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COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CENTRAL ASIAN AND EUROPEAN EPICS

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ABSTRACT

This article reveals the study of the epics "Kitabi Dada Korkut", "Song of Roland", "Beowulf" and "Odyssey" comparatively. The view point is explained with thorough descriptions and quotes to depict main ideas of the epics.

KEY WORDS: *Central Asian epic, European epics, loyalty, courage, determination of hero, main characters.*

The main essence of the "Dada Korkut book" is the protection of the country and the people, the life-and-death battle of the ancient Oguz against foreign invaders, which represent the good forces, and constitutes a number of moral didactic views that have not lost their importance until now.

Shortly before the time of the Prophet, there appeared in the Bayat tribe a man by the name of Korkut Ata. He was the wise man of the Oghuz people. He used to prophesy and bring reports from the unknown world beyond, having been divinely inspired. Korkut Ata was an advisor of the Oghuz people in all vital matters, and nothing was done before he was consulted. Whatever advice he gave was accepted and acted upon.

Quotes in "Kitabi Dada Korkut"

1. Nothing happens if it wasn't already written down in the beginning
2. A young man may gather mountains of wealth
3. He can dispose of only as much as his appointed time
4. No hill can be made of ash
5. A slave woman doesn't become a lady by putting on expensive clothes
6. Allah doesn't love the haughty or help him to prosper
7. Dark homes unfrequented by visitors might better fall down
8. Fame can not be gained without generosity
9. Only the patient knows where the pain is
10. For the brave, a stick is as good as a word and an arrow
11. Nothing goes well without mentioning the name Allah
12. No one can prosper without the will of Almighty Allah
13. The son should be a worthy one, carrying on the fame of the father [pages 3-5].

The manuscript of the epic "Beowulf" dates back to the 10th century, and it was written in the Anglo-Saxon language, which is the basis of the English language. The epic appeared on the basis of the legends of pagan English and Saxons who moved to the British Isles. The epic was written down in the Christian era on the basis of these oral narratives, and the author of the work is unknown. The epic recounts the heroic deeds of Beowulf, who saved Denmark from the terrible sea creature Grendel. When Beowulf and his fourteen knights come from Denmark to help King Hroth, Grendel drags them to the bottom of the sea and kills them. Beowulf wins over him and returns to his homeland. He ruled his country for fifty years, and when a fire-breathing dragon invaded his land, he defeated it in battle, but he himself was wounded by the creature's poisonous teeth and died.

There are fairy tale motifs in the epic, and various creatures and dragons participate in it, at the same time, God's intervention in the events taking place in the text of the epic and names from the Bible (Abel, Noah) are found, and Grendel is said to be a descendant of Cain. All this indicates that the author was greatly influenced by the Christian religion.

In "Beowulf" the major themes include reputation, good versus evil, the heroic code, generosity, revenge, loyalty and courage. Loyalty is a constant motivator when characters take action and it is one of the aspects of the heroic code. Beowulf operates on the ideals of the heroic code to define what makes a great person. These ideals are strength, courage and loyalty. Beowulf is a very strong warrior, capable of felling terrible monsters. He is also courageous, never shying from fight despite what he faces.

Beowulf is an epic poem that retells the deeds of the hero Beowulf. He arrives at the mead-hall called Heorot after a monster named Grendel begins terrorizing people killing them despite their efforts to fight back. Beowulf defeats Grendel, as well as his mother, and over time he becomes the king the Geats. Later in his life, a dragon stirs and begins terrorizing the land. Beowulf faces the dragon in combat and despite his old age, defeats the dragon as well.

However, Beowulf is mortally wounded in the encounter, and dies some time later. His legacy lives on due to his great deeds.

Quotes in the epic "Beowulf":

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1. We have gone through with a glorious endeavor and been much favored in this fight we dared against the unknown [lines 957-959].
2. "Wise sir, do not grieve. It is always better to avenge dear ones than to indulge in mourning" [1384-1385].
3. For every one of us, living in this world means waiting for our end. Let whoever can win glory before death [lines 1386-1388].
4. When a warrior is gone that will be his best and only bulwark. [lines 1388-1389].

The epic "Song of Roland" is considered the most famous among many epics that appeared in France in the 11th-14th centuries. These sagas, whose authors' names have not been preserved, were written by trouvers, and joglers performed them by musical instruments such as harp or viola.

Most of the epics are dedicated to the great deeds of King Charlemagne and his comrades-in-arms. "Song of Roland" also praises Charlemagne and his loyal knight Roland.

The epic was created in the 1100s, and it tells the story of Charlemagne's march to Spain. The text of the 18th century chronicle, which reflects these events, reports that the rearguard of King Charlemagne's army was defeated in the Pyrenees, and Hronland was among the dead, who was the leader of the Breton border troops.

This historical event becomes the central theme of the epic. However, many things have been changed in the work; The campaign of the young king Charlemagne in 778 years is described as a seven-year war, and he himself is described as an old man, Saracens took the place of the Basques who attacked the rearguard.

The epic contains many events related to the march of the Franks to Spain, The negotiations with the Saracens, Ganelon's betrayal, Roland's battle with his small army against the Saracens' army twenty times larger in number will be the culmination of the work, it is in this episode that the courage of Roland, the intelligence of his loyal friend Oliver, and their sacrifice for the interests of the country are shown.

Quotes in the epic "Song of Roland":

1. God, how beautiful is this world, despite all its sorrows and pains
2. Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it
3. True knight fights not for valor and glory, but for honor and justice
4. The strength of a warrior is not measured by his physical proves, but by the purity of his heart
5. The greatest victory is to conquer oneself
6. We may lose battles, but we shall never our honor
7. There is no true victory without sacrifice
8. A hero is not defined by his strength, but by his compassion
9. To betray one's own conscience is to lose one's soul
10. True love is not possessive, but selfless
11. A true leader always leads by example

Homer's "Odyssey" is an ancient epic poem, is believed to have been composed around the 8th century BCE. It is one of the two major ancient Greek poems, the other being the "Iliad" and is considered one of the foundational texts of western literature. The Odyssey is an epic tale that follows the adventures of the hero Odyssey as he attempts to return home after the fall of Troy.

The work consists of 24 songs, and the hero of the work, Odysseus, is both wise and cunning. "Odyssey" shows the return of the Greek heroes to their homeland and sea adventures, and at the same time family drama.

The narrative depicts the main protagonist Odysseus, who has been wandering the seas for ten long years. This journey is fraught with numerous challenges and encounters with mythical creatures, such as the Cyclops, the Sirens, and the witch-goddess Circe. Odysseus displays great cunning and resourcefulness in navigating these obstacles, relying on his wit and cleverness to outsmart these opponents.

However, Odyssey continues to captivate readers to this day, offering a riveting narrative filled with adventure, character development and profound insights into the human experience. It remains a testament to the enduring legacy of ancient Greek storytelling and its lasting impact on the literary tradition.

The epic "Odyssey" is a complex and multifaceted work that explores themes such as heroism, the power of storytelling, the relationship between gods and mortals, and the importance of home and family. It is renowned for the rich and vivid descriptions, its use of powerful and evocative language, and its timeless portrayal of the human condition.

In Odyssey the themes of loyalty and fidelity are very important. Faithful dog Argos, to Penelopa's unwavering loyalty to her husband highlights the significance of staying true to loved one's.

Next the power of perseverance: Odysseus faces numerous challenges and obstacles on his journey home, but he never gives up. He remains determined and single-minded in his quest, teaching readers the importance of persistence in the face of adversity. Thirdly, the consequences of arrogance and pride in the book emphasizes the destructive nature of hubris, as seen in the characters such as the Cyclops Polyphemes and Odysseus himself through their actions, Odyssey warns of the negative consequences of pride and arrogance.

Furthermore, the complexity of heroism is included, Odyssey challenges traditional notions of heroism by portraying Odysseus as a flawed and imperfect hero. He is depicted as cunning and resourceful, but also as someone who makes mistakes, struggles with pride and must learn from his experiences. Finally, the Odyssey is story within a story, as Odysseus recounts his adventures to various characters. The importance of storytelling in preserving history and cultural identity is realized throughout the epic.

1. The blade itself incites to deeds of violence

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2. An empty words are evil
3. Each man delights in the work that suits him best
4. Some things you will think of yourself, … some things God will put into your word
5. Sleep, delicious and profound, the very counterfeit of death
6. A man who has been through bitter experiences and travelled far enjoys even his sufferings after a time
7. For a friend with an understanding heart is worth no less than a brother
8. Men are so quick to blame the god's, they say that we devil their misery. But they themselves in their depravity
9. There is a time for many words, and there is also a time for sleep
10. Of all creatures that breathe and move upon the earth, nothing is bred that is weaker than man

Importance of time, true friend, moral weakness of man, will of God, hastiness of people, death, power of the word.

In conclusion, by comparing key notions of these epics, we tried to categorize the basic features as the following:

	Kitabi Dada Korkut	Beowulf	Song of Roland	Odyssey
1	Believing in Fate,	Avenge	Courage,	Importance of time
2	Bravery	Glory	Purity of heart	Moral weakness of man
3	Believing in fate	Bravery	True love	Will of God
4	Blessings of parent	Deeds of hero	Compassion of hero	Hastiness of man
5	Generosity	Defence of native land	Betrayal	Absoluteness of death
6	Bravery	loyalty	Justice	Power of the word
7	Being hard-working	Determination of hero	Glory	Overcoming the difficulties
8	Patience	Heroic code	Valuing honor	Patience
9	Hospitality	Courage	Loyalty	Loyalty

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