

THE HISTORY OF CREATION AND ARTISTIC FEATURES OF ALISHER NAVOI'S "HAYRAT UL-ABROR" AND GEOFFREY CHAUCER'S "THE CANTERBURY TALES"

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Abstract: This article examines the history of the creation and artistic features of Alisher Navoi's Hayrat ul-Abror and Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales, two outstanding works of medieval Eastern and Western literature. The research explores the socio-cultural and literary environments in which these masterpieces were composed and analyzes their structural, thematic, and stylistic characteristics. Special attention is paid to the role of moral and didactic ideas, the use of narrative techniques, characterization, symbolism, and artistic imagery in both works.

Key words: Alisher Navoi, Hayrat ul-Abror, Geoffrey Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales, comparative literature.

Introduction

Medieval literature occupies a significant place in the cultural heritage of both the East and the West. Among the masterpieces of this period are Alisher Navoi's Hayrat ul-Abror ("Wonder of Good People") and Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales. Although these works emerged in different geographical, cultural, and linguistic environments, they reflect common concerns about human morality, social relations, justice, and spiritual perfection. Both authors sought to portray human life through artistic means while conveying philosophical and ethical ideas. The study of these works from a comparative perspective contributes to a deeper understanding of medieval literary traditions and the universal values embodied in world literature.

Hayrat ul-Abror was written by Alisher Navoi in 1483 as the first poem of his celebrated Khamsa ("Quintet"). Inspired by the tradition established by the Persian poet Nizami Ganjavi and later developed by Amir Khusraw Dehlavi, Navoi created his own version of the Khamsa in the Turkic language. The work consists of a series of chapters discussing moral, philosophical, religious, and social issues. The poem was composed during the Timurid Renaissance, a period marked by remarkable achievements in science, culture, and literature in Central Asia. Navoi intended not only to demonstrate the expressive power of the Turkic language but also to provide moral guidance for society. Through numerous anecdotes and stories, he addressed topics such as justice, honesty, generosity, wisdom, and the responsibilities of rulers and ordinary people alike.

The Canterbury Tales was written by Geoffrey Chaucer in the late fourteenth century, approximately between 1387 and 1400. The work emerged during a period of significant

social transformation in England, characterized by the decline of feudalism, the growth of urban life, and the increasing importance of the middle class. Chaucer conceived the work as a collection of stories told by a group of pilgrims traveling from London to Canterbury to visit the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket. This framing device allowed the author to present a wide variety of characters representing different social classes, professions, and moral viewpoints.

One of the most remarkable features of Hayrat ul-Abror is its didactic and philosophical character. The work combines poetic beauty with ethical instruction, creating a synthesis of art and moral education. Navoi employs rich symbolism, metaphors, allegories, and rhetorical devices to convey complex ideas in an accessible manner. The structure of the poem consists of discussions on various moral topics followed by illustrative stories. These stories function as practical demonstrations of the principles discussed in the preceding sections. Such an arrangement enhances the educational impact of the work.

Another important artistic feature is Navoi's use of imagery. Concepts such as justice, knowledge, generosity, and humility are presented through vivid and memorable images. The poet frequently employs contrasts between good and evil, wisdom and ignorance, or justice and tyranny to reinforce his moral message.

Chaucer's artistic achievement lies primarily in his realism and characterization. The pilgrims are portrayed as complex individuals rather than symbolic figures. Each character possesses distinct speech patterns, social backgrounds, and personal motivations, making them realistic representations of medieval society. The frame narrative structure is another significant artistic feature. By allowing different characters to tell stories, Chaucer creates a diversity of genres, including romance, fabliau, saint's legend, beast fable, and moral tale. This variety enriches the work and demonstrates the author's literary versatility. Humor, irony, and satire play crucial roles in *The Canterbury Tales*. Chaucer frequently exposes hypocrisy, greed, corruption, and social injustice through subtle irony rather than direct criticism. His balanced portrayal of both virtues and flaws reflects a sophisticated understanding of human nature. The use of vernacular English further enhances the realism of the text. The language reflects everyday speech and contributes to the authenticity of the characters and situations presented in the tales.

Despite differences in genre, structure, and cultural background, Hayrat ul-Abror and *The Canterbury Tales* share several important characteristics. Both works focus on human behavior and moral values. They seek to educate readers while simultaneously entertaining them through engaging narratives. Both Navoi and Chaucer demonstrate a deep concern for justice, honesty, and ethical conduct. Their works criticize moral corruption and encourage virtuous living. Furthermore, both authors use storytelling as an effective means of communicating philosophical and social ideas. However, significant differences also exist. Hayrat ul-Abror is primarily didactic and philosophical, emphasizing moral instruction and spiritual development. In contrast, *The Canterbury Tales* focuses more on realistic representation of society and individual character. Navoi often presents ideal models of

behavior, whereas Chaucer portrays ordinary people with all their strengths and weaknesses.

Conclusion

Alisher Navoi's Hayrat ul-Abror and Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales are outstanding monuments of medieval world literature. Created in different cultural environments, both works address universal questions concerning morality, society, and human nature. Through their artistic mastery, Navoi and Chaucer succeeded in producing works that transcend their historical contexts and continue to attract scholarly attention today. A comparative examination of these texts reveals both shared humanistic values and distinctive literary traditions. While Navoi emphasizes ethical perfection and spiritual wisdom, Chaucer focuses on the realistic depiction of social life and individual character. Together, these masterpieces illustrate the richness and diversity of medieval literary thought and demonstrate the enduring relevance of literature as a reflection of human experience.

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