



THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR ANCESTORS' ACTIVITY IN RAISING YOUTH WITH MILITARY-PATRIOTIC SPIRIT

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Abstract. This article examines the patriotic virtues of modern military personnel serving in our national army and the role of moral values in fostering them, along with the theoretical and methodological foundations for this process.

Keywords: Patriotic upbringing in the military spirit, methods and approaches for cultivating high patriotic values in youth, forms, and techniques.

Ensuring the security of the nation and preserving its territorial integrity, alongside strengthening peace and unity within our society, are of paramount importance today. In this context, nurturing the youth with a spirit of military patriotism is crucial to securing the future of our country. This, in turn, necessitates reinforcing national defense and preparing for its protection, given the unstable situations unfolding in various regions of the world.

Given the current circumstances, fostering patriotism and military preparedness among young people has become essential for ensuring national security, and this upbringing must be implemented to meet modern demands. To achieve this, it is imperative to continuously develop and invigorate youth patriotism and military preparedness, taking into account existing experiences and positive outcomes in this field – a requirement of our time.

Historically, from the very beginnings of humanity, people have been engaged in raising children, in various forms and with diverse meanings. During the era of primitive communities, this process may have unfolded sometimes consciously, sometimes unconsciously. Regardless of the manner in which it occurred, methods of upbringing consistently persisted. As time passed and life and living became more complex, these practices gradually acquired a deeper and broader significance.

According to sources, a person can primarily be raised in two ways: through the direct influence of others, that is, through instruction, and through reading the thoughts, advice, and works of wise individuals. This allows a person to draw appropriate conclusions from the behavior of people and their actions – past, present, and future – and, most powerfully, through contemplation.

For millennia, our ancestors have given considerable attention to instilling the virtues of patriotism, selflessness, and a love for the people in the younger generation. In particular, ancient manuscripts, inscriptions, and examples of folk art discovered throughout our country's territories – including epics, legends, and the imagery found in visual arts – offer compelling evidence to support this.

This issue continued to resonate in the works of numerous prominent scholars, Jadidists, and devoted patriots of our nation in subsequent periods. Notably, Abdulla Avloniy emphasized in his writings that the prosperity of every nation, the peace and well-being of states, depends on the proper upbringing of its youth, stating: "For us, education is a matter of life or death, salvation or ruin, happiness or disaster." He proposed the conceptual idea that the decline of a

nation that does not cherish its children is inevitable, primarily because they entrust their youth to foreign hands and cultures. This requires us to approach the upbringing of our youth, the future of our homeland, with a sense of responsibility and vigilance.

If we were to focus on the word "Vatanparvar" (Patriot), it is formed by combining the Arabic word "Vatan" (homeland) and the Persian word "Parvar" (sustainer, guardian). It conveys meanings such as someone who loves their homeland, motherland, and people boundlessly, and who is ready to sacrifice for the interests of their nation.

Sources indicate that the concept of homeland initially takes shape in human consciousness as a clear image, a form, or a likeness, tied to the objective environment, existence, and land. Patriotism, therefore, is formed on the basis of a specific environment, land, and existing spiritual and moral values. The feeling of love for the homeland enters a child through mother's milk, through her blessings. This precious feeling is never forgotten. Patriotism expresses the love, affection, and relationship a person feels towards the place where they were born, grew up, and matured – their land and region. It is a social and spiritual-moral characteristic, a virtue. Furthermore, patriotism is a universal human feeling, a spiritual value that is common to all people, peoples, and nations, and which has been refined over centuries.

It is particularly important to emphasize that effectively utilizing the core principles of raising youth in a military-patriotic spirit – including scholarly rigor, historical accuracy, precision, timeliness, consistency, activity, the harmony of education and upbringing, the continuity of the upbringing process, and building upon the positive results and achievements in military-patriotic upbringing – is a key factor in achieving the goal of raising youth in this spirit.

For patriotism is, historically, a complex of feelings developed through the social evolution of people linked to the destiny of their homeland, the struggle to safeguard the inviolability and independence of the territory they inhabit. It manifests itself in pride in the past and present of the nation, and in the defense of its interests.

In particular, our history, rich in real-life examples, plays a vital role in raising our youth with a spirit of military patriotism. Studying our history allows us to gain the essential knowledge for patriotic upbringing: understanding our homeland, our people, and our past, analyzing the lives of our ancestors correctly, and drawing appropriate conclusions.

It is of crucial importance to study the activities and patriotism of our ancestors – figures like Shiroq, Spitamen, Jalal al-Din Manguberdi, Sheikh Najmuddin Kubra, Amir Timur, and Zahir al-Din Muhammad Babur – based on the historical principles of fostering military patriotism in our youth.

Specifically, the fact that in the 4th century BC Spitamen defied the mighty army led by Alexander the Great (Alexander Zulqarnayn) instilled in our nation's youth a sense of pride and reverence for their ancestors, along with a feeling of responsibility for the freedom and defense of their homeland. Young men and women, learning from historical facts that it took Alexander Zulqarnayn three years to subdue a small region of Central Asia, develop a strong sense of responsibility for the destiny of their people.

Moreover, the example of our great patriot, Sheikh Najm al-Din Kubra, who preferred to sacrifice himself in the struggle for the freedom of his homeland rather than accept the favor of Genghis Khan, serves as a profound lesson for the youth. His ability, even at the age of 76, to



find strength to fight against the enemy, instills in young people the highest ideals of loyalty to their country and love for their people.

Studying the heroic legacy of Jalal al-Din Mangburni, one of the great commanders who made a worthy contribution to the development of military art, fosters greater interest in military careers among young people and encourages their service in state roles related to defense. Indeed, every young man who learns about Jalal al-Din Mangburni aspires to be, as the renowned historian Shihab al-Din Muhammad an-Nasafi described, "the most formidable lion among lions, a fearless horseman, and the bravest warrior among soldiers." He avoids boastfulness and disrespectful words, always remains serious, and strives to love his homeland more than his own life.

The organization of spiritual, educational, and cultural events dedicated to the great commander and statesman Amir Timur - highlighting his military genius, state administration system, and contributions to the development of science and learning - is vital for young people. These events not only foster a sense of pride in our ancestors' legacy among young men and women, but also inspire them toward military and professional pursuits.

Furthermore, the study of Amir Timur's "Timur's Instructions" (Temur Tuzuklari) is of great importance in shaping life lessons for the youth. This work lays the foundation for cultivating values like loyalty to the homeland, understanding of friends and enemies, resilience, moral integrity, and purity within the hearts of young people. The image of Amir Timur should always be a shining example for the youth, embodying patriotism, friendship, and unwavering devotion to the nation.

"That is why my grandfather, the great commander Amir Temur, stated: "The strength of a nation lies in the valor and power of its soldiers." He was referring precisely to this truth. I repeatedly emphasize that every soldier, every guardian of our homeland, must deeply understand the teachings of Amir Temur and our great military leaders, and cherish their military legacy. This invaluable and immortal legacy continues to fill our hearts with boundless pride and strengthens our devotion to our sacred land," writes Shavkat Mirziyoyev in his books.

It would be beneficial to widely incorporate the life and creative work of Hazrat Alisher Navoi into the education and upbringing of the younger generation. As is well known, Navoi, both as a creator and an official, was a tireless and proactive advocate for maintaining public peace, developing villages and towns, and creating practical conditions for young people to acquire knowledge. He extensively promoted these ideas in his works. The ideas found in Navoi's writings, and the substance of the measures implemented in his time, should be extensively applied today in activities related to the education of the younger generation. In particular, Alisher Navoi's poetic narrative, "Farhad and Shirin," widely celebrates ideals of true love and fidelity, friendship and loyalty, labor and creativity, along with patriotism and heroism. While not written specifically for young people or children, many chapters of the work are significant for their relevance to the lives and upbringing of children and youth.

The renowned scholar, journalist, public and state figure, writer, and educator Abdulla Avlooni wrote in the "Love of One's Homeland" section of his 1913 book, "Turkiy Guliston yohud Axloq" (Turkic Rose Garden or Morality), as follows: "It is well known that the majority of our pilgrims, having sold their vineyards and courtyards and emigrated to the sacred Arab lands, ultimately return to their homelands. The force that draws them back is the love for their native lands and soil".



In conclusion, it is essential to emphasize that fostering patriotism in our youth is inextricably linked to understanding and valuing the traditions, customs, and unique, irreplaceable culture of our people. This includes recognizing the significance of our heritage of construction and creativity, and the diverse forms of our national arts. This understanding forms a strong foundation for appreciating and taking pride in the legacy of our ancestors.

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