

**FOLKLORE MOTIF IN SA'DULLA SIYOYEV'S NOVEL "AHMAD YASSAVIY": THE MOTIF OF OVERCOMING THE NAFS***Nilufar Shirinboyevna Tosheva**Associate Professor, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philology**Navoiy Innovation University**Navoiy, Uzbekistan***ABOUT ARTICLE**

Key words: folklore motif, nafs, Sufism, spiritual purification, Ahmad Yassaviy, Sa'dulla Siyoyev, Uzbek literature, folk traditions, moral perfection, spiritual struggle.

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Abstract: This article studies the folklore motifs in Sa'dulla Siyoyev's Ahmad Yassaviy, focusing mainly on the motif of overcoming the nafs. The research analyzes how folklore traditions, symbolic images, and Sufi ideas are combined in the artistic structure of the novel. Special attention is given to the spiritual and moral development of the main character, Ahmad Yassaviy, who is portrayed as a symbol of purity, patience, modesty, and spiritual perfection.

The article explains the concept of nafs in Sufi philosophy and discusses its role in the process of human self-purification. In the novel, overcoming the nafs is presented as an internal struggle against worldly desires, selfishness, pride, and material attachment. The study examines how Ahmad Yassaviy achieves spiritual maturity through patience, self-control, and devotion to God. This process is reflected through various folklore motifs, symbolic episodes, legends, moral tests, and folk-style narrative elements. The research also investigates the connection between Uzbek folklore and Sufi literature. It highlights that many features of oral folk творчество, such as symbolic journeys, spiritual trials, wise-man images, and moral teachings, are actively used in the novel. These folkloric elements strengthen the national spirit of the work and help the author reveal the inner world of the protagonist more deeply.

Furthermore, the article analyzes the artistic function of folklore motifs in creating the philosophical atmosphere of the novel. The

motif of overcoming the nafs is interpreted not only as a religious or mystical idea but also as a universal human value connected with morality, honesty, patience, and spiritual discipline. The study emphasizes that the novel promotes important ethical values that remain relevant in modern society. The findings show that folklore motifs play an essential role in the ideological and artistic structure of the novel. Through the motif of overcoming the nafs, the author presents the idea that true human greatness is achieved through spiritual purification and victory over one's inner weaknesses. Therefore, the novel can be considered an important example of the harmony between folklore traditions and Sufi philosophy in modern Uzbek literature.

SA'DULLA SIYOYEVNING "AHMAD YASSAVIY" ROMANIDA FOLKLOR MOTIVI: NAFSNI YENGISH MOTIVI

Nilufar Shirinboyevna Tosheva

Dotsent, Filologiya fanlari bo'yicha falsafa doktori(PhD)

Navoiy innovatsiyalar universiteti

Navoiy, O'zbekiston

MAQOLA HAQIDA

Kalit so'zlar: folklor motivi, nafs, tasavvuf, ma'naviy poklanish, Ahmad Yassaviy, Sa'dulla Siyoyev, o'zbek adabiyoti, xalq an'analari, axloqiy komillik, ruhiy kurash.

Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada Sa'dulla Siyoyevning "Ahmad Yassaviy" romanidagi folklor motivlari, xususan, nafsni yengish motivi tadqiq etiladi. Tadqiqotda folklor an'analari, ramziy obrazlar va tasavvufiy g'oyalarning romanning badiiy tuzilishida qanday uyg'unlashgani tahlil qilinadi. Asarda bosh qahramon Ahmad Yassaviy poklik, sabr-toqat, kamtarlik va ma'naviy komillik timsoli sifatida talqin etilishiga alohida e'tibor qaratiladi.

Maqolada tasavvuf falsafasidagi nafs tushunchasi izohlanib, uning insonning o'zini ma'naviy poklash jarayonidagi o'rni yoritiladi. Romanda nafsni yengish dunyoviy istaklar, xudbinlik, kibr va moddiy bog'liqlikka qarshi ichki kurash sifatida tasvirlanadi. Tadqiqot Ahmad Yassaviyning sabr, o'zini tiyish va Allohga sadoqat orqali ma'naviy yetuklikka erishishini tahlil qiladi. Ushbu jarayon turli folklor motivlari, ramziy epizodlar, rivoyatlar, axloqiy sinovlar va xalqona bayon usullari orqali aks ettiriladi.

Tadqiqotda o'zbek folklori va tasavvuf adabiyoti o'rtasidagi bog'liqlik ham o'rganiladi. Xalq og'zaki ijodiga xos bo'lgan ramziy safarlar, ruhiy sinovlar, donishmand qahramonlar va axloqiy pand-nasihatlar kabi unsurlar romanda faol qo'llangani ta'kidlanadi. Ushbu folklor elementlari asarning milliy ruhini kuchaytirib, muallifga qahramonning ichki dunyosini chuqurroq ochib berishga xizmat qiladi.

Shuningdek, maqolada folklor motivlarining romanning falsafiy muhitini yaratishdagi badiiy vazifasi tahlil qilinadi. Nafsni yengish motivi faqat diniy yoki mistik g'oya sifatida emas, balki axloq, halollik, sabr va ruhiy intizom bilan bog'liq umuminsoniy qadriyat sifatida talqin qilinadi. Tadqiqot romanda bugungi jamiyat uchun ham dolzarb bo'lgan muhim axloqiy qadriyatlar targ'ib etilishini ko'rsatadi.

Natijalar folklor motivlari romanning g'oyaviy va badiiy tuzilishida muhim o'rin tutishini ko'rsatadi. Nafsni yengish motivi orqali muallif insonning haqiqiy buyukligi ma'naviy poklanish va ichki zaifliklar ustidan g'alaba qozonish orqali namoyon bo'lishini ifodalaydi. Shu bois, ushbu roman zamonaviy o'zbek adabiyotida folklor an'analari va tasavvuf falsafasi uyg'unligining muhim namunasi sifatida baholanishi mumkin.

ФОЛЬКЛОРНЫЙ МОТИВ В РОМАНЕ СА'ДУЛЛЫ СИЁЕВА «АХМАД ЯССАВИЙ»: МОТИВ ПРЕОДОЛЕНИЯ НАФСА

Нилуфар Ширинбоевна Тошева

Доцент, доктор философии (PhD) по филологическим наукам

Навоийский инновационный университет

Навоий, Узбекистан

О СТАТЬЕ

Ключевые слова: фольклорный мотив, нафс, суфизм, духовное очищение, Ахмад Яссавий, Са'дулла Сиёев, узбекская литература, народные традиции, нравственное совершенство, духовная борьба.

Аннотация: В данной статье исследуются фольклорные мотивы в романе Са'дуллы Сиёева «Ахмад Яссавий», главным образом мотив преодоления нафса. В исследовании анализируется, как фольклорные традиции, символические образы и суфийские идеи сочетаются в художественной структуре романа. Особое внимание уделяется духовному и нравственному развитию главного героя Ахмада Яссавия, который изображён как

символ чистоты, терпения, скромности и духовного совершенства.

В статье объясняется понятие нафса в суфийской философии и рассматривается его роль в процессе духовного самоочищения человека. В романе преодоление нафса представлено как внутренняя борьба с мирскими желаниями, эгоизмом, гордыней и материальной привязанностью. Исследование показывает, как Ахмад Яссавий достигает духовной зрелости через терпение, самоконтроль и преданность Богу. Этот процесс отражается посредством различных фольклорных мотивов, символических эпизодов, легенд, нравственных испытаний и элементов народного повествования.

Также исследуется связь между узбекским фольклором и суфийской литературой. Подчёркивается, что многие черты устного народного творчества, такие как символические путешествия, духовные испытания, образы мудрецов и нравственные наставления, активно используются в романе. Эти фольклорные элементы усиливают национальный дух произведения и помогают автору глубже раскрыть внутренний мир главного героя.

Кроме того, в статье анализируется художественная функция фольклорных мотивов в создании философской атмосферы романа. Мотив преодоления нафса интерпретируется не только как религиозная или мистическая идея, но и как общечеловеческая ценность, связанная с нравственностью, честностью, терпением и духовной дисциплиной. Исследование подчёркивает, что роман пропагандирует важные этические ценности, сохраняющие актуальность и в современном обществе.

Результаты исследования показывают, что фольклорные мотивы играют важную роль в идейно-художественной структуре романа. Через мотив преодоления нафса автор выражает мысль о том, что истинное величие человека достигается посредством духовного очищения и победы над внутренними слабостями. Поэтому роман можно рассматривать как важный пример гармонии фольклорных традиций и

Introduction. Folklore and Sufi literature occupy an important place in the spiritual and artistic heritage of Uzbek literature. Throughout history, folklore traditions have reflected the worldview, moral values, religious beliefs, and cultural identity of the people. Oral narratives, legends, myths, proverbs, and symbolic stories not only entertained people but also served as a source of ethical education and spiritual guidance. Because of this, many Uzbek writers and poets actively used folklore motifs in their literary works to express philosophical ideas and national values. According to Amanbayevich (2025), folklore traditions became one of the major foundations for the formation and development of Uzbek literary culture.

One of the most important themes in Sufi literature is the concept of spiritual purification and the struggle against the nafs. In Islamic and Sufi philosophy, the nafs represents selfish desires, pride, greed, and attachment to worldly pleasures. The process of controlling and purifying the nafs is called tazkiyah al-nafs, which is considered an essential stage in achieving moral perfection and closeness to God. Ibrahim et al. (2025) explain that tazkiyah al-nafs develops patience, morality, discipline, and spiritual awareness in human character. Similarly, Apriliani and Arifin (2025) state that purification of the nafs helps individuals move toward the ideal of insan kamil, or the spiritually perfected human being.

These spiritual ideas are deeply reflected in the works of Ahmad Yassaviy, one of the greatest representatives of Turkic Sufism. His teachings and wisdoms greatly influenced the spiritual life, literature, and folklore traditions of Central Asian peoples. Yoldash and Khalidbek (2023) note that Ahmad Yassaviy's works contain wisdom, prophetic morality, and symbolic spiritual teachings expressed in a language understandable to ordinary people. Due to this simplicity and closeness to folk traditions, his ideas became widely spread among the population and were preserved through oral culture for centuries.

Sa'dulla Siyoyev's Ahmad Yassaviy presents the life and spiritual journey of Ahmad Yassaviy through a combination of historical facts, folklore motifs, and Sufi philosophy. In the novel, the image of Ahmad Yassaviy is portrayed as a symbol of patience, humility, wisdom, and spiritual purity. The author uses legends, symbolic descriptions, moral tests, and folk-style narrative elements to reveal the inner world of the main character and his spiritual struggle against the nafs.

The motif of overcoming the nafs occupies a central place in the artistic structure of the novel. Unlike traditional heroic narratives where the main conflict is directed toward external enemies, the main struggle in this work takes place within the human soul. Ahmad Yassaviy's

victory over selfish desires and worldly temptations represents the highest form of spiritual achievement. Rizal (2022) emphasizes that overcoming the nafs is not only a religious idea but also an important solution to moral and psychological problems in modern society.

The relevance of this research is connected with the increasing interest in folklore studies, Sufi literature, and spiritual values in modern literary scholarship. Studying folklore motifs in literary texts helps reveal deeper symbolic meanings and artistic methods used by writers. In particular, analyzing the motif of overcoming the nafs allows researchers to understand the philosophical and moral essence of the novel more clearly.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the folklore motif of overcoming the nafs in Sa'dulla Siyoyev's novel "Ahmad Yassaviy" and to examine its artistic, philosophical, and spiritual significance. The study also aims to explore the relationship between folklore traditions and Sufi ideas reflected in the novel and to show how these elements contribute to the development of the main character and the overall ideological structure of the work.

Literature Review. The study of folklore motifs, Sufi philosophy, and spiritual purification occupies an important place in modern philological and literary research. Scholars have increasingly focused on the relationship between oral traditions, symbolic artistic expression, and moral philosophy in Eastern literature. In particular, concepts such as tazkiyah al-nafs, spiritual struggle, mystical symbolism, and folklore imagery are widely analyzed in studies related to Sufi literary traditions. However, despite the growing number of studies on Sufism and folklore, the artistic interpretation of the motif of overcoming the nafs in Sa'dulla Siyoyev's Ahmad Yassaviy has not been sufficiently explored from a folkloristic and literary perspective.

One of the central concepts connected with this topic is tazkiyah al-nafs, which refers to the purification of the soul and control over selfish desires. In Sufi philosophy, the nafs is considered the greatest obstacle preventing a person from achieving spiritual perfection. Ibrahim et al. (2025) explain that tazkiyah al-nafs is not only a religious practice but also a moral and psychological process that shapes discipline, honesty, patience, and spiritual awareness. According to the researchers, spiritual purification helps individuals develop strong ethical character and inner balance. This idea directly corresponds with the image of Ahmad Yassaviy in the novel, where spiritual maturity is achieved through self-control, modesty, and devotion to higher moral values.

The connection between spiritual purification and the concept of insan kamil is also emphasized in the work of Apriliani and Arifin (2025). The authors describe insan kamil as an ideal morally perfected human being who reaches spiritual harmony through purification of the nafs. Their research explains that overcoming selfish desires allows individuals to achieve sincerity, wisdom, and closeness to God. These characteristics are clearly reflected in the portrayal

of Ahmad Yassaviy in Sa'dulla Siyoyev's novel. The protagonist is represented not as an ordinary historical figure but as a symbol of spiritual purity and ethical perfection.

Rizal (2022) studies tazkiyah al-nafs from a psychological and social perspective and argues that spiritual purification can serve as a solution to moral and psychological crises in modern society. The author states that uncontrolled desires, materialism, greed, and egoism often create spiritual emptiness and emotional instability. Therefore, overcoming the nafs is interpreted as a form of spiritual therapy that helps individuals restore inner peace and moral discipline. This approach is especially relevant when analyzing the novel because the internal struggle of Ahmad Yassaviy is portrayed not only as a religious journey but also as a universal human experience connected with morality and self-awareness.

Several studies specifically focus on the literary and spiritual heritage of Ahmad Yassaviy. Yoldash and Khalidbek (2023) analyze prophetic wisdom and symbolic morality in Ahmad Yassaviy's works. According to the researchers, his writings combine simplicity of language with deep spiritual meaning, making Sufi philosophy understandable to ordinary people. This simplicity is closely connected with folklore traditions because many of Ahmad Yassaviy's teachings spread orally among Turkic peoples for centuries. The authors also emphasize that wisdom, morality, and symbolic expression form the core of his spiritual teachings.

Idriz (2016) describes Ahmad Yassaviy as one of the most influential representatives of early Central Asian Sufism and highlights his contribution to the development of Turkic spiritual culture. The study explains that Ahmad Yassaviy's teachings shaped not only religious thought but also folklore traditions, moral philosophy, and literary culture in the Turkic world. This historical and spiritual influence can be clearly observed in Sa'dulla Siyoyev's novel, where folklore motifs and Sufi ideas are closely interconnected.

Theoretical studies on folklore also provide important support for understanding the artistic structure of the novel. Amanbayevich (2025) notes that folklore traditions played a major role in the emergence and development of Uzbek literature. According to the researcher, oral traditions preserve national identity, collective memory, and moral values through legends, myths, symbolic narratives, and proverbs. These elements later became essential artistic tools in written literature. In the novel "Ahmad Yassaviy," folklore motifs function not only as decorative elements but also as carriers of philosophical and spiritual meaning.

Botirova (2025) emphasizes that folkloric elements strengthen literary language and create harmony between oral and written artistic traditions. The researcher explains that folklore motifs enrich literary texts through symbolic imagery, moral lessons, and national spirit. Similar artistic features can be observed in Sa'dulla Siyoyev's novel, where folk-style storytelling, legends, symbolic trials, and saint-like images contribute to the spiritual atmosphere of the work.

Akhmetova (2024) also highlights the continued importance of folklorisms in modern Central Asian literature. According to the researcher, contemporary literary works still actively use folklore motifs to express spirituality, national identity, and philosophical reflection. This observation is especially relevant to the present research because Sa'dulla Siyoyev combines historical narrative with folkloric symbolism in order to deepen the spiritual meaning of the novel.

The philosophical and symbolic dimensions of Eastern literature are further explored in the studies of Koichumanova et al. (2025), Ramlan (2025), and Kumar and Jain (2025). Koichumanova et al. analyze philosophical poetry as a means of self-discovery and spiritual awareness in Central Asian literary traditions. Ramlan studies mystical language and symbolic expression in Sufi poetry, arguing that symbols and metaphors are essential tools for expressing divine truth and inner spiritual experience. Kumar and Jain (2025) similarly discuss divine love and spiritual struggle as central themes in Sufi literary traditions. These studies help explain the symbolic and philosophical atmosphere found in Sa'dulla Siyoyev's novel.

Although many researchers have studied folklore, Sufism, and spiritual purification separately, there are still limited studies devoted specifically to the folkloric interpretation of overcoming the nafs in modern Uzbek prose. Most previous studies focus either on Ahmad Yassaviy's historical role or on general Sufi philosophy. However, the artistic role of folklore motifs in portraying the protagonist's inner spiritual struggle has not received sufficient scholarly attention. Therefore, this article attempts to fill this gap by analyzing how folklore motifs function in representing spiritual purification, moral perfection, and the struggle against the nafs in Sa'dulla Siyoyev's "Ahmad Yassaviy."

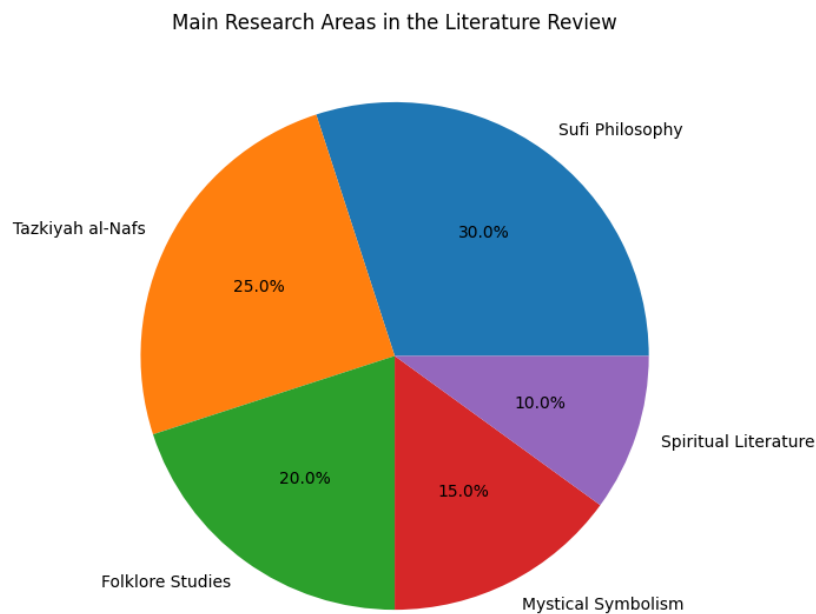
The literature reviewed above demonstrates that folklore traditions, Sufi philosophy, and spiritual symbolism are deeply interconnected in Eastern literary culture. These studies provide an important theoretical foundation for understanding the motif of overcoming the nafs and its artistic significance in the novel. Through the synthesis of folklore imagery and Sufi ideas, the novel presents spiritual struggle as both a religious concept and a universal human experience connected with morality, patience, wisdom, and inner purification.

The pie chart below illustrates the main theoretical directions and research areas analyzed in the literature review section of this study. The diagram demonstrates the proportion of scholarly sources related to Sufi philosophy, tazkiyah al-nafs, folklore studies, mystical symbolism, and spiritual literature. These categories form the theoretical foundation of the present research on the motif of overcoming the nafs in Sa'dulla Siyoyev's Ahmad Yassaviy.

The largest part of the reviewed studies is connected with Sufi philosophy and spiritual purification because the concept of overcoming the nafs occupies a central place in Sufi teachings. Another significant group of sources focuses on folklore traditions and symbolic artistic

representation, which help explain the folkloric nature of the novel. Studies related to mystical symbolism and spiritual literature also contribute to understanding the philosophical atmosphere and symbolic structure of the work Fig 1.

Figure 1. Main Research Areas in the Literature Review



As shown in Figure 1, 30% of the reviewed sources are related to Sufi philosophy, indicating that the spiritual and philosophical aspects of the novel play a dominant role in the research. Sources connected with tazkiyah al-nafs account for 25% and emphasize the importance of spiritual purification and self-control in the development of the protagonist’s character.

Folklore studies represent 20% of the reviewed literature, demonstrating that folklore motifs and oral traditions are essential components of the artistic structure of the novel. Mystical symbolism constitutes 15% of the sources and explains the symbolic language and spiritual imagery used in Sufi literature. The remaining 10% focuses on general spiritual literature, which supports the broader moral and philosophical interpretation of the study. Figure shows that the research is mainly based on interdisciplinary connections between folklore, Sufi philosophy, spirituality, and literary symbolism.

Methodology. This study uses a qualitative research method to analyze the folklore motif of overcoming the nafs in Sa’dulla Siyoyev’s Ahmad Yassaviy. A qualitative approach is appropriate because the research focuses on symbolic meanings, folklore elements, spiritual ideas, and artistic representation in the literary text.

The primary source of the research is the novel “Ahmad Yassaviy,” while secondary sources include scientific articles and literary studies related to folklore, Sufism, spiritual purification, and

Ahmad Yassaviy's teachings. These sources help explain the connection between folklore motifs and Sufi philosophy in the novel.

The research applies descriptive and interpretative methods. The descriptive method is used to identify folklore motifs, symbolic episodes, and spiritual themes in the text. The interpretative method helps explain the deeper meanings of spiritual struggle, self-control, patience, and moral purification reflected in the protagonist's image.

Special attention is given to the motif of overcoming the nafs. The study analyzes scenes connected with rejection of worldly desires, spiritual discipline, moral tests, and inner conflict. These elements are examined as important artistic tools that reveal the spiritual development of Ahmad Yassaviy.

Textual analysis is also used to study symbolic language, folklore imagery, and narrative techniques in the novel. Through this analysis, the research explains how folklore motifs strengthen the philosophical and spiritual atmosphere of the work.

The theoretical foundation of the research is based on studies devoted to folklore traditions, Sufi literature, and tazkiyah al-nafs. Several scholarly sources are used to support the analysis and interpretation of the novel.

Results and Discussion. The analysis of Sa'dulla Siyoyev's Ahmad Yassaviy shows that the motif of overcoming the nafs occupies a central place in the artistic and philosophical structure of the novel. The research reveals that the author combines folklore traditions, symbolic imagery, and Sufi philosophy to present the spiritual development of the protagonist. Through this combination, the novel reflects both national literary traditions and universal moral values.

One of the main findings of the study is that the image of Ahmad Yassaviy is portrayed as a symbol of spiritual purity and moral perfection. The protagonist's rejection of worldly desires, modest lifestyle, patience, and devotion to spiritual values demonstrate the process of overcoming the nafs. The novel emphasizes that true greatness is achieved not through power or wealth but through self-control and inner purification.

The analysis also shows that folklore motifs play an important role in revealing the spiritual atmosphere of the work. Many episodes in the novel resemble traditional folklore narratives where the hero passes through various difficulties and moral tests. However, unlike classical heroic epics that focus on external enemies, the main conflict in the novel is directed toward the internal struggle of the human soul. This artistic approach gives the work a deep philosophical meaning.

Another important result of the study is the active use of symbolic elements connected with Sufi teachings. Spiritual journeys, moral tests, wisdom traditions, and symbolic struggles are repeatedly presented throughout the narrative. These folkloric and mystical elements strengthen

the artistic expression of the novel and help reveal the psychological and spiritual condition of the protagonist.

The study further demonstrates that the motif of overcoming the nafs is closely connected with the idea of tazkiyah al-nafs. The protagonist gradually achieves spiritual maturity through patience, discipline, humility, and resistance to selfish desires. This process reflects important Sufi ideas about moral perfection and spiritual purification.

The discussion of the findings indicates that folklore motifs in the novel function not only as artistic decorations but also as philosophical and moral symbols. Folk-style storytelling, symbolic descriptions, and saint-like character images help connect the literary text with Uzbek oral traditions and national spirituality. Through these artistic methods, the author successfully creates harmony between folklore heritage and Sufi philosophy.

The findings also reveal that the novel presents spiritual struggle as a universal human experience. Although the work is connected with Islamic and Sufi traditions, its moral ideas remain relevant to modern society. Themes such as self-control, honesty, patience, morality, and inner discipline continue to be important in contemporary social and spiritual life.

In addition, the analysis confirms that Sa’dulla Siyoyev uses simple but symbolically rich language to express complex philosophical ideas. This feature reflects the influence of folklore traditions where moral teachings are often presented in understandable and emotionally powerful forms. As a result, the novel becomes accessible not only as a historical or religious text but also as a literary work with strong ethical and philosophical significance.

Results of the research show that the motif of overcoming the nafs serves as the central spiritual and artistic idea of the novel. The integration of folklore motifs, mystical symbolism, and Sufi philosophy allows the author to present Ahmad Yassaviy as a model of moral perfection and spiritual wisdom. Therefore, the novel can be considered an important example of the connection between folklore traditions and modern Uzbek literary prose.

| Analyzed Aspect | Findings | Significance in the Novel |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Motif of overcoming the nafs | The protagonist fights against selfish desires and worldly temptations | Reflects spiritual purification and moral perfection |
| Image of Ahmad Yassaviy | Presented as a patient, wise, and spiritually pure character | Symbolizes the ideal Sufi personality |
| Folklore motifs | Legends, symbolic journeys, and moral tests are widely used | Strengthens the national and folkloric spirit of the work |

| Analyzed Aspect | Findings | Significance in the Novel |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Sufi philosophy | Concepts of self-control, humility, and spiritual discipline are central | Deepens the philosophical meaning of the novel |
| Symbolic language | Spiritual ideas are expressed through symbols and metaphors | Increases artistic and emotional impact |
| Inner conflict | Main struggle occurs within the human soul | Shows that spiritual victory is greater than physical victory |
| Moral values | Patience, honesty, modesty, and wisdom are emphasized | Connects the novel with universal human values |
| Artistic style | Combination of folklore traditions and literary prose | Creates harmony between oral and written literature |

Table 3 summarizes the main findings of the research related to the folklore motif of overcoming the nafs in Sa'dulla Siyoyev's novel "Ahmad Yassaviy." The analysis demonstrates that the motif of spiritual struggle forms the central philosophical foundation of the work. The table also shows that folklore motifs, symbolic language, and Sufi ideas work together to reveal the protagonist's spiritual development and moral perfection. The findings confirm that the novel combines folklore traditions with Sufi philosophy in order to create a spiritually rich and philosophically meaningful literary text.

Conclusion. The analysis of Sa'dulla Siyoyev's Ahmad Yassaviy demonstrates that the motif of overcoming the nafs occupies a central position in the ideological, artistic, and spiritual structure of the novel. Through the image of Ahmad Yassaviy, the author presents the process of spiritual purification and moral growth as the highest stage of human development. The protagonist is portrayed as a spiritually mature individual who overcomes selfish desires, material attachment, pride, and worldly temptations through patience, humility, wisdom, and devotion to divine values.

The research shows that folklore motifs function as important artistic tools in revealing the inner world of the protagonist. Symbolic journeys, moral tests, saint-like images, folk wisdom, and spiritual trials create a strong connection between the novel and Uzbek oral traditions. These folkloric elements enrich the narrative structure of the work and strengthen its national spirit. Through folklore-based artistic methods, the author expresses deep philosophical ideas in a simple and emotionally powerful form understandable to readers. The study also reveals that Sufi philosophy and folklore traditions are closely interconnected in the novel. The concept of tazkiyah al-nafs becomes the main foundation of the protagonist's spiritual journey. Ahmad Yassaviy's struggle is not directed toward external enemies but toward the weaknesses of the human soul.

This internal conflict gives the novel psychological depth and philosophical richness. The author presents spiritual struggle as the true path toward moral perfection and inner freedom.

Another important aspect identified during the analysis is the symbolic representation of moral values. Qualities such as patience, honesty, modesty, wisdom, self-control, and compassion are repeatedly emphasized throughout the novel. These values are presented not only as religious principles but also as universal ethical ideals relevant to every period of society. The work suggests that a person achieves real spiritual peace only through controlling personal desires and protecting moral purity. The analysis further confirms that the artistic language of the novel reflects strong influence from folklore and Sufi literary traditions. Symbolic descriptions, mystical imagery, moral dialogues, and spiritually meaningful episodes create a special philosophical atmosphere in the text. The use of simple but symbolically rich language increases the emotional influence of the novel and allows deeper interpretation of its spiritual ideas.

The findings indicate that folklore motifs in the novel are not used merely as decorative literary elements. They actively participate in shaping the philosophical meaning of the work and revealing the spiritual transformation of the protagonist. The motif of overcoming the nafs serves as the main artistic and moral foundation connecting all events, symbols, and spiritual experiences in the narrative. The study also demonstrates that the ideas reflected in the novel remain significant for modern society. Problems related to selfishness, greed, moral weakness, and spiritual emptiness continue to affect human life today. In this context, the novel encourages readers to value patience, morality, spirituality, and self-discipline. The image of Ahmad Yassaviy becomes a model of inner strength and ethical purity for contemporary readers as well.

The research confirms that Sa'dulla Siyoyev successfully combines folklore heritage, Sufi philosophy, and artistic symbolism to create a spiritually meaningful literary work. The harmony between folklore motifs and mystical ideas gives the novel both national and universal significance. Because of this, "Ahmad Yassaviy" can be considered an important example of modern Uzbek prose that reflects spiritual values, national culture, and philosophical thought through artistic interpretation. The motif of overcoming the nafs remains one of the most meaningful and powerful spiritual motifs in the novel. Through this motif, the author shows that the greatest human victory is victory over one's own inner weaknesses. Spiritual perfection, according to the novel, begins with self-control, moral discipline, and purification of the soul.

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