

THE SYMBOLISM OF SILVER AND GOLD IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK FAIRY TALES AND EPICS

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Annotation. *Fairy tales and epics are rich narratives that reflect the values, beliefs, and cultural heritage of their respective societies. Among the various symbols and motifs found in these stories, the imagery of silver and gold stands out as particularly significant. This article explores the roles and meanings of silver and gold in English and Uzbek fairy tales and epics, highlighting their cultural implications and the lessons they convey.*

Key words: *fairy tales, beliefs, cultural heritage, wealth, power, silver, gold, coin, honor, ambition, wisdom, moral dilemmas.*

Annotatsiya. *Ertaklar va dostonlar o'z jamiyatlarining qadriyatlari, e'tiqodlari va madaniy merosini aks ettiruvchi boy rivoyatlardir. Ushbu hikoyalarda topilgan turli xil ramzlar va naqshlar orasida kumush va oltin tasvirlari ayniqsa muhim ahamiyatga ega. Ushbu maqolada kumush va oltinning ingliz va o'zbek ertak va dostonlaridagi o'rni va ma'nolari o'rganilib, ularning madaniy oqibatlari va yetkazayotgan saboqlari yoritilgan.*

Kalit so'zlar: *ertaklar, e'tiqodlar, madaniy meros, boylik, kuch, kumush, oltin, tanga, sharaf, shuhratparastlik, donolik, axloqiy muammolar.*

Аннотация. *Сказки и эпосы - это богатые повествования, отражающие ценности, верования и культурное наследие соответствующих обществ. Среди различных символов и мотивов, встречающихся в этих историях, особенно значимыми являются изображения серебра и золота. В этой статье исследуются роли и значения серебра и золота в английских и узбекских сказках и эпосе, подчеркивается их культурное значение и уроки, которые они несут.*

Ключевые слова: *сказки, верования, культурное наследие, богатство, власть, серебро, золото, монета, честь, честолюбие, мудрость, моральные дилеммы.*

The Symbolism of Gold. Gold is often viewed as a symbol of wealth, power, and divine favor in both English and Uzbek narratives. In English fairy tales, gold frequently represents ultimate success or achievement. For instance, in tales such as "Rumpelstiltskin," the act of spinning straw into gold signifies not only material wealth but also the value of cleverness and resourcefulness. The protagonist's ability to transform something ordinary into something precious reflects a broader theme of transformation and the rewards of hard work.

In contrast, Uzbek epics often portray gold not merely as a material asset but as a representation of honor and nobility. In the epic "Alpomish," for instance, gold is associated with the heroic qualities of the protagonist. The hero's deeds and bravery are often rewarded with gold, signifying the recognition of his valor and the esteem in which he is held by society. This connection between gold and honor highlights the cultural emphasis on bravery and moral integrity in Uzbek narratives.

The Role of Silver. While gold often takes center stage, silver also carries significant meanings in both English and Uzbek stories. In English literature, silver is frequently associated with purity, beauty, and the ephemeral nature of life. In tales like "The Silver Shilling," the silver coin serves as a catalyst for change, leading characters on journeys of self-discovery and moral growth. The gleam of silver often illuminates the darkness of greed or selfishness, symbolizing hope, redemption, and the possibility of transformation.

Uzbek epics, on the other hand, present silver as a symbol of wisdom and intuition. In many stories, silver items, such as weapons or jewelry, are imbued with magical properties that guide heroes in their quests. This emphasizes the idea that true strength lies not only in physical power but also in the wisdom and insight that characters gain through their experiences. For example, in "Rustam and Suhrab," the silver sword carries not just the weight of combat but also the burden of fate and destiny.

Cultural Reflections. The contrasting representations of silver and gold in English and Uzbek narratives reveal deeper cultural values. In English fairy tales, the focus on gold often underscores individual achievement and material success, reflecting a culture that values personal ambition and ingenuity. Conversely, the prominence of gold and silver in Uzbek epics highlights communal values, such as honor, bravery, and the importance of maintaining social relationships.

Moreover, the imagery of silver and gold can also be seen as a reflection of the human experience. Both materials are associated with dualities: gold represents wealth and ambition but can also lead to greed and moral corruption, while silver embodies purity and wisdom but can be overshadowed by the more dominant presence of gold. This interplay invites readers to consider the balance between material pursuits and moral integrity, a theme that transcends cultural boundaries.

In conclusion, the imagery of silver and gold in English and Uzbek fairy tales and epics serves as a powerful lens through which to examine cultural values and human experiences. Both materials symbolize more than mere wealth; they embody complex themes of honor, ambition, wisdom, and the moral dilemmas that individuals face. By exploring these symbols, readers gain insights into the narratives' underlying messages and the cultural contexts from which they emerge. As students of literature, recognizing these motifs enriches our understanding of the stories we encounter and the lessons they impart.

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