritize psychological depth and moral conflict. In this regard, Alisher Navoi's image is particularly suited to dramaturgical exploration. Modern dramatists portray Navoi as a thinker torn between personal creativity and public duty. His role as a statesman places him within the structures of power, while his identity as a poet demands intellectual independence. This duality becomes a central dramatic conflict, highlighting the tension between artistic freedom and political responsibility.

Through dialogue and monologue, Navoi is often depicted reflecting on the purpose of art and the responsibility of the intellectual. His creative process is shown as a form of spiritual struggle, where poetic inspiration is inseparable from ethical commitment. This portrayal aligns with contemporary philosophical views that regard creativity as a moral act rather than a purely aesthetic endeavor [3].

A recurring theme in contemporary dramas featuring Navoi is the relationship between the creative personality and political authority. As a historical figure who



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held a high position at the court of Sultan Husayn Bayqara, Navoi's life provides a rich context for exploring this complex dynamic. In modern dramaturgy, Navoi is often shown navigating the moral challenges of serving power while maintaining intellectual integrity. Playwrights emphasize his attempts to use authority for the benefit of society, promoting education, justice, and cultural development. At the same time, they do not idealize his position, instead highlighting the ethical dilemmas inherent in proximity to power [4].

This dramatic interpretation resonates strongly with contemporary audiences, for whom the question of intellectual independence remains *aktyal*. Navoi's image becomes a mirror reflecting modern concerns about censorship, conformity, and moral compromise. Through his character, dramatists assert that true creativity cannot exist without ethical courage.

Spirituality occupies a central place in the dramatic representation of Alisher Navoi. Contemporary playwrights focus on his inner conflicts, portraying him as a deeply introspective figure engaged in constant self-examination. His spirituality is not depicted as abstract religiosity, but as an ethical orientation grounded in compassion, humility, and responsibility toward others. Dramatic scenes often present Navoi in moments of solitude, where he reflects on the transient nature of power and fame. These moments serve as philosophical pauses within the dramatic structure, allowing the audience to engage with Navoi's inner voice. His reflections on human destiny, justice, and divine wisdom elevate the drama from historical narrative to philosophical discourse [5].

Such portrayals emphasize that Navoi's greatness lies not only in his literary achievements, but in his spiritual resilience. His ability to maintain moral clarity amid political intrigue and social tension positions him as an ideal model of the creative personality. In the context of independent Uzbekistan, the image of Alisher Navoi acquires renewed significance as a symbol of national identity and



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cultural continuity. Contemporary dramaturgy uses Navoi's figure to reaffirm the historical roots of Uzbek intellectual tradition and to articulate a vision of national values grounded in humanism and enlightenment. By dramatizing Navoi's life and ideas, playwrights contribute to the construction of a collective cultural memory. Navoi is presented not as a distant historical monument, but as a living presence whose ideas remain relevant. His commitment to the Turkic language and his efforts to elevate it to the level of classical literary expression are often emphasized as acts of cultural self-assertion. This national dimension does not diminish the universal aspects of Navoi's image. On the contrary, modern dramas portray him as a bridge between national heritage and universal human values, demonstrating that true cultural identity is compatible with openness and dialogue [6].

One of the most important artistic strategies in contemporary Uzbek dramaturgy is the use of philosophical time. Playwrights often transcend linear historical chronology, allowing Navoi to speak across centuries. This temporal flexibility creates a dialogue between the past and the present, making Navoi's reflections resonate with modern realities. Through symbolic scenes and metaphorical language, dramatists connect Navoi's era with contemporary social and moral challenges. Issues such as justice, corruption, the responsibility of leadership, and the role of the intellectual are presented as timeless problems. Navoi's responses to these challenges offer philosophical guidance rather than concrete solutions. This approach transforms historical drama into a form of philosophical theatre, where the audience is invited to reflect on its own ethical position. Navoi's image thus becomes a catalyst for critical self-examination [7].

The portrayal of Alisher Navoi in contemporary Uzbek dramaturgy is supported by innovative artistic techniques. Playwrights employ poetic dialogue, symbolic imagery, and introspective monologues to convey the complexity of his character.



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The language of the drama often echoes Navoi's own poetic style, creating an intertextual connection between classical literature and modern theatrical expression. Symbolism plays a crucial role in shaping Navoi's image. Objects such as books, manuscripts, and architectural spaces are used to represent knowledge, memory, and spiritual continuity. These symbols reinforce the philosophical depth of the drama and enhance its aesthetic impact.

At the same time, modern dramaturgy avoids excessive idealization. Navoi is portrayed as a human being with doubts and vulnerabilities, making his moral achievements all the more meaningful. This balanced approach allows audiences to identify with him not as an unreachable hero, but as a relatable intellectual striving for ethical perfection.

Beyond its artistic value, the image of Alisher Navoi in contemporary dramaturgy fulfills an important educational and moral function. By presenting Navoi as a model of ethical creativity, playwrights contribute to the formation of cultural and moral consciousness, particularly among younger generations. The dramatic portrayal of Navoi encourages viewers to reflect on their own responsibilities as citizens and intellectuals. His commitment to truth, justice, and compassion serves as an ethical benchmark in a rapidly changing world. In this sense, dramaturgy becomes a space for moral dialogue rather than mere entertainment. This educational dimension aligns with broader cultural policies aimed at strengthening national values while fostering critical thinking. Navoi's image thus functions as both a cultural symbol and a moral guide.

The image of Alisher Navoi in contemporary Uzbek dramaturgy represents a profound spiritual and philosophical reinterpretation of the creative personality. Modern playwrights move beyond historical narration to explore Navoi's inner world, ethical struggles, and intellectual使命. Through dramatic language and symbolic representation, Navoi emerges as a timeless figure whose ideas and



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values resonate with the challenges of the present. As a creative personality, Navoi embodies the unity of artistic freedom and moral responsibility. His dramatic image addresses fundamental questions about the role of the intellectual in society, the relationship between creativity and power, and the preservation of cultural identity in a globalized world. By engaging with Navoi's legacy, contemporary Uzbek dramaturgy not only honors the past, but also articulates a vision of ethical creativity for the future. In this sense, Alisher Navoi's image remains a living source of spiritual inspiration and philosophical reflection, confirming the enduring relevance of his legacy in the cultural and intellectual life of modern Uzbekistan.

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