

THE IMAGE OF A LEADER IN THE NOVEL "YULDUZLI TUNLAR"

Ravshanov Diyorbek To‘xtamish og‘li

Student, Denov Institute of Entrepreneurship and Pedagogy

dravshanov680@gmail.com

Abstract. *Pirimqul Qodirov's novel Yulduzli Tunlar (Starry Nights) is a historical and artistic work that offers a deep literary portrayal of the leadership qualities, personality, and political activities of Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur. The novel vividly depicts Babur's rise to the throne from a young age, his political struggles, sense of justice, bravery, and human values, thus revealing his character as a leader. The author deeply expresses Babur's inner experiences, spiritual struggles, and loyalty to his people, presenting him not only as a military commander but also as a poet, scholar, and just king. This analysis helps readers gain a deeper understanding of Babur's leadership image.*

Keywords: *image of a leader, historical novel, political activity, justice, bravery, personal qualities, inner experiences, loyalty, literary depiction, leadership analysis.*

The image of a mature leader in the character of Babur

The character of Babur exemplifies what it means to be a mature and ideal leader. One of his greatest qualities is his poetic soul, which, harmonized with kindness, compassion, and justice, transforms him into a sincere leader. Even a shepherd he presumed to be an enemy was moved by Babur's poetry and set him free. This illustrates Babur's power to win hearts.

Neither kin nor stranger finds delight in me, Neither foe's approval nor the beloved's company. Though I enchant with goodness as I may, Among the people, still, they cast me away.

Babur was loyal and humble. He stood alongside his soldiers in battle, sharing their hunger and suffering in the cold. His action of helping a soldier stuck in the snow further reflects his exemplary leadership. One memorable incident reveals his humanity—he stood up to a commander who mocked a servant and comforted the young man with kind, simple words, showing his humane nature as a leader.

Moreover, Babur was courageous. When advised to flee, he refused and returned to the fortress, achieving political success. He embodied courage, justice, compassion, simplicity, and wisdom—qualities that make him a role model for modern leaders as well.

Babur's Inner Maturity and Spiritual Depth: A Model of a Historical Figure

Babur's openness in writing about his life surprised the historian Khondamir. In the next chapter, another detail caught his attention: Babur had given up drinking two years prior and had never resumed the habit. Khondamir realized how difficult this was through the following lines:

"In these past two years, the longing and desire for the wine gatherings were immense—so much so that I nearly wept from the yearning."

Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur stands out not only as a great commander and statesman but also as a person of high moral integrity. In his work *Boburnoma*, he expressed his life and inner experiences with honesty and sincerity. His reflections on quitting alcohol show his determination, strength of will, and high moral standards. Babur clearly states that he abandoned this habit two years ago and has not returned to it since, indicating his commitment to personal growth and change.

Quitting alcohol is a difficult process for many, but Babur achieved it and remained steadfast. Khondamir's amazement reflects the rarity of such personal strength. Babur's writings reveal that true maturity is measured not only by external victories but also by triumphs over one's inner world. His words:

"The desire for the wine gatherings in these past two years was immense,"

...express deep emotional struggles and sincere efforts toward self-improvement.

Babur's actions are particularly exemplary for leaders. He acknowledged his flaws and worked to overcome them. This represents personal purity, transparency, and responsible leadership—the cornerstones of effective governance. He documented significant life events honestly, without embellishment, striving to portray the truth whether in victory or defeat.

These aspects of Babur's lifestyle, his attention to internal reform, and his pursuit of spiritual development reveal him as a truly mature individual. Such qualities serve not only as characteristics of a historical figure but also as a universal example for every person.

Babur's Life Stance – An Approach with Wisdom and a Virtue Leading to Perfection

Babur first realized the importance of using cannons and rifles when confronting his ally Shah Ismail, and he mastered the use of the tulghama tactic by learning from his fierce enemies Shaybani Khan and Ubaydullah Khan.

Babur's personality stands out not only for his political and military potential but also for his commitment to self-improvement and his wise approach to life. We see that he did not observe the military experiences of his enemies, Shaybani Khan and Ubaydullah

Khan, with jealousy or hatred, but with attention, drawing necessary lessons from them. This shows that Babur was a person with an open worldview, eager to learn in any situation.

This quality is one of the most important lessons necessary for every human being in life. Babur proved in practice that one can learn even from an enemy. The enmity did not lead him to blindly reject, but to extract useful aspects. This virtue has not lost its relevance even today. Unfortunately, in modern society, people often tend to deny the positive sides of their rivals. Babur, on the contrary, valued diversity of thought and was ready to learn from anyone.

Such an approach is one that leads toward personal growth in life. Because every event, every person—even an enemy—is a school. Whoever can learn from this school can make their life meaningful and rich. This very quality makes Babur's personality exemplary for today's youth as well.

Babur's life stance aligns with modern values—open-mindedness, knowledge and experience exchange, and openness to cooperation. Today's youth, like Babur, if they can learn from both friends and rivals, and apply any experience to their lives in a useful way, they can achieve personal growth and become mature and stable individuals.

The Inner Conflict Reflected in Babur's Personality: Historical Lessons

Khondamir involuntarily recalled Herat and the complex relationship between Alisher Navoi and Husayn Bayqaro. These two figures loved each other since youth, but the king's ruthless deeds were so contrary to the poet's delicate feelings that there were times when Alisher Navoi sincerely sought to leave Khorasan and go on pilgrimage because he and Husayn Bayqaro could not live in the same city, even in the same country.

Khondamir now saw as if firsthand how a great poet and a king who could not share the same city or country were forced to live together in Babur's heart, and how difficult this made things for him.

When studying the lives of historical figures, the internal struggles they experienced often carry more significance than external political events. Especially for individuals who valued moral purity, justice, and humanity, while also bearing the complex responsibilities of state governance, their lives are rich with noble lessons. Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur is a vivid example of such deep contradictions.

In his works, historian Khondamir not only discusses Babur's political activities but also expresses profound thoughts about his inner state and spiritual torments. Despite being a skilled poet, a knowledgeable and wise person, Babur also acted as a king who had to make complex political decisions. In his heart, he sought to preserve justice, purity, and spirituality, but in practice, he was sometimes forced to act ruthlessly for the interests of the state. This led to constant internal conflicts within him.

This situation also reminds us of the historical conflict between Alisher Navoi and Husayn Bayqaro. While Navoi was an advocate of purity and justice, Bayqaro, as a ruler, was often forced to take decisive measures due to political necessities. The complex relationship between these two great figures, in fact, vividly reflects the struggle between human values and politics, between the soul and obligation.

These historical lessons remain relevant in our lives today. Behind any position or status, a person should not lose their identity or conscience. Moral purity, justice, and honor will always remain the foundation of societal progress. Therefore, we must learn from the lives of historical figures and strive to follow the path of humanity and truth in modern life as well.

Amir Temur, Shayboniyxon, and Bobur: Political and Moral Expression in Personality

In the history of the Uzbek people, three great figures who have become symbols of political leadership, moral elevation, and military courage—Amir Temur, Shayboniyxon, and Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur—are recognized not only as powerful rulers of their time but also as great personalities.

Amir Temur was a skilled commander and wise politician of his era. He took justice, courage, and insight as his main criteria. According to historical accounts, after defeating Tokhtamysh Khan, he gifted a sword to his brave son Miranshah Mirza, on which the phrase “Rosti-rosti” was inscribed. This means "Strength lies in justice" and has remained a memorable wise saying among the people to this day.

Temur’s military talent was especially evident in the battle near Khiva: he escaped an encirclement of a thousand enemies with only about sixty loyal warriors. Politically, although Temur never called himself a khan, he held real power and officially recognized the descendants of Genghis Khan as khans, demonstrating his role as a shrewd political strategist.

Shayboniyxon served the political unity of the Uzbek nation. He united various tribes and clans and promoted the idea “O‘ziga o‘zi bek – o‘zbek” (self-ruling Uzbek), marking an important stage in national self-awareness. Due to his deep knowledge of the Qur’an and mastery in recitation, contemporaries called him “Imomi zamon” (the Imam of the era). Moreover, Shayboniyxon defeated his enemies with logical, impressive, and sometimes brilliant speeches, inspiring confidence among his compatriots.

Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur holds a unique place in Uzbek literature and statecraft as a poet, historian, and statesman. He based his governance on principles of justice, construction, and humanity. In his works, Bobur openly criticized Chagatay Khan, accusing him not of bringing prosperity but devastation. His statement, “Pride in lineage is a sign of weakness!” emphasizes that a person’s true value should be reflected in their practical deeds.

Bobur is remembered in history as a ruler who communicated directly with the people and cared deeply about the lives of soldiers and common folk. Many events described in his work “Baburnama” reflect this humanitarian spirit. Even in India, he did not abandon this approach. His leadership qualities harmonized with genuine humanity.

In conclusion, Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur was not only a great commander and poet but also a people-loving leader, a profound thinker, and a possessor of noble human qualities who left an indelible mark on history. From his youth, he participated in political struggles and faced severe trials, yet never lost his loyalty to his people and homeland. In his “Baburnama,” he narrates life’s events with simplicity and admits his own shortcomings, demonstrating his honesty, truthfulness, and desire for self-improvement.

Bobur’s abstinence from alcohol, his practice of marching alongside his soldiers, and his ability to learn lessons from both friends and foes all reveal him as a great personality. He drew lessons from every event he experienced and devoted them to the welfare of his people and the prosperity of the state. Such leader figures should serve as examples for today’s youth and play an important role in shaping their worldview.

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