

**THE SYMBOLISM OF NATURE AND SEASONS IN ALISHER NAVOI'S
WORLDVIEW**

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Abstract: This article analyzes the artistic and philosophical interpretation of the theme of nature and the seasons in the works of Alisher Navoi. It demonstrates how the images of spring, summer, autumn, and winter reveal human spirituality, moral development, and social life. Through textual, comparative, and systematic approaches, the study identifies the educational and Sufi meanings embedded in natural symbols.

Key Words: Alisher Navoi, nature, seasons, symbol, Sufism, spirituality, artistic interpretation

INTRODUCTION

The works of Alisher Navoi represent one of the highest peaks of Eastern spiritual heritage, in which the theme of nature and the seasons is interpreted with profound philosophical meaning. Through natural landscapes, the poet reveals the complex relationship between the human soul, social environment, time, and divine truth. In Navoi's writings, spring symbolizes renewal and hope, summer represents maturity, autumn signifies contemplation, and winter embodies trial and patience. Thus, natural imagery is presented in harmony with human perfection.

Today, re-examining Navoi's views on nature through scientific analysis and connecting them with modern ecological culture, spiritual education, and artistic thought has become highly relevant. This article examines the artistic and philosophical interpretation of nature and the seasons in Navoi's worldview, their symbolic system, and their educational value.

The study and promotion of Alisher Navoi's heritage have been elevated to the level of state policy in Uzbekistan. In particular, Presidential Decree PQ-4865 (October 19, 2020) provided for the wide celebration of the 580th anniversary of the great poet and thinker. As a result, scientific conferences, publications, and research projects were launched, creating a solid platform for systematic and scholarly study of Navoi's legacy.

This direction was further enriched by PQ-4977 (February 4, 2021), which established the Alisher Navoi International Public Foundation, expanding opportunities for critical editions, translations, and international academic engagement. Additionally, PQ-43 (February 7, 2025), declaring the "Year of Alisher Navoi," promotes the broader dissemination of his legacy at both national and international levels and its deeper integration into contemporary spiritual life and education.

Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 10 (January 19, 2008) strengthened principles of intellectual property regulation, academic integrity, and respect for sources in literary and artistic works. Resolution No. 891 (November 6, 2017) enhanced the activities of the Alisher Navoi State Museum of Literature, promoting digitization and enrichment of archival collections. Furthermore, the Law "On Education" (No. O'RQ-637, September 23, 2020) emphasized the

study of national heritage and moral education, providing a foundation for integrating Navoi's works into educational processes.

Thus, this body of legal documents has intensified scholarly engagement with Navoi's heritage, making the study of nature and seasons in his worldview especially relevant.

Previous research on the topic primarily focuses on Navoi's life, creativity, and philosophical outlook. The textbook *"Alisher Navoi: Life and Works"* (Matyoqubova, 2009) systematically analyzes his biography and literary heritage. The international conference proceedings *"Alisher Navoi and the 21st Century"*, edited by Shuhrat Sirojiddinov, highlight the contemporary relevance of his works. The textbook *"Navoi Studies"* (2018) provides methodological foundations for the field.

Navoi's philosophical depth is particularly evident in *"Mahbub ul-Qulub"* (2018), *"Lison ut-Tayr"* (1991), and *"Nasoyim ul-Muhabbat."* These works reveal Sufi symbolism, natural imagery, and the spiritual world of humanity. C. P. W. Gammell's *"The Pearl of Khorasan: A History of Herat"* (2016) contextualizes Navoi's intellectual environment within the cultural life of Herat.

Shaxnoza Jumanova's article on natural elements in Navoi's lyric poetry and Fozilova Ogiloy's research on Navoi's views on Navruz further illuminate the philosophical and symbolic meaning of nature. Abduraimova and Ismoilov (2024) analyze the image of Khizr in Navoi's ghazals, linking it to enlightenment and spiritual journey.

Muhammad Sodiq Muhammad Yusuf's translation of the Qur'an (2018) serves as a theoretical foundation for analyzing the connection between Qur'anic natural imagery and Navoi's symbolism. Internationally, Irawan and Nasution (2020) explore the dynamics between Sufism and environmental studies, broadening interpretations of Navoi's ecological and spiritual thought.

These sources demonstrate that biographical, historical, Sufi, aesthetic, and modern approaches converge in Navoi studies, opening wide research opportunities for examining the theme of nature and seasons.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs systematic, comparative, and textual analysis methods. Selected natural images from *"Mahbub ul-Qulub," "Lison ut-Tayr,"* and *"Nasoyim ul-Muhabbat"* were analyzed within their contextual semantic layers. Symbolic imagery, metaphors, Sufi concepts, and ethical ideas were examined to reveal their interconnections.

Primary sources included printed editions of Navoi's works, electronic libraries, scholarly articles, and textbooks. Historical sources were used to reconstruct the cultural environment of the 15th century.

Content analysis identified four key variables:

Natural imagery

Ethical-ideological meaning

Sufi symbolism

Historical-contextual meaning

These variables were comparatively analyzed to determine the spiritual, educational, and philosophical dimensions of Navoi's perception of nature.

RESULTS

The study reveals that in Navoi's works, nature and the seasons form a complex artistic-philosophical system rather than simple landscape descriptions. Natural phenomena are consistently linked with human psychology, moral education, and divine truth.

Spring represents renewal and spiritual awakening; summer symbolizes maturity; autumn reflects contemplation; winter embodies patience and trial. Trees symbolize generosity, rivers represent life and benevolence, flowers signify beauty and transience, and wind conveys message and hope.

Comparative analysis indicates that under Sufi influence, nature becomes a means of understanding divine power. In "*Lison ut-Tayr*," "*Mahbub ul-Qulub*," and "*Nasoyim ul-Muhabbat*," natural elements symbolize stages of spiritual journey. Historical context shows Navoi's worldview was shaped by the cultural and intellectual atmosphere of 15th-century Herat.

Thus, nature and seasons in Navoi's poetics function as:

Artistic imagery

Ethical instruction

Sufi symbolism

Historical-cultural memory

These findings highlight the importance of studying Navoi's works in connection with modern spiritual education and ecological awareness.

DISCUSSION

The research confirms that nature and seasons in Navoi's works serve not merely as poetic decoration but as tools for understanding morality and divine truth. The initial hypothesis—that nature functions as a symbolic system explaining spiritual and ethical growth—is largely confirmed.

However, in some cases, natural imagery reflects socio-political realities and personal experiences, suggesting the need for deeper structural and dynamic studies of poetic symbolism.

Navoi transforms nature into an educational tool by associating natural elements with virtues such as patience, generosity, justice, and responsibility. This approach remains relevant for modern education and ecological culture.

Nevertheless, systematic studies specifically focused on nature and seasons in Navoi's works remain limited, indicating promising directions for future research.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that nature and seasons in Alisher Navoi's worldview form a complex symbolic system with artistic and philosophical depth. Spring, summer, autumn, and winter reflect human spirituality, moral growth, and social existence.

Natural elements—trees, flowers, rivers, wind, gardens—carry educational, ethical, and Sufi meanings beyond aesthetic beauty. Navoi presents nature as a spiritual bridge between humanity and the Creator.

The findings affirm the relevance of integrating Navoi's ecological and spiritual insights into modern educational and cultural contexts. Further research on the evolution of poetic symbolism across Navoi's works remains a promising field.

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