

Traces of Memory of sufi Yasavi in the Culture of Kazakstan

Laura Urazbekova

The greatest sufies of the Orient and the West on the memory of modern culture are famous poets of middle ages - such as Turk Omar Khaiam, Persian Soadi, Spaniard Ibn Al-Arabi. Their mystic teachings have become more and more complicated for us in the epoch of technocracy and electronic brain predomination.

Sufies were able to foresee. Their amorous poetry, legends, anecdotes and cunning novels as well as fantasy of fairy tales of "A Thousand and One Night" represent a vivid and bright system of humanitarian knowledge and historico-moral human experience information which can be adapted to different national, religious and social structures. This system can be perceived not by electronic brain but by a human brain. No one can compare the influence of modern technical inventions on a human brain with the one of memorials of culture, let it be a word, painting architecture.

The example of this kind is the phenomenon of sufi Khodzha Akhmet Yasavi in Kazakstan. Though culture in Kazakstan was completely re-oriented to the achievements of European culture and passed through the atheistic filtre of Soviet ideology, it still preserved the traces of influence of sufi teaching of Khodzha Akhmet Yasavi.

Khodzha Akhmet Yasavi who lived in Kazakstan in the XIth century is famous now.

Information about him has been preserved on several levels.

Khodzha Akhmet Yasavi is known as :

- a religious islamic sheikh ;
- a poet, author of a mystic amorous poetic book "Divan and Khikmet", translated into Russian and Kazak languages ;
- according to mass mentality of Kazaks who used to be nomads, not so long before, he is their ancestor - protector - aruakh.

Kazaks worship burial places of their great fore fathers more than any other islamic sacred sites. This peculiar feature of mass memory of nomads was used by a great state and political leader of middle Asia and a great conqueror - Timur the Lang.

He created a famous architectural memorial - town of Samarkand. He ordered to build a magnificent mausoleum on the place where Khodzha Akhmet Yasavi had been buried. By doing this he glorified for ever not only his name and power but the memory of a great sufi Khodzha Akhmet Yasavi among the nomads of central and middle Asia.

Today the mausoleum of Khodzha Akhmet Yasavi is a lighthouse of memory and restoration of cultural traditions of sovereign Republic of Kazakstan.

Today, the magnificent architectural monument built in XIV century by Great Timur continues to play its role. It is permanent source of plastic ideas and thoughts for modern architects, artists, sculptors, painters, drawers and scientists which inspires them for theoretical investigation. A great number of works on the history of art was devoted to his memorial. Archaeologists also express a keen interest towards this memorial. It is a subject for practical scientific research in the field of restoration.

Due to revival of Islamic influence in the asian region the memorial has become the place of mass pilgrimage.

The energy of influence of the memorial is becoming stronger with the development of moral and cultural life of this region.

This influence is very exact and personal, it's of a great value.

I was so impressed by this mausoleum myself that it inspired me for the following lines.

I'll try to render the essence and meaning of this white stanza.

Oh, Khodzha Akhmet Yasavi, you've changed your light felt clothes into solemn finery made of stone. Timur - great conqueror erected this mausoleum over your body.
The best architects and artists of Asia, China, Iran, India, Samarkand and Turkestan decorated it with the blue inscriptions from the Heavens, they carved from nephrite this fine ornament. Bright tiles praise it to the skies. But you are silent, so solemn and proud, keeping secret magic signs of a true road of a human being.
Every one should dream about him while building one's own ships-baraks by word, brush, thought and deeds in the ocean of life illusion.
Now, you can see the mausoleum of Khodzha Akhmet Yasavi beaming in the miraculous distance of a stepp, towering above losses, lies, forgetfulness and temptation but believing in common sense, truth and honour.
I was standing deep in thoughts, repeating "all roads lead to sufi Akhmet Yasavi".