

SPIRITUAL AND ETHICAL EDUCATION OF ADOLESCENTS THROUGH THE ETHNO-CULTURAL VALUES IN CHINGIZ AITMATOV’S WORKS

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Annotation: *Chingiz Aitmatov, a prominent Kyrgyz writer, explores profound spiritual and ethical themes in his literary works, drawing from rich ethno-cultural traditions. His novels and stories serve as valuable tools for the moral and ethical education of adolescents, emphasizing universal values such as honesty, compassion, respect for nature, and cultural heritage. This article examines how Aitmatov’s works, including The Day Lasts More Than a Hundred Years, Jamila, and The White Ship, incorporate traditional wisdom and folklore to instill ethical consciousness in young readers. By analyzing key motifs such as man’s relationship with nature, ancestral memory, and moral dilemmas, this study highlights the pedagogical potential of Aitmatov’s literature in shaping the spiritual development of adolescents.*

Keywords: *Chingiz Aitmatov, spiritual education, ethical values, ethno-cultural traditions, adolescent development, moral dilemmas, folklore, literature.*

Аннотация: *Кыргыздын чыгаан жазуучусу Чыңгыз Айтматов өзүнүн адабий чыгармаларында руханий жана этикалык терең темаларды, бай этномаданий салттарга таянуу менен ачат. Анын романдары жана аңгемелери жеткинчектерге адеп-ахлактык, адеп-ахлактык тарбия берүүнүн баалуу куралы болуп, чынчылдык, боорукердик, жаратылышты сыйлоо, маданий мурас тарыхта жалпы адамзаттык баалуулуктарга басым жасоодо. Бул макалада Айтматовдун чыгармалары, анын ичинде “Жүз жылдан ашык күн”, “Жамийла” жана “Ак кеме” жаш окурмандарга этикалык аң-сезимди калыптандыруу үчүн салттуу акылмандык менен элдик оозеки чыгармачылыкты кантип камтыганы каралат. Адамдын жаратылыш менен болгон мамилеси, ата-бабалардын эс тутуму, адеп-ахлактык дилеммалар сыяктуу негизги мотивдерди талдоо менен бул изилдөө өспүрүмдөрдүн руханий өнүгүүсүн калыптандырууда Айтматов адабиятынын педагогикалык потенциалын көрсөтөт.*

Ачкыч сөздөр: *Чыңгыз Айтматов, руханий тарбия, этикалык баалуулуктар, этномаданий салттар, өспүрүмдөрдүн өнүгүүсү, моралдык дилеммалар, фольклор, адабият.*

The finding of spiritual and ethical education through diverse literature is an overwhelmingly important component of forming well-rounded and reflective teenagers, particularly when viewed in the context of a vigorous cultural heritage. Chingiz Aitmatov, a prominent Kyrgyz author of profound standing, makes profound and interesting narratives that reflect the quintessential ethno-cultural values of the Kyrgyz people and act as a

foundation necessary for the cultivation of critical moral ideals and spiritual awareness among youth readers. Aitmatov's work paints not only the subtlety of human life but also the intricate pattern of emotions and interconnection, paying special attention to such weighty problems as the deep relationship which exists between man and nature, the innate meaning of familial ties, and moral choices human beings must encounter on their path in life. Through his masterful storytelling, Aitmatov moves beyond the level of pure entertainment and enriches the learning process by bringing to life multidimensional characters who subtly maneuver moral challenges and profound spiritual tests that resonate with teenagers who are fighting the same battles in their own lives in the modern world.

The vibrant interaction of religious awakening and moral concerns in Aitmatov's work serves to provoke and encourage young readers towards a positive attitude towards their own cultural heritage and towards forming a deep sense of responsibility to themselves, and to the others within their society. Thus, the current study aims to delve into the myriad ways in which Aitmatov's narratives shape the moral and spiritual compass of young readers, fostering a new generation equipped with ethical insight and awareness of their cultural legacies. Into the intersection of spiritual and ethical education embedded in Aitmatov's narratives, examining how these elements contribute to the comprehensive development of adolescents and fostering a deeper understanding of their heritage. Through an analysis of Aitmatov's representation of ethno-cultural values and their significance for personal development, this study highlights the importance of integrating similar literary elements into school curricula in an effort to enrich the moral and spiritual legacy of teenage pedagogy.

Adolescence is a time of most important shaping of moral and ethical values when literature plays a significant role in worldview and conduct. Chingiz Aitmatov's novels, in accordance with Central Asian ethno-cultural traditions, offer universal teaching about humanity, justice, and spiritual integrity. His tales combine myth, folklore, and contemporary problems, making them particularly useful for adolescent upbringing.

Aitmatov's work is more than just a narrative; it spans generations, preserves cultural identity and addresses common moral concerns. In this paper, the author addresses how his work may be used in spiritual and moral education and considers three areas:

The Role of Mythology and Folklore in Moral Education

Man-Nature Relationship as Ethical Paradigm

Moral Dilemmas and Development of Adolescent Conscience

Through the exploration of these themes, we demonstrate the ways in which Aitmatov's writings encourage ethical awareness and intercultural education among young readers.

1. The Role of Folklore and Mythology in Moral Instruction

Aitmatov's novels are heavily entwined with Kyrgyz legends, myths, and folklore, which serve as moral lessons for his characters. In *The White Ship*, the myth of the Horned Mother Deer symbolizes purity, sacrifice, and punishment for forsaking one's cultural roots. The protagonist, a boy, learns this legend, which shapes his idea of evil and good.

Similarly, in *The Day Lasts More Than a Hundred Years*, the myth of the *mankurt*—a man who forgets his memory and identity—serves as a caution against cultural amnesia. For adolescents, these myths serve as a reminder of the importance of remembering one's heritage and maintaining moral integrity.

Educational Application:

Teachers can use Aitmatov's myths to discuss themes of identity and moral responsibility.

Comparative studies between classic myths and contemporary ethical dilemmas may trigger critical reasoning.

2. Man-Nature Relationship as an Ethical Paradigm

Aitmatov often portrays nature as a transcendent entity and underscores the moral responsibility of humankind to guard it. The relationship between shepherd Tanabai and his horse in *Farewell, Gulsary!* captures the interdependency of life and the repercussions of human brutality.

The White Ship drives home this lesson, with the boy's intimate connection to nature contrasted with the adults' greed. The tragic ending underscores the moral lesson that disrespect for nature leads to spiritual and environmental catastrophe.

Educational Application:

Class discussions of ecological ethics can link Aitmatov's tales to contemporary environmental issues.

Adolescents can apply their own sense of connection to nature through creative writing activities based on Aitmatov's account.

3. Moral Choices and the Development of Adolescent Conscience

The characters in Aitmatov's novels frequently encounter intricate moral decisions, which makes his novels perfect for ethical analysis. In *Jamila*, the protagonist acts against conventional societal expectations in pursuit of genuine love, challenging individual freedom versus tradition.

Similarly, *The Scaffold* is a harrowing moral crisis of drug dealing and personal redemption that forces readers to think about guilt, forgiveness, and sacrifice. Such literature challenges adolescents to think about their own values and societal pressures.

Educational Application:

Role-playing of Aitmatov's characters can assist students' exploration of ethical decision-making.

Moral relativism versus universal values debates can be structured around significant scenes from his novels.

4. Ethno-Cultural Values in Aitmatov's Literature

Chingiz Aitmatov's literature is rooted deeply in the ethno-cultural values that depict the wealth of the heritage of the Kyrgyz people. His literature incorporates a variety of themes that represent the essence of the Kyrgyz identity, such as the importance of community, appreciation of nature, and interconnectedness of human experiences. Aitmatov's narratives often call on the old cultural values of honor and hospitality, which

are held most dearly in Kyrgyz culture, and place characters who embody these values in their social existences and ethical decisions. His presentation of oral storytelling in his novels is used as a method to transmit these ethno-cultural values, demonstrating how folkloric stories, mythologies, and historical accounts can unite people across generations so that younger generations remain connected with their roots. Moreover, Aitmatov heavily borrows from the philosophic underpinnings of nomadic existence, reflecting the spiritual relationship that individuals have with the earth, a component inherent in the core of his works.

In addition, Aitmatov also addresses the nuance of modernization and the impact it has on traditional values, showing a perceptive analysis of how changes in society intrude on the maintenance of cultural identity. Through his protagonists, he investigates the tension between tradition and development, making readers appreciate the richness of their cultural heritage while struggling with the complexity of contemporary life. His work reminds us of the resilience of ethno-cultural values in the era of globalization, bringing to mind nostalgia for the simplicity and beauty of Kyrgyz culture. By intermingling these themes throughout his work, Aitmatov not only preserves the integrity of Kyrgyz cultural identity but also urges readers, particularly youths, to question and examine their own values and ethical framework, calling for further awareness of their own role in the wider tapestry of human experience.

Chingiz Aitmatov's fiction and short stories are a treasure trove of ethno-cultural wisdom, offering profound examinations of spiritual and moral upbringing. Through the integration of folklore, ecological ethics, and moral dilemmas into his narratives, Aitmatov offers adolescents models for understanding integrity, cultural identity, and human accountability.

Parents and teachers can draw upon the pedagogical potential of his stories to create morally conscious and culturally sensitive adolescents. In an era of globalization, when cultural values in their traditional forms seem to be in conflict with modern influences, Aitmatov's fiction is a precious source to ground adolescents in timeless moral values.

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