

ABAI and HIS RELATIONS with WESTERN LITERATURE

Haldun Vural
Dean Philology Faculty
Süleyman Demirel University

Abai who is a genius philosopher and a great poet was born in 1, in Shingistav, in Abai region of Semei oblast. His father was Kunanbai, his grandfather was Oskenbai, his grand-grandfather was Argysbai, and they were leaders and honorable men of their tribe. Kunanbay had seven sons; Kudayberdi, Tangyrberdi, Abay, Iskak, Ospan, Kaliollah (who died at a young age), Ismagul. Besides his grandmother Zere, and his mother Uljan, his father had a great influence on Abai's education. His father sent his son to first Gabdulcabbar's, then to Ahmet Rza's madrasahs when he was ten. He studied Arabic and Persian languages and theological sciences very well and deeply in madrasah. Abai met and learned about the works of Nizami, Sadi, Firdausi, Hafiz, Novai, Fuzuli who were the classical poets of the east, and folk tales, and epics. When he was at the last course of madrasah he attended to "Prihodskaya School", which was a public school, and learned Russian language in three months. His father Kunanbay began to teach him how to behave in society, how to be a good leader when he was thirteen. And this helped young and clever Abai to understand the society, and its traditions deeply. While he was with his father, he met many leaders, and poets of Kazakh steps and this increased his experience a lot. Then he studied the works of western and eastern philosophers himself, and as a result this increased his ability as a poet, so he developed his poetry.

The idea of Abai's works was very close to that of classical Russian writers such as Pushkin, Lermontov, Tolstoy, and European writers such as Byron, Goethe, Dumas, and Sir Rabindranath Tagore. His ideas of a balanced life of human beings in his poetry and prose directed him to the Creator (Allah):

Allah degen söz jenil
Allağa auz kol emez
Intaljürek şın konil
Özgesi Hakka jol emez.

When Allah created the world he did not create it as a place of cruelty and evil. This world was created for human beings because without them it is impossible to have harmony and unity. According to Abai's idea, the most beautiful creature is human being. And human's soul and body is a combination of beauty and a balance of inside and outside of a person. A man must use his mind, and his knowledge to love humans, art, science, and to deepen himself spiritually. In his "Nature Lyrics" Abai describes the marvelous beauty. Nature is the environment where people spend their lives. Most poets on the world have written about this theme. The first poem of Abai about nature is "Jaz" (Summer) (1886). In this poem Abai speaks about the green pasture, flowers on it, women joking each other and pitching tents, horsemen tending flocks, in short the original life of a Kazakh village. In his poem "Ks" (Winter) (1888) he depicts the winter as an old man. This kind of poetry was introduced first only by Abai. He describes winter as an awful thing coming to serene steps. He says winter is a father-in-law whose breath is freezing and snowy. This metaphor explains Abai's skill in poetry and realistic ideas.

Kazakh people respected him a lot and as a result they called him Abai. Abai is

the most tragic poet in Kazakh literature. He was very little understood by people at that time.

Özim de baska şaup, töske örledim
Kazakka kara sözge des bermedim
Enbegndıbilerlik eş adam jok
Tübnde tniş jürgendi teris körmedim.

For the first time Abai introduced philosophy to Kazakh poetry. His poems written at the end of the 1th century reached to the peak of realistic poetry in 1th century. His only treasure is his people, art, and his spiritual richness. Rollan Seysenbayev says that: "Abai is great because he penetrated to people's poetry, and he gave a new and wide meaning to life, love, and death."

He studied world literature deeply, and he memorized thousands of lines of Arabic, Persian, and Russian poets. As a great poet, Abai studied and felt the world in his heart, and reflected his own feelings and ideas in his poetry.

People have understood the greatness of Abai after they read his novel "Abai Jol" (Abai's Path). Mukhtar Auvezov showed that Abai is a classical poet, and there is a new and fresh life his realistic poetry. All great poets introduced their philosophies to their poetry. There is no other Kazakh poet except Abai who synthesizes the eastern and the western ideas and reflected them in their poetry. Abai combined the characteristics of eastern and western poetry, and had a very deep humanitarian synthesis. Abai developed the eastern and western synthesis of great German poet Goethe, and placed this synthesis in the idea of Kazakh people. This was against nationalistic ideas, and Euro centric colonialism. Last researches have proved Abai's being a great poet. For that reason he deserves an important place among the important leaders in literature.

Түйін

Бұл мақала қазақ халқының ұлы ойшылы Абай Құнанбайұлының өмір жолы мен әдеби шығармашылығына арналады. Абай лирикасының батыс мәдениетімен өзара сабақтастығы жан-жақты қарастырылады.

Резюме

В данной статье рассматривается жизненный и творческий путь великого мыслителя казахского народа Абая Кунанбаева. Также показан преемственность лирики Абая с западной культурой.

Özet

Bu makalede Kazakistan'n büyük şairi Abay Kunanbayev'in hayatiile edebi eserleri ve Batıedebiyatıile ilişkileri incelenmiştir.