

# The Spirituality of Uzbekistan – A New Force and The Foundation of Our New Life

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**Abstract:** This scientific article has political and practical significance and is intended for all intellectuals who carry out spiritual propaganda work in schools. It helps to develop new strength and knowledge about spirituality in the family, neighborhood, and secondary schools, in organizing spiritual and educational events, in developing national values and virtues, and in implementing new knowledge.

**Keywords:** Scientific, political, spiritual, educational, humanitarian, national values, propaganda, new force, foundation.

**Introduction:** In our country, special attention is being paid to fundamentally improving the system of working with youth, increasing the effectiveness of spiritual and educational activities, enhancing the intellectual potential, consciousness and thinking of young people, strengthening their ideological immunity, and educating them in the spirit of loyalty to the Motherland and respect for national values. Numerous decrees and resolutions adopted by our state serve as an important program in this direction.

At the extended meeting of the Republican Council on Spirituality and Enlightenment held on December 22, 2023, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a number of tasks were set regarding the launching of centers of spirituality, enlightenment, and cultural hubs.

In all educational institutions, the established "National Handicrafts" sections are developing the spiritual worldview of modern youth through clubs dedicated to traditional crafts such as gold embroidery, embroidery, pottery, wood carving, miniature art, and other forms of craftsmanship that have evolved over centuries in our homeland. Here, it is possible to get acquainted with ancient artistic traditions, the rich experience and creative works of Uzbek artisans, and the secrets of decorative patterns used in crafts.

In many educational institutions, the "Corner of the Jadids" displays exemplary lives and constructive ideas

of Jadid representatives such as Fitrat, Behbudi, Cholpon, and Munavvarqori, as well as exhibits from their works. This section helps youth become familiar with the legacy of the Jadids, draw lessons from their reforms, and fosters a spirit of knowledge and aspiration.

As a result of wide-ranging reforms and constructive efforts carried out in recent years, the consciousness and worldview of our people are changing. The life-affirming idea "From National Revival to National Progress" is gaining greater significance in building a legal state and a civil society.

However, the economic, ideological, and conceptual conflicts occurring in the world today, along with the rapid pace of development and extremely contradictory processes, are also felt in our country. These challenges necessitate a reconsideration of our set goals based on the achievements and rich experience gained so far.

On December 22, 2023, under the leadership of our President, a meeting dedicated to the analysis of the current state of science, education, and spirituality was held with the participation of cultural and spiritual workers, literary and art representatives, and responsible officials. During this meeting, priority tasks in this area were outlined. The reason is that proper organization of spiritual and educational processes is of critical importance in states and societies striving for

high peaks of socio-economic development.

Especially in situations where threats to the fate of the homeland and the people intensify, it is the devoted intellectuals, poets and writers, artists, and workers of spirituality and enlightenment who courageously come forward. At this meeting, our President emphasized that as our country enters a new and advanced stage of development, we urgently need highly qualified personnel who are educated both with the achievements of Western science and in the spirit of national values — just like our Jadid ancestors.

It should be noted that in the past seven years, a unified system has been created to improve the effectiveness and reach of spiritual and educational efforts, enhance public involvement, especially among youth, in ongoing reforms, and coordinate efforts in this field.

The Law "On Cultural Activities and Cultural Institutions" was adopted. Centers for maqom, epic recitation (bakhshi art), and traditional verbal art (asqiya) were established to preserve and enrich our national traditions. In addition, the activities of more than 20 institutions, including the "Bakhor" Dance Ensemble, State Philharmonic, and State Symphony Orchestra, have been launched. Eleven new museums, two theaters, 28 children's music and art schools, and five higher educational institutions were opened. The creation of a Presidential decree for the development of this sector, the establishment of a State Museum of Jadid Heritage in a historical site in Bukhara, and the launch of a new newspaper titled "Jadid" were also announced — and these initiatives have already been implemented. All of these serve as a source of strength and a foundation for a new life for the people of Uzbekistan.

### Main Part

Spirituality is a comprehensive system of human morality, manners, knowledge, abilities, practical skills, conscience, faith, beliefs, worldview, and ideological outlook that are interconnected and have a positive impact on the development of society. Indeed, a person's place in society is determined not by material wealth, but by their high spiritual image.

From the early years of independence, issues such as spirituality, youth education, the formation of a harmoniously developed generation and a perfect human being were defined as priorities of state policy. This is because the future of any state or society, its development, and its position in the world directly depend on the knowledge, potential, worldview, and spirituality of its youth. The decline of spirituality inevitably leads to the country's lag in development and being influenced by other states.

It is worth emphasizing that the essence and practical importance of spirituality become especially apparent during turning points in a society's development. In our country, a number of decisions have been adopted to further develop national spirituality, and consistent reforms are being carried out to create a new spiritual image of New Uzbekistan. These changes have elevated spiritual and educational efforts to a new level of importance in our state policy.

For example, we can refer to Presidential Decree No. PQ-5039 of March 26, 2021, "On the Establishment of the Targeted Fund for the Support of Spirituality and Creativity." The decree outlines measures aimed at improving all areas of spirituality.

In the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022–2026, the fifth of the seven priority directions is "Ensuring Spiritual Development and Advancing the Sector to a New Stage," which consists of eight goals and defines spiritual education as a separate priority. In this regard, large-scale reforms are being implemented in our country.

Our ultimate goal is to build a democratic state governed by the rule of law and ensure a decent standard of living for our people. Achieving these goals is directly linked to our people, especially our youth, and their spiritual and moral upbringing. Educating youth in a spiritually and morally sound manner is among the most urgent issues and occupies a key position in the complex of educational activities.

In recent years, developing the spiritual and ideological thinking of youth has been elevated to the level of state policy.

On December 22, 2023, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, an extended meeting of the Republican Council on Spirituality and Enlightenment was held. During the meeting, the President emphasized the need to develop a special programmatic document to advance our national idea as a methodological foundation for the field of spirituality and culture.

"From history we know that in times when threats to the destiny of the homeland and the people intensified, it was precisely the devoted sons of the nation — intellectuals with an awakened heart, poets and writers, representatives of the arts, and workers in the fields of spirituality and enlightenment — who courageously stepped forward," said Shavkat Mirziyoyev. "Today, as our country enters a new and higher stage of development, we urgently need highly qualified specialists, educated in the spirit of national values and simultaneously equipped with the achievements of Western science, just like our Jadid forefathers."

Looking back at history, the great Amir Temur, as a uniquely outstanding historical figure, showed deep interest in the scientific and philosophical teachings of his people, who nurtured and inspired him to great achievements. It is no secret today that he was well-versed in the natural-scientific, socio-political, and philosophical doctrines of Eastern scholars such as Al-Khwarizmi, Abu Nasr al-Farabi, Abu Ali Ibn Sina, and Abu Rayhan al-Biruni.

To deeply understand the essence of Amir Temur's teachings on spirituality, enlightenment, religion, and ethics, it is sufficient to review the programs, advice, and moral instructions he created himself, as well as the works written by other scholars about him. These include: "Temur's Code" (Temur Tuzuklari), "Amir Temur's Advice", "Amir Temur's Testament", Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi's "Zafarnama", Ibn Arabshah's "History of Amir Temur", Salohiddin Toshkandiy's "Temurnama", A. Akhmedov's "Lessons from History" and "Amir Temur", Yevgeny Berezikov's "Great Temur", Ashraf Akhmedov's biography of Temur, and others.

At this point, it is worth recalling the words of Nelson Mandela: "Do not expect a nation that does not know how to throw garbage in a trash bin to appoint the right person to the right position." This means that, first and foremost, every person must be able to reform themselves and become a role model for the youth around them. Only when an individual sees themselves as a part of the people, cares about the nation, and works for its benefit, can they be considered spiritually ethical.

Raising children to be patriotic, cultured, and enlightened from family circles to adolescence is not only the duty of parents and teachers but also of their peers. In several schools of the Tashkent region, a number of reforms are being implemented to ensure that our youth grow into highly qualified professionals and make worthy contributions to the development of society. Among them, professors, lecturers, and methodologists of our center have developed and carried out a spiritual-enlightenment campaign under the slogan "The Foundation of Spiritual Reforms."

The project was conducted under the motto "Peers to Peers" and aimed to deliver the essence of the broad reforms and the speech of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the expanded meeting of the Republican Council on Spirituality and Enlightenment on December 22, 2023, to school students. Overall, spirituality is the most important issue and one that everyone must be involved in. This is not only the task of deputy principals in charge of spiritual and educational work but the noble duty of every intellectual. Therefore, bringing new light and knowledge into society must become the

central mission of every member of the community. After all, every nation and state draws its strength from its intellectual capacity and high spirituality.

## **CONCLUSION**

To foster the political and legal culture of our youth, we must, first of all, instill pride in being born and living in this sacred land, and in being successors to world-renowned scholars such as Khwarizmi, Farghani, Ismail al-Bukhari, Tirmidhi, Abu Nasr al-Farabi, Abu Ali Ibn Sina, Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, and Alisher Navoi. If we can awaken this sense of pride, a sense of responsibility for the all-around development of our state will emerge in their minds and actions. To further elevate the moral level of society, every educator must aim to raise individuals who are independent thinkers, morally and spiritually strong, with firm faith and convictions, and who harmonize their personal interests with the interests of the nation and society.

In today's globalized world, ensuring information security has become one of the most urgent issues. Protecting our students from harmful information now demands greater attention and responsibility not only from parents but also from the education system.

By observing current events around us, it becomes clear that spirituality and morality are the primary factors shaping global realities. Of course, globalization processes foster stronger cooperation and integration among nations, free movement of capital, goods, and labor, rapid dissemination of scientific achievements, harmony of values on the basis of universal human principles, and qualitative changes in intercivilizational dialogue.

As our First President Islam Karimov put it, "Globalization, first and foremost, means the unprecedented acceleration of life's pace."

As long as human society exists, opposing forces — good and evil, kindness and cruelty, creation and destruction — will continue to clash.

Destructive ideologies such as moral decline, cosmopolitanism, fundamentalism, militant racism, extreme nationalism, fascism, and Bolshevism are examples of this struggle.

As emphasized by First President Islam Karimov in his work "High Spirituality — an Invincible Force", issues of spirituality, youth education, prevention of moral threats, and ethical development have become extremely urgent.

"Today's youth receive diverse information not only in educational institutions but also through radio, television, the press, and the Internet. In such a global information environment, it is absolutely wrong to isolate children's minds by saying: 'Don't read this,

don't watch that.' Building a wall around them with prohibitions neither meets modern demands nor serves our goals. Why? Because we are firmly committed to building an open and democratic society and we will never deviate from this path."

In the current era of globalization, the role of the media in filtering and responsibly delivering information to the public is of great importance.

In conclusion, at a time when ideological threats are trying to conquer the minds and hearts of our youth, cooperation among parents, communities, and educators must be strengthened to prevent indifference. In this regard, the adoption of the law "On Protecting Children from Information Harmful to Their Health" by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, is a significant step.

This law aims to regulate relations in the sphere of protecting children from information harmful to their health.

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