ABSTRACT

of the thesis prepared by Kerimbek Zhylbek Senbekuly on the topic «System of religious images in Turkic and Kazakh literature (end of the 19th - beginning of the 20th century)» to receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the specialty «6D021400 - Literary Studies».

General characteristics of the research. The religious and educational trend of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is characterized by its active nature. It describes the various political and social situations and events experienced by the Kazakh people at that time. Attention is paid to the ideas of pursuing spiritual and moral ideals that were intertwined with the fate of the people of that era, the religion of Islam, the lives of the companions and prophets, and the peculiarities of teaching and developing the people in knowledge and education through the true path of Allah. It is known that the religious and educational trend in the history of Kazakh literature did not open for a long time. The main reason for this is obviously the colonial policy of Russia, which it carried out for 70 years. It is known that Tsarist Russia carried out missionary work in the Kazakh steppe in order to implement its policy. In the second half of the nineteenth century, Russian-style schools were opened in the Turkestan Governorate of the Russian Empire in South Kazakhstan and Central Asia for this purpose. These schools were established by the authorities of these regions with the aim of establishing the Russian worldview and order among the local peoples and curbing the influence of Islam. It is not for nothing that the first Russian-style school was opened in Shymkent in 1874. In Tashkent, the Russian-language school was opened in 1884. Based on such political and historical circumstances, we decided to examine the works of book poets [a poet who wrote a book] who lived in the late the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries on a special scientific and theoretical basis.

Relevance of the research work. Until our country gained independence, the topic of religion was not raised. Despite the pressure of the Soviet government, fairy tales were passed down from mouth to mouth, written down, and preserved in manuscript collections in Arabic letters. Fairy tales, published in printing houses in the cities of Kazan, Ufa, and Tashkent before the revolution, were kept in the archives of libraries and in the collections of rare manuscripts, gathering dust, and some have survived to this day. Now we have come to the point where we can try them with our own hands. Many of them were published in 100 volumes in the «Words of the Ancestors» series, thanks to the M. Auezov Institute of Literature and Art within the framework of the «Cultural Heritage» program. During the Soviet era, due to the strict prohibition of religion, religious epics were not published anywhere. The religious epics published within the «Words of the Ancestors» series still require research. It is known that these epics, written in the style of oriental «nazira», were widely distributed in Central Asia and Southeast Asia at that time. Therefore, we set out to search for and compare examples of these epics in other countries.

The purpose of the research work: to study and reveal the nature of the artistic and cognitive world of demonological stories, religious epics, and other religious images in Kazakh literature published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, based on the scientific basis of today's literary studies.

The objectives of the research work:

– to describe the Islamic worldview in religious works, to study religious images;
– to compare and study religious stories and epics spread in the Kazakh steppe with their examples in other countries, both far and near;
– to show the religious and educational motives in religious works by promoting morality and Islamic religion, and in praise and prayer poems;
– to compare and consider religious images in Kazakh literature with examples in other Turkic-speaking countries;
– to analyze the epics of literary poets and «zhyrau» written on the basis of the Quran and the sermons and hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad.

The level of research on the topic of the dissertation. It is worth noting that religious epics were not scientifically studied until the 1990s, and their texts were not included in scientific circulation. At that time, except for the occasional comments made by A. Bokeykhanov, A. Baitursynov, S. Toraigyrov, M. Auezov, S. Mukanov, B. Kenzhebayev, M. Gabdullin, A. Konyratbayev on the epics, there was no extensive scientific research. After gaining independence, opinions and conclusions regarding the epics were expressed in the scientific works and monographs of Z. Akhmetov, R. Berdybay, S. Kaskabasov, O. Kumisbayev, A. Kyraubaeva and other scientists. A. Kyraubaeva wrote a monograph entitled «Eastern Epics». In this study, we will analyze religious epics and prose works published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, based on the works of these researchers.

Object of research. The literary heritage of poets and gypsies who lived in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, various studies and opinions of scientists, documents from libraries and archives, and our experience in scientific and pedagogical practice were used as sources. The epic poem «Zhumzhuma-nama» by the Persian poet Fariaddin Attar, the epic poem «Zhumzhuma Sultan» by the Turkic poet Husam Katib, and several prose works written in Arabic, English, Persian, Chagatai, and Kazakh about «Zhumzhuma Patsha» of unknown authorship are used.

Research methods. In accordance with the goals and objectives of the dissertation work, narrative, comparative-historical, historical-genetic, typological, and systematic-functional methods were used.

Theoretical (methodological) foundations of the research work. The dissertation work is guided by the basic principles of literary studies. It uses comparative analysis and synthesis methods in literary studies. We used the works of famous writers, scientists Sh. Ualikhanov, A. Baitursynuly, Kh. Dosmuhammeduly, A. Bokeikhanov, M. Auezov, A. Margulan, B. Kenzhebayev, A. Konyratbayev, R. Berdybayev, S. Kaskabasov, U. Kalizhanov, Sh. Ybrayev, B. Azibaeva and other scientists as a theoretical basis.

The main sources of the research work. The book collections of the manuscript department of the M.O. Auezov Institute of Literature and Art, the scientific and technical library of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the National Library collections in Almaty and the National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan were used. The library of Gazi University in Ankara, the Republic of Turkey, the electronic library collection and materials of scientific centers in the states of Tatarstan, Uzbekistan, Bashkortostan were used as a basis.

Scientific novelty of the research work. The topic of religious images has been considered in domestic literary studies before. However, this work proves the relevance of its comprehensive and systematic study. The main scientific innovations of this research are:

– religious epics were scientifically formulated, and the concept of «book poets» was explained;

– several texts related to the study (in Persian, English, Chagatai) were first introduced into scientific circulation;

– the relationship of religious epics with other samples of oral literature was clarified and comprehensively analyzed;

– the features of religious images common to the Turkic world were revealed and compared;

– the deep content and significance of the system of religious images formed within the framework of the interaction of Turkic and Islamic civilizations were clarified.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research work. The dissertation forms a theoretical basis for analyzing the spiritual and cultural uniqueness of the Turkic peoples and their religious connections through fiction. The results of the dissertation can be used as additional material for the disciplines of literary studies, folklore studies, Turkic studies, cultural studies, and religious studies.

Main results and conclusions proposed for defense. The following conclusions are proposed based on the results of the dissertation:

– religious images in religious, demonological stories that were widespread in pre-Islamic times were analyzed and systematized;

– considering that the Torah of Judaism, the Bible of Christianity, the Avesta of Zoroastrianism, and the Quran of Islam are not only holy books, but also great works of written culture and world literature, the influence of their stories and tales on Turkic and Kazakh literature was analyzed;

– literary theoretical conclusions were presented by classifying religious images in terms of typology, function, and artistic role;

– despite the early penetration of Islam into Central Asia, the Volga and Ural regions, the appearance of Islam in the Turkic written monuments that have come down to us is observed only from the 10th-11th centuries. In this regard, the history of Turkic literature was considered to be divided into two periods: pre-Islamic and Muslim;

– Quran and its ideological principles, plots, motifs, images and general style were a source and model for medieval authors. Many monuments of Turkic verbal art are to some extent connected with the holy book of Muslims, the Quran. For example, the works of authors of the 13th-14th centuries: Yusuf Balasagun, Mahmud Kashgari, Kul Gali, Rabguzi and others were created on the basis of stories and images of the Quran. Religious images in those works were used as examples.

Approbation of the research results. The main conclusions presented in the dissertation were presented at an international, republican scientific-practical conference, and an article was published in collections and scientific journals. The work was discussed at the Scientific Council of the M. O. Auezov Institute of Literature and Art and presented for defense. 10 articles were published on the research topic. Among them, in the magazine presented by the Quality Assurance Committee in the field of Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan - 3 («Bulletin of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan» magazine); 6 articles were published at scientific and practical conferences, 1 article was published in «Milli Folklor» Turkish magazine included in the «Scopus» magazine database:

1. Religious dastan, common to the Turkic peoples // International scientific and practical conference «Modern journalism and the legacy of Al-Farabi», KazNU named after Al-Farabi, Almaty, April 13, 2015. - P. 110-113.
2. The poem of Abai «Eskendir» and religious poems // International scientific and practical conference «Abai of humanity: literary heritage and problems of Abai studies», Semey, 2015. June 12-13, pp. 359-364.
3. The influence of the image of «Eskendir» on Eastern literature // International scientific and theoretical conference «State language policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the national idea in Kazakh literature», Almaty, KizNPU, 2015, October - pp. 117. -121.
4. The influence of Yassawi on Turkish literature: religious dastans // Proceedings of the international scientific symposium «Khoja Akhmet Yassawi and Yusip Has Hadjip», Almaty, 2016. October 28-30, pp. 213-218.
5. Religious images in literature: the image of «Eskendir» // International scientific conference «Science and Civilization», Great Britain, London, January 30 - February 7, 2016. - P. 18-21.
6. Religious dastans banned by the Soviet government // Bulletin of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Series «Social and Humanitarian Sciences», Almaty, 2016, 2 (306), March-April, pp. 294-298.
7. The religious image of «Qubas» in world literature // Bulletin of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Series «Social and Humanitarian Sciences», Almaty, 4 (308), July-August 2016. - P. 77-81.
8. Representation of the image of «Yusip-Zyliha» in literature. // Bulletin of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Series

«Social and Humanitarian Sciences», Almaty, 4 (314), July-August 2017. - P. 132-135.
9. The appearance of the surah «Yusip» in the Koran in Kazakh literature. // Collection of materials of the international scientific and practical conference «Philological science in the space of modern education: traditions and innovations», KazUPP named after Abai, Almaty, December 22, 2022. - P. 260-263.
10. Korkut'un Destansı Mirasının İncelenmesinde Yeni Meseleler: Sahtecilik ve Sahte Değiştirmeler.// Konyratbay T., Kerimbek J., Darkembayeva A., Bekmoldinov N., Sultanova M. - Milli Folklor, Cilt: 18, Sayı: 138, (2023). DOI: 10.58242/millifolklor.1072507

Structure and scope of the thesis. The structure of the dissertation was created according to the set goals and objectives. The research work consists of introduction, three chapters, conclusion, a list of references. and appendices. The total volume is 124 pages.