

Be Valuable, My Mother Tongue!

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*“Uzbek, one of the oldest and richest languages in the world, is a symbol of our national identity and independent statehood, invaluable spiritual wealth and great value for our people. If anyone wants to feel the beauty, charm and power of the Uzbek language, let him listen to the gods of our mothers, our millennial epics, our immortal status, listen to the magic songs of our bakhshis and hafizs.
(Shavkat Mirziyoyev)*

Annotation: This article shows the uniqueness of the role of the mother tongue as a sacred symbol, which is protected by law, along with the flag, coat of arms, anthem, constitution of our independent state.

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The native language is the spirit of the nation, its honor, spiritual image, an example of dreams and hopes. The mother tongue is a symbol of the unity and solidarity of the nation. It unites the nation around it as a single nation and provides for its existence in the world. Just as every nation has its own homeland and family, it also has a precious and unique mother tongue. The more a person values his homeland, his parents, his family, the more sacred and sacred his mother tongue becomes. Even a child begins to understand and name his homeland, his parents, the world through his mother tongue. Just as the role of the mother in the upbringing of children is invaluable, the role of language in the development of a person's place in life and development is enormous. That is why the language is called the mother tongue in comparison to the mother. The tongue is absorbed into the bloodstream of the human body. All of these virtues are absorbed, first and foremost, through the mother goddess and the priceless charm of the mother tongue. In the human heart there is a pure feeling of love for the mother tongue. As Ismailbek Gaspirali, the great enlightener of the Turkic world, said: “A nation has two foundations. This is their language and religion. If one of these two lives is taken away from the nation, it will be in decline. ”

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Just as there is no river without water, there is no nation without language. A language that belongs to a nation lives and lives with that nation. Our ancestors have preserved and developed the language since ancient times. For example, A. Navoi, Zahriddin Muhammad Babur, Lutfi and others. They have made an invaluable contribution to the development of the Uzbek language. Our Uzbek language, which belongs to the Turkic language family, is our priceless treasure. The great thinker Alisher Navoi, the sultan of the realm of words, defended our language in the difficult period of his life - in the XV century, and proved scientifically and practically that the Turkic language is not inferior to other languages in terms of its capabilities. He wrote his masterpiece "Khamsa" in Turkish. Even today, our poets create works that reflect the richness and greatness of the Uzbek language. Because a nation with a great literature has a great language. The spirituality of a person is reflected in his language, in his beautiful speech. Language is the great wealth of the nation, its priceless treasure, its inexhaustible property. Because it embodies the history of the nation, its cultural and spiritual heritage, customs and traditions. That is why we need to preserve our mother tongue, enrich it and pass it on to future generations. In the words of our first President, "Self-awareness, the expression of national consciousness and thinking, the spiritual and national connection between generations is created through language." We must always keep these thoughts in mind. Indeed, a nation without language will not develop, will not prosper.

On October 21, 1989, Uzbek was granted the status of the state language. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan legally strengthens the status of the Uzbek language. After the adoption of the law on the Uzbek language, all government documents were kept in Uzbek and newspapers and magazines were published in Uzbek. After the adoption of the law "On the creation of the Uzbek alphabet based on the Latin language" on September 2, 1993, our country has developed in all respects and has gained a worthy place in the world communication system. As a result, the number of people interested in and learning the Uzbek language has increased abroad. There are more than 5600 languages in the world, of which only 200 are accepted as official languages. The presence of the Uzbek language among them testifies to its purity, perfection, purity and attractiveness. It is no coincidence that the Russian linguist, Professor AM Kozlyanina, said that "the Uzbek language is as elegant and attractive as music." Therefore, it is our duty to pass on the beauty and purity of our native language to future generations. Because it is the duty of everyone who speaks that language to cherish and preserve it.

Language is also a function of communication. We all know that the famous A. Navoi belongs to our grandfather *"Ko'ngil qulfi maxraning qulfi til va gulfon kalitin so'z bil"*. The

treasure of the human soul is language, which is the key to the treasure of the soul. Uzbek words are so meaningful that most of them have the same meaning and can be expressed in several words. For example, a single eye word has several meanings. We know that the more words a concept is represented by, the more synonyms there are, the richer the language. Many of our writers have said many wise words about language and described it differently. For example, "Language is the mirror of the nation", "Language is the mirror of spirituality", "Language is the priceless wealth of the nation", "Language is the translator", "Language is the balance of the mind" and so on. It should be noted that the granting of Uzbek the status of the state language was one of the important steps of our people on the path to national independence. During the years of independence, as in all areas of our country, there have been significant changes in the development of our language. The international prestige of the Uzbek language has grown. The law "On the state language" not only fully reflects the beauty and charm of our native language, but also provides ample opportunities for its development on a scientific basis. Scholars and experts have published encyclopedias and dictionaries, textbooks and manuals on science and various fields. The five-volume "Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language" contains examples of our classical literature, more than eighty thousand words and phrases, terms related to science, technology, industry, culture and other fields, words used in dialects. The "horse" is one of the most important works done in this regard.

Language is a part of the image of a nation. We cannot say that all the nations of the world have their own official national language. Because it has to do with the national independence of the people. According to experts, today one language disappears every two weeks. That, in turn, means the extinction of the peoples who speak that language. According to UNESCO, the number of languages spoken by humans once ranged from 7,000 to 8,000, but today there are 6,000 languages on the planet, 90% of which are on the verge of extinction. These are the languages of a small number of nations that are losing their culture mainly due to civilization. Some of the people who speak these languages have a script, while others do not. For example, 80 percent of African-speaking people still do not have their own written language. Thousands of languages are not available in the education system. Not to mention the languages that don't use the Internet. Because of the development of new technologies, some peoples are forced to use modern languages rather than their own. Today, 81% of the Internet language is English. True, languages have appeared before, they have been in trouble, and they have disappeared over time. But history has not seen the rapid disappearance of languages. Efforts to preserve endangered languages are also aimed at promoting cultural and linguistic diversity. Because it is language

that preserves the culture and traditions of peoples and nations, and respects the past and culture of the peoples of our planet. Linguists say the possibility of preserving endangered languages has not yet been missed. In order to preserve languages, BMT experts say, these languages need to be widely used in the education system.

According to linguists, in another 25 years, one in ten of the languages that are now in use will survive.

Language is the spiritual wealth of a nation. Language is not only a means of communication - but also the culture, customs, way of life, history of a nation. Respect for the languages of different peoples, in turn, promotes mutual understanding and communication. And for languages to survive, they need to be supported. It is because of language that humanity is proud to belong to this or that nation. Recognition and respect for all languages is the only guarantee of peace. That is why every nation strives to preserve its language. By the middle of the 21st century, Chinese may become the main language. It is estimated that at least one million people need to speak a language to survive. However, there are 250 such languages in the world. Of course, the Uzbek language is one of the 250.

In short, to love a language, to respect it, to love and appreciate a nation. The way of life, customs and culture of each nation is reflected in its language. It is no coincidence that the language is the mirror of the nation. The centuries-old rich history, ancient and diverse culture of our people are formed in the Uzbek language. Our great poet Alisher Navoi has created priceless works in this language and amazed the world. Today, our national anthem is sung in Uzbek in honor of the visits of our state delegations to all countries of the world, the achievements of our youth, the victories of our athletes.

We must preserve our mother tongue, enhance its prestige, pass on its beauty and purity to future generations, and contribute to its promotion in the world. Because, as Cholpon said: "If the language lives, the nation lives!" If we sing to the world the beauty and richness of our language, our nation will be brighter and our unity will be stronger. As the Russian historian Skobelov said: "In order to destroy a nation, it is not necessary to carry a weapon, it is necessary to destroy its language, spirituality and literature, so that the nation itself will disappear. We can see how true this idea is.

I would like to conclude with this quartet of Khurshid Davron.

*Kelib ketdi necha dunyolar,
Kuldi hayot, yig'ladi o'lim.
Sen deb qurbon bo'ldi bobolar,*

Ular ketdi, sen qolding, tilim.

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