

## Cultural-enlightenment processes in the southern regions of Uzbekistan (1991-2021)

**Hamroyeva Nodira**

*Teacher of the department of civil society, Termez State University, Uzbekistan*

**ABSTRACT:** In the following article the cultural-enlightenment processes in the southern regions –Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya are analysed based on the latest reforms within the sphere of culture. The reforms directed at the development of national values are the main factors defining the cultural tasks.

**Key words:** *Bakhshi, maqom*, UNESCO World Heritage List, Termez, Shakhrisabz, Karshi, “The role of maqom music in world civilization”, Hakim At Termizi, Abu Muin Nasafi

### Introduction

In the Kashkadarya and Surkhon oases there are cities that date back to the centuries BC and are connected with the oldest settlements in the world. The celebration of the 2700th anniversary of Shakhrisabz and Karshi and the fact that their great age is recognized worldwide and celebrated as a holiday in accordance with the decision of our government is a bright proof of our opinion. Thanks to independence, Uzbekistan’s attitude towards cultural heritage has changed for the better. Anniversary celebrations of ancient cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Termez, Shakhrisabz were held, and architectural monuments, which are invaluable masterpieces of universal culture, were restored. The same happened in Karshi, which has a rich history and cultural heritage, and the city’s anniversary was celebrated.

Already in 1990 the first ever attempt to restore the cultural heritage of Hakim at-Termizi was conducted within the premises of Hakim at-Termizi shrine. It was the first international attempt by then Soviet Uzbekistan to renew its history from the beginning.

The Kokgumbaz Mosque in Karshi, a brick bridge over the Kashkadarya River, ancient baths and madrassas are unique examples of Uzbek architecture, each with its own history. Like many historical and cultural monuments in Uzbekistan, these monuments have experienced periods of ups and downs, neglect and humiliation, as well as destruction and depression. Like many historical and cultural monuments in Uzbekistan, these monuments have experienced periods of ups and downs, neglect and humiliation, as well as destruction and depression.

*The resolutions of Uzbekistan dated November 17, 2017 “On measures to further develop the Uzbek national maqom art” and April 6, 2018 “On the International Conference of Maqom Art” were important documents that ushered in a new era in the history of Uzbek classical music<sup>1</sup>.*

They set specific tasks for the further development of the art of maqom. The conference has been held every two years since 2018 in Shahrizabz. It was planned to hold the following events:

- Scientific-practical conference on “The role of maqom music in world civilization”;
- solo concerts of world and Uzbek masters of organic art;
- maqom bands, competitions for singers and musicians;
- festivals, performances of modern and creative programs about the life and creative activity of world-famous people of our country;
- an exhibition on the history of the art of maqom, scientific works published in Uzbek, Persian, Arabic, English and Russian, as well as scientific and educational literature.

In November 2003, Shashmaqom was recognized by UNESCO as a “Pearl of the Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity”. In 2008, it was included in the World Representative List. The great monument of the past Shahrizabz is one of the ancient and famous cities located on the Great Silk Road. Shahrizabz is located 80 kilometers south of Samarkand, on the Takhta-Karacha mountain range. Today, the city has many architectural monuments. Its historical center is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The city is also known as the birthplace of the great commander Amir

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<sup>1</sup> Yurtimizda maqom san’ati bayrami // <http://xs.uz/uz/post/yurtimizda-maqom-sanati-bajrami>

Temur. Formerly Shahrisabz was the capital of the ancient Sogdian state and was called Kesh. It was the center of culture, trade and crafts.

One of our grandfather s Abu Muin Nasafi, who lived in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, is one of the great manifestations of the science of Aqida. Abu Mansur Moturidi played an important role in the wide spread of the Moturidian doctrine founded by Moturidi in the world. He wrote many scientific works aimed at maintaining the purity of the religion of Islam, fighting against fanaticism. Karshi district was buried in the village of Qovchin.

During his visit to Kashkadarya region on February 24-25, 2017, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev made recommendations on converting the Tomb of Abu Muin Nasafi into a prosperous sanctuary, creating the necessary conditions for pilgrims, organizing a library in this settlement, translating the works of great scientists and delivering them to our people.

Accordingly, a lot of creative work is being done here. The press service of the head of state reported that a school in the science of Aqida, a library is being built. During the conversation with the scribes, the head of State noted that the works of our great-grandfather are of great importance to this day, and that it is necessary to publish them and bring their essence to the younger generation. The original copy of the Holy Quran is kept at this place of pilgrimage. This book is written on ancient Samarkand paper, decorated with elements of calligraphy<sup>2</sup>.

**The resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers “On the program of measures for the integrated development of the city of Shakhrisabz in Kashkadarya region in 2019-2020” was adopted<sup>3</sup>.**

The document approved a program of measures for the integrated development of the city of Shakhrisabz in Kashkadarya region for 2019-2020, which includes:

- Sources of funding for the program of measures for the integrated development of the city of Shakhrisabz and the creation of new jobs in Kashkadarya region in 2019-2020;
- Address list of promising investment projects in the field of industry;
- Address list of promising investment projects in the field of services, service infrastructure, tourism and handicrafts;

<sup>2</sup> Shavkat Mirziyoyev Abul-Mu'iyin an-Nasafi ziyoratgohiga bordi. 15:05 / 29.01.2018 [https://kun.uz/uz/50467746?utm\\_source=uznet.press&utm\\_medium=topic&utm\\_campaign=selfv](https://kun.uz/uz/50467746?utm_source=uznet.press&utm_medium=topic&utm_campaign=selfv)

<sup>3</sup> Hukumat qarori: Shahrisabz kompleks rivojlantiriladi. //http://qashqadaryo.uz/oz/nview/hukumat-qarori-shahrisabz-kompleks-rivojlantiriladi-04-08

- Address list of promising investment projects in the field of agriculture;
- Measures to improve engineering and communications, road and transport infrastructure, reconstruction and modernization of communication networks and improving the living conditions of the population;
- Address list of investment projects for the construction, reconstruction and overhaul of educational, health, cultural and other social facilities.

Surkhandarya region is a region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It was established on March 6, 1941 (since June 29, 1925 it was Surkhandarya district). On January 25, 1960, it merged with the Kashkadarya region. It was reorganized in February 1964. It is located in the south-east of the republic, in the Surkhan-Sherabad valley. It includes 14 districts (Angor, Bandikhon, Boysun, Denov, Jarqorgon, Muzrabat, Oltinsoy, Sariosiyo, Termez, Uzun, Sherabad, Shurchi, Qizirik, Kumkurgan), 8 cities (Boysun, Denov, Jarqorgon, Termez, Sharg'on, Sharg'on, Sharg'on Kumkurgan), there are 114 towns and 865 rural settlements (2019). The center is the city of Termez.

There are 25 sports educational institutions in the system of the regional department of physical culture and sports, including 17 children and youth sports schools, 4 specialized children and youth sports schools, 3 boarding schools and 1 football master school<sup>4</sup>.

A total of 16,463 athletes (3,540 girls) from 35 sports (including 19 Olympic sports, 4 national sports and 12 other sports) are regularly involved in these sports educational institutions. A total of 525 sports coaches, including 116 women, work in the sports educational institutions of the department. Of the trainers, 451 have key jobs, of which 151 are specialists with higher education and 300 with secondary special education. There are 31 stadiums, 3,758 sports grounds, 774 gyms, 11 swimming pools, a total of 4,574 sports facilities in the region.

There are 22 Olympic, 4 national; there are 19 non-Olympic sports, a total of 45 federations. 140,888 people, including 57,831 women, are involved in 41,088 sports in the region.

Hence:

➤ 92 thousand 431 people in 4 thousand 928 divisions (sections) on 19 Olympic sports, including 39 thousand 290 women;

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<sup>4</sup> Madaniyat sohasi // <http://surxondaryo.uz/page/view/63>

➤ 14 thousand 296 people in 721 divisions (sections) on 4 national sports, including 4 thousand 543 women;

➤ 34,161 people, including 2,069 women, are involved in 2,419 sections on 18 other sports.

On April 5-10, 2019, the International Festival of Bakhshi Art was held in Termez, the jewel of the south of our country. According to the decree of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev dated November 1, 2018, the preparations for this art festival, which was held for the first time, have entered a new phase. On 9 April, 2019 a special film was screened to pay a tribute to Shoberdi Boltaev, a national artist and famed Uzbek bakhshi. To close out the event on 10 April, an award ceremony was held for the Bakhshi International Art Festival winners.

*Bakhshi* are accomplished storytellers, instrumentalists, composers and singers of *Doston* - Central Asian ethnic epics. The event is aimed toward safeguarding traditional music and storytelling and promoting international exchanges.

The main festivities are already dominated by festive atmosphere. Symbolic fortresses of the Surkhandarya, Republic of Karakalpakstan, Tashkent region and other regions have been built on a large area of 32 hectares, reflecting the unique customs, traditions and values of each region.

Uzbek folk epics embody the long past, cultural life and national values of our ancestors, and it is highly valued as an immortal, intangible cultural heritage. The masterpieces of the art of bakhshi give great pleasure to the listener, as well as serve as a source of spiritual propaganda, which calls people to goodness, enlightens and awakens the virtues in the hearts of the younger generation. They listened to such folk epics as “Alpomish”, “Gorogly”, “Kuntugmish” and enjoyed his educational spirit. In order to preserve these immortal values, to promote the colorful examples of folk epics in our country and internationally, now every two years in Termez was held the International Festival of the art of baxshi.

At the initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the mausoleum of Abu Isa Termizi in Sherabad district was restored two years ago. On 14 February 2017, the Head of the state signed a resolution on organization of Imam Termizi International Research Center. In accordance with this resolution, the Imam Termizi International Research Center was built in Termez. Islamic sciences, including hadith studies, fiqh as well as the legacy of Isa Termizi and other scholars from Termez are deeply studied in these premises. Textbooks and teaching aids, periodicals, scientific and practical

recommendations for using in the system of religious education and spiritual-moral educational work will be prepared here.

The President visited this center and got acquainted with created conditions. He gave recommendations on an in-depth study of the life and works of the great hadith collector Imam Termizi, bringing his legacy to the younger generation, publishing books in a language accessible to the reader. The necessity of creating decent conditions for scientific research at the center, expanding participation of scientists in international scientific conferences was noted<sup>5</sup>.

An official letter of consent has been received from the Director-General of UNESCO to hold the International Festival of Bakhchisarai under the auspices of UNESCO. ISESCO (Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture), as well as honorary guests from Afghanistan, Turkey, Tajikistan and Kuwait and other countries will also attend. The festival was attended by about 300 participants from more than 80 foreign countries, and 29 media representatives from 20 countries covered the international art conference.

The festival will be attended by 58 talented poets and storytellers from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, China, South Korea, Iran, Serbia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Belgium. Of course, each region has its own traditions, and once it is held, the festival becomes a convenient art venue for its display.

For information, the winners of the International Festival of the Arts of Bakhchisarai will be awarded diplomas, statuettes and cash prizes of various levels. In particular, the 1st place winner (in each category) will be awarded USD 10,000, the 2nd place winner will receive USD 7,000, and the 3rd place winner will receive USD 5,000. In addition, the winners in the nominations “The youngest participant of the art of baxshichi”, “The best participant who won the recognition of the fans”, “The best instrumentalist” will be determined and awarded with cash prizes and special diplomas.

There were billboards and advertisements, pictures, and electric signs about the festival. Various exhibitions on the art of baxshi were prepared, and national words, costumes, handicrafts, works of fine and applied arts, and sculptures were brought to the festival. Historical monuments such as Al-Hakim

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<sup>5</sup> First International Bakhshi Art Festival, Uzbekistan. <https://www.unesco-ichcap.org/first-international-bakhshi-art-festival-uzbekistan/> 09 Apr 2019

at-Termizi Memorial Complex, Fayoztepa, Kampirtepa, Sultan Saodat and his mausoleum were also restored.

Booklets on 37 types of tourist attractions, a brochure on the art of baxshi and a tourist map of Termez were prepared for the festival participants in Uzbek, English and Russian languages. 2 books on the history and culture of the region, 6 types of booklets, “Old Termez”, “Modern Termez” and photo albums about bakhshis, as well as Shoberdi bakhshi Boltaev’s “Malla savdogar”, Abdunazar Poyonov’s “Golden pumpkin”, Umir poet and Avliyokul Mardonakul Alpomish epics were published in 1000 copies.

### **Conclusion.**

The efforts made by the Republic of Uzbekistan are main reforms conducted in the sphere of culture and enlightenment. They are directed at the revival of the national and ethnic diversities in the regions. The festivities and competitions aimed at the development of cultural sites are the main aspects of the cultural revival.

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