

THE VALUE OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE IN UZBEKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Representatives of different religions have lived together in Uzbekistan for many centuries and respected each other's religious and cultural heritage. In the Middle Ages, Samarkand and Bukhara were centers of science and culture, and representatives of different religions conducted scientific and religious dialogues here. The article expresses thoughts about the harmony of peoples' cultures and the conditions created for representatives of different religions in our country.

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The principles of religious tolerance are of great importance in the Society of Uzbekistan. This principle plays an important role in maintaining peace and stability in society. A culture of living in the spirit of mutual respect and cooperation was formed between representatives of different religions. For example, religious holidays such as Ramadan Eid and Christmas have become universal holidays, which further strengthens national unity and mutual respect. In the years of intense development of the 21st century today, special attention is paid to further strengthening religions and interethnic harmony in Uzbekistan, developing ancient common traditions among them, preserving values belonging to different religions, creating the necessary conditions for all citizens to realize their faith.

Din o'zi nima? Din e'tiqoddir. Bu esa har bir kishining shaxsiy ishi. Din muayyan What is religion itself? Religion is faith. This is the personal work of everyone. Religion is manifested through certain teachings, feelings, prayers and activities of religious organizations. Even more specifically, in order for certain ideas to rise to the level of religion, the following are required: "1 - the existence of visions of the supernatural God (or Gods); 2 - the existence of prayers that connect God with humans; 3 - the existence of religious organizations that concentrate beliefs".¹

Today, when the process of globalization in the world has become intense, the development of interaction and cooperation between peoples of different cultures and religions is of urgent importance. After all, today it is unthinkable that a single person or a separate nation and state will progress without leaving their shell. In this case, it is necessary, first of all, that the principle of tolerance should be prioritized. In turn, the decision of this principle is also a guarantee of a peaceful, peaceful and prosperous life of any state. President Of Uzbekistan Sh.Mirziyoyev had put forward a proposal to adopt a special resolution called "Enlightenment and religious tolerance" on September 19, 2017, at the 72nd

¹ Constitution Of The Republic Of Uzbekistan, T.: "Uzbekistan", 2023.

session of the UN General Assembly, addressing current issues facing the world community. On 12 December 2018, at the 51st meeting of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly, the resolution was unanimously adopted by 193 member countries.

There is a specific symbolism in the development of the resolution "enlightenment and religious tolerance" precisely on the initiative of Uzbekistan. Today, the example of Uzbekistan in ensuring interethnic harmony and interdenominational tolerance is widely recognized by the world community.

The leadership of our country is considering measures to solve the national issue in a rational, international way, harmonize interethnic relations. This is done on the basis of constitutional requirements. The formation of a sense of true citizenship in the minds of the multinational people of our country on the basis of the idea that "Uzbekistan is the only homeland" has become an important direction in this regard. Teaching in state educational institutions is carried out in 7 languages. The National Broadcasting Corporation of Uzbekistan broadcasts its shows in 12 languages, newspapers and magazines are published in more than ten languages. 137 national cultural centers play a leading role in the development of ethnic identity and further harmonization of interethnic relations in our country. It is not for nothing that the Republican Center for international culture calls the Park "Friendship Park", which is hosting many of its events. In particular, Natalia Kaiser, chairman of the German national cultural center in Uzbekistan, said: "I was born and raised in the Uzbek country, in the bosom of kind people. I don't remember any of my disappointment. To be honest, I am an Uzbek woman of German nationality. Our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev finds a way to the heart of each of us, he honors us. A sip of water of this land is also dear to me. The fact that the Uzbek people admit that this is me, you, all people sitting in this circle," is the truth of all nationalities living in our country.²

During the years of independence, a new stage in the development of interethnic relations began in our country. The development of a culture of tolerance and humanism, the strengthening of interethnic and interethnic harmony and harmony, the education of the younger generation on this basis, in the spirit of love and loyalty to the motherland, has been established as one of the most important priorities of state policy in Uzbekistan. All this has found its full expression in life. In particular, the fact that the fifth direction of the "strategy of action" on the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 is devoted to the issue of ensuring religious tolerance and interethnic harmony is also a sign that the Government of Uzbekistan operates in accordance with the universal norms established in international documents. In his address to the Supreme Assembly in January 2020, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed to consistently continue the work on strengthening the atmosphere of interethnic harmony and religious tolerance in society, to hold the Friendship Week and Friendship International forum-festival for the first time in our country on the occasion of the 30th of July - International Friendship Day³. First president Islam Karimov said in his conversations with the correspondent of the newspaper "selflessness" that "if I were asked why our national values have been living unadorned for so long, I would have answered that it is primarily at the expense of our holy religion"⁴. Indeed, religion has been a symbol of morality, national culture for centuries. Today, religiosity has been serving secularism and killing it. When we say that religiosity can serve secularism, we mean the upbringing of high human qualities of the worldview, such as goodness, goodness, honesty, peace, friendship. The decision-making, strengthening, development of religious tolerance unites all people on the path to the implementation of national ideology and ideology, regardless of their faith.

In our country, the promotion of the humanitarian nature of Islam on the basis of the noble idea of "against ignorance – enlightenment", serving noble purposes such as peace and friendship, is one of the

² <https://xs.uz/uzkr/post/ozbekiston-tinchlik-dinij-bagrikenglik-va-millatlararototuvlik-chorrahasi>.

³ President of the Republic of Uzbekistan SH.Mirziyoev's appeal to the Supreme Assembly, January 24, 2020.

⁴ Karimov I. "A free and prosperous homeland, a free and prosperous life – our ultimate goal." Volume 8 T.: "Uzbekistan", 2000, p. 503

constant issues on the agenda in the politics of our state. A total of 2,276 religious organizations and 16 religious denominations are currently operating in the Republic of Uzbekistan⁵. In general, the international community highly appreciates the activities of our country in ensuring interethnic harmony and religious tolerance, and is very interested in the experience of Uzbekistan. In particular, the proposal of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on September 19, 2017 at the 72 nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to adopt a special resolution called "Enlightenment and religious tolerance" aimed at finding tolerance and mutual respect, ensuring religious freedom, protecting the right of believers, helping to avoid their discrimination, and the adoption of this document on December 12, 2018⁶.

Indeed, on the Land of Uzbekistan, other religions, cultures have long lived and developed side by side with the religion of Islam. The presence of mosques, churches and synagogues in our major cities for centuries is a testament to the fact that people of different nationalities and religions freely follow their religious practices. Even in the most complex, difficult periods of our history, the absence of conflicts between them on a religious basis indicates that our people have gained a lot of experience in religious tolerance. The roots of tolerance and compromise in our country go back many centuries. According to the Japanese scientist Kyudzo Kato, who conducted research on the culture of various religions that operated on the territory of our country, no one is surprised that the unique Buddhist culture and Jewish monuments in the Surkhandarya Oasis, Christian shrines in Bukhara, line up with Islamic monuments in our country.

All religions in the world are based on the ideas of goodness and rely on such characteristics as good, peace, friendship. Religion challenges people to honesty and purity, compassion, Brotherhood and tolerance. Most religions consider this world a phonic, fleeting one. They promote the idea that the true purpose of man from living is to do good, good deeds in this world. All religions reflect the essence, meaning of human life, the establishment of political and legal, moral relations between people on the basis of criteria of equality and Justice. In particular, one of the representatives of the Jewish community was R.Bensman points out that the construction of the original synagogue in Bukhara as early as the 8th century created conditions for free belief in their religion, along with those of other religions: "Judaism persecuted from Medieval Europe and the Byzantine Empire had the same right as other religions in Central Asia". At this point, we also found it permissible to cite the thoughts of Archbishop Vladimir: "the local population provided them with all-round assistance in the 19th century, when the peasants, forcibly displaced from the central regions of Russia, fell into a state of helplessness. Hieromonax Khariton, who saw the events of that time "...The locals treated the disadvantaged settlers with compassion, without which many of them would have died of hunger and deprivation" testifying that".

The main focus of the Russian Orthodox clergy who entered the lands of Turkestan was not on missionary activities, but on the religious needs of their communities. The local Muslim population is also known to have provided support when the Orthodox built a church. For example, the construction of the temple of St. Georgy in Chirchik, Tashkent region was financially supported by local imams and merchants. This situation can provide evidence that the mutual respect among the representatives of these religions was strong even in those times.

Historical sources note that there was no conflict in Uzbekistan on the basis of religious and ethnic relations. This situation can now also be seen in the example of the relationship between Islam, Christianity, Judaism and other denominations. We can say that such friendly relations, that is, the fact that Muslims live in harmony on the Land of Uzbekistan of representatives of other religions, are a symbol of religious-spiritual harmony and the best example of tolerance towards representatives of all religions.

⁵ <https://strategy.uz/index.php?news>

⁶ Akhmedov T., Newspaper "new Uzbekistan" №236 8.12.2020.

In his “India”, Abu Rayhun Beruni said: “I like this when evaluating one or another of the people, I do not like it, there is no right for anyone to say that he does not like it. Because every people's work, traditions have been formed for thousands of years and have become the way of life of that nation,” he wrote.

These words of our great ancestor are one of the factors that determine the integrity and progress of mankind — a specific form of attitude towards cultural diversity, and are important in understanding the essence of tolerance and interethnic harmony.

Now in our country, sufficient conditions have been created to preserve the religious traditions, traditions and values of representatives of different nationalities and to ensure the principles of tolerance. Importantly, the whole world recognizes that tolerance has become a long-standing value of our people.

The principle of religious tolerance in Uzbekistan is an important component of the country's policy based on peace and stability. As a result of the efforts of the government and society in this regard, Uzbekistan serves as a model for the world as a country where representatives of different religions and cultures live peacefully. Further development and preservation of these principles will have a positive impact on the sustainable development of the country and its reputation in the international community.

The promotion and maintenance of religious tolerance contributes to the sustainable development of Uzbekistan. Therefore, it is the duty of every citizen to strive for religious tolerance and strengthen it in society. This principle will remain a guarantee of the peaceful and peaceful development of Uzbekistan in the future.

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