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Zayniddin Ashirovich Bozorov
Bukhara State Medical Institute
Teacher

Gulnoz Yarashevna Samandarova
Bukhara State University
Teacher

IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENT OF LEGENDS AND TRADITIONS IN THE NOVEL “SHAYTANAT” BY TOHIR MALIK

Abstract: Arabian word “shaytan” (devil) according to dogmas of Islam and Christianity means executor of the evil spirits, symbol of evil. He is not only the pioneer of evil belonging to the Earth, but also dark power tempting people to sin. Fantastic view of devil has come to Islam from ancient Semitic beliefs and notions. According to Islam, devil was created from fire by God. Then, due to disobedience, he was sentenced to stoning (type of capital punishment), but God has delayed punishment to check people’s loyalty. For that reason, devil still tries to distract people from their aims in order to pay their attention to evil.

Key words: Novel, legends, traditions, ideology, human values, humanity.

Language: English

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Introduction

The novel “Shaytanat” by Tohir Malik starts with the description of problems related to human values such as conscience, shame, honor, pride and dignity. A literary critic of the novel Murod Mansur told that “every line, every page of the novel tell not about temporary feelings, but great and spiritual values of people like life and death, honor and conscience. But at the center of such values there are unique, strong individuals, whose image grows up among readers in a period of time”.

Analysis.

“For centuries we are said that human cannot be enemy for human. The only enemy of a person – devil! The main weapon of evil spirit is gluttony and greed. Hence, we should try to find enemy not outside, but inside our soul”, said the author of the novel Tohir Malik.

The author concentrates on the characters of the novel, who are insatiable and greedy people, for whom power at the priority. Being greedy, they will

not stop. For them, everything that differentiates human beings from animals is strange.

There is no doubt that having read that novel, people would start thinking of their life, estimating their deeds and trying to defeat their “inner” shaytan.

This is spiritual power of the novel, which is illustrated by the deeds of greedy people.

Describing creatures of the world “Shaytanat”, the author pays attention to their cunning, knavery, craftiness, by provoking hate to them. Hate is doubled when a reader is convinced that there is no end to their inhuman and brutal deeds; there is nothing holy in them except for their personal profit.

It should be pointed out that Tohir Malik tries to involve national notions and beliefs, traditions while depicting “The world of devils”, which is always ready for violence, greed, villainy and filth.

Shown traditions in the novel serve as destiny to humaneness. That is said by witch doctors Abdurahman, Moshtabib and Abdulhamid, the son of Asadbek who are the members of the world

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“Shaytanat”. That compositional structure enhances educational power of the novel.

“According to beliefs, once upon a time, the place, where ant lived, was rich in food. Abundance of food and beautiful life led ant to obesity. One day he saw birds in the sky and he wanted to fly, as well. In order to achieve his goal, he dreamed of wings. Suddenly, his dream was realized and he started flying. However, being overweight, he could not fly high. From that height, it was enough for birds to see him. And he appeared to be easy prey for birds...”

Discussion.

It is easy to get for readers the moral of that citation, which means that dream is obstacle for another dream. There is measure for dreams, as well. In other words, unreal dreams may often lead to bad end.

It should be remembered that dreams of the granny (from Pushkin’s fairytale “The Tale of the Fishermen and the Fish”) who wanted to be the head not only of the earth, but also water.

Another legend narrated by Xudoyarhon, the teacher of Abdulhamid Abdusamad, makes us think of the meaning of life.

“The old and repented cat wrote a letter to mice: I realize that I created many difficulties for you during my life. For compensation, I would like to organize feast for you before my death. Welcome!”. Mice did not believe her and decided to ask a wiseman for advice. He advised: “Never believe any word of the cat. Although people tend to believe that leopard changes his spots, the cat will never change. Try to avoid her and her grave”. But mice did not listen to him and came to the feast. The cat ate mice...”

As there is no new and old friend, there is no also major and minor enemy. So, in that life people should be cautious when it comes to making friends. A mistake will definitely lead to tragedy. We should not only believe our closest and nearest, but also check them. As it is said, seven times measure cut once. The bright example is the history about mice.

On the way to hospital, the character Moshtabib Zahidu narrated a national legend: “Fariddin Attar has a legend: “There was a law in one country. Every governor should rule for the country for ten years, but then he was forced to move to desert island.

The next governor continuously cried. Then he was asked by his assistant of the reason for crying. He answered that he did not want the fate of his ancestors. After ten years of beautiful life, there will be a period of torment and misery. For his happiness, the assistant appeared to be a wise man. He advised to his governor: “Your majesty, provided that you show your brilliance during your ruling, there is no doubt that an island will appear to be a paradise for you. Hence, you should think of your foreseeable future”.

The characters of the novel are allegoric. The governor is every individual. His assistant is his conscience. The boat in which governors are to be sat is grave. The sea is allegoric to the crowd of people bringing coffin. Being left on the island without clothes is a symbol of being buried without clothes (according to Islamic ritual). Abandoned island is afterlife or other life. It can be happy only in case of heroic deeds accomplished by people.

Assistant says that people should not be overwhelmed with their profit, they should not forget to make create and make generous deeds. Otherwise, they would be sentenced to judgement.

That legend is helpful as it makes us see in the past, think and weigh our deeds.

If it is late to correct mistakes, it is better to share with other people with our experience because it may also be recreated.

Abdulhamid, the son of Asadbek, before his death, with difficulties with his speech narrated a legend to his father, which says that “among hundred of his graces, Allah left ninety nine with him, but granted only one to people in order to make all of inhabitants on the Earth be generous to each other. The vivid example is horses who go carefully on earth in order not to harm their child...”

Everyone knows that horses never step on either on rider, nor their child.

The power of word of Tohir Malik is expressed in the way that he is quite aware of legends, traditions and notions, and uses them in appropriate way in the novel “Shaytanat”.

The ability of author to describe eastern education should also be taken into consideration. The son of Asadbek could not speak freely to his father even before his death, saying nothing about his refuse from the world “Shaytanat”. He limited his speech with the belief.

Conclusion.

It is tremendously difficult to describe all the core of the novel “Shaytanat” in one article. Depicted legends, beliefs and traditions in the novel urge people to generosity and compassion which is a great human feeling. Besides, the novel “Shaytanat” by Tohir Malik will always stay the favorite book of readers for the reason that it continues establishing simple truths – “what goes around comes around”; crime will never stay without punishment, while kindness without award. In other words, he is never tired to despise greed, gluttony, cunning, knavery, craftiness, meanness and abomination in people.

On the other hand, with great pleasure the author honors heroism, justice, kindness and compassion in people, which elevate people above the eyes of those around us.

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