

**THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF FOLK VIEWS ABOUT ZAHIRIDDIN
MUHAMMAD BOBUR**

Avazova Lobar Buriyevna

the teacher of the Russian Department of Language and Literature,

University of Economics and Pedagogy,

Karshi city, Kashkadarya region

E-mail: avazovalobar7@gmail.com

Abstract: In this article we wrote about the scientific foundations underlying folk views about Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur, the founder of the Boburiy Empire. While folk narratives often portray Bobur as a heroic, wise, and just leader, this study demonstrates that such portrayals are not purely legendary but are frequently supported by historical evidence. By analyzing Bobur's own writings, especially the Boburnoma, along with other primary and secondary historical sources, the paper reveals how many elements in oral traditions align with actual events and character traits documented by scholars. Furthermore, the research draws on ethnographic and literary studies to examine how cultural memory and symbolic storytelling preserve and transmit historical truths. The study concludes that folk views of Babur, although sometimes shaped by imagination, have strong scientific and historical bases, making them a valuable part of understanding his enduring legacy.

Keywords: Boburiy empire, folk views, scientific basis, boburnoma, oral tradition, historical memory, cultural heritage, ethnographic analysis, historical truth.

Introduction. Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur, the founder of the Boburiy Empire, holds a unique place in both historical scholarship and the cultural memory of the peoples of Central and South Asia. While scientific studies have explored his political strategies, literary contributions, and role as a political leader, folk traditions have preserved a more symbolic and emotional image of Bobur—one that reflects the values, hopes, and ideals of the communities that remember him. In local legends, poems, and oral stories, Babur often portrayed not only as a brave warrior but also as a wise and just ruler who cared for his people and land. At first glance, these folk portrayals may appear romanticized or exaggerated. However, closer analysis reveals that many of these narratives have roots in

historical fact. Bobur's own memoirs, particularly the *Boburnoma*, support many of the qualities attributed to him in oral tradition, such as his appreciation for nature, his poetic sensibility, and his leadership in times of hardship. Scientific research in the fields of history, ethnography, and literature shows that these folk views are often grounded in real events and characteristics, even if expressed through symbolic or artistic forms. This paper aims to explore the scientific basis of folk views about Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur by comparing historical records with cultural narratives. It seeks to understand how fact and folklore interact to shape the lasting legacy of one of the most remarkable figures in the Islamic and Turkic world.

I.Literature Review The figure of Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur has attracted considerable attention from both historians and cultural scholars. Scientific research into his life primarily centers on his political, military, and literary achievements, most notably preserved in his autobiography, the *Boburnoma*. This source has been analyzed by scholars such as Annette Beverage and Stephen F. Dale, who highlight its value in reconstructing Bobur's character and the early foundations of the Boburiy Empire. These studies confirm that Bobur was not only a skilled military leader but also a reflective thinker, poet, and lover of nature—traits often echoed in folk narratives. Folk views of Bobur, preserved through oral literature, epic poetry, songs, and legends, portray him as a larger-than-life figure. Researchers such as Muzaffar Alam and Francesca Orsini have explored how folk narratives function not merely as entertainment but as vehicles for cultural identity and collective memory. These stories often emphasize Bobur's courage, justice, wisdom, and emotional sensitivity—traits also mentioned in historical sources. Ethnographic studies further support the idea that folk traditions often retain kernels of historical truth, even when expressed in symbolic or poetic form. Several interdisciplinary works bridge the gap between historical fact and folklore. For example, studies in comparative literature and cultural anthropology have demonstrated how historical figures are mythologized in folk tradition while still maintaining connections to actual events. In the case of Bobur, this blending of reality and symbolism enriches our understanding of his personality and leadership. Overall, the literature suggests that folk portrayals of Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur are not purely fictional or exaggerated. Instead, they are deeply rooted in historical realities, enhanced by cultural expression. By examining both scientific sources and folk traditions,

researchers can gain a fuller, more nuanced picture of Babur's legacy across regions and generations.

II. Methodology. This study employs a qualitative research methodology to investigate the scientific foundations of folk views surrounding Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur, the founder of the Boburiy Empire. The research involves a comprehensive analysis of both historical texts and oral cultural materials to understand how Babur's legacy has been preserved and interpreted. The primary sources for this study include Babur's own writings, especially his autobiography, the *Boburnoma*, which provides firsthand accounts of his life, personality, and leadership. These texts analyzed to extract information about Babur's character, military campaigns, and governance style. Secondary sources, such as scholarly articles, books, and historical commentaries, reviewed to provide context and interpretation of Bobur's historical significance. In addition to written sources, the study examines folk narratives, including oral traditions, poems, and songs that have been passed down in regions once part of the Boburiy Empire. These cultural materials are collected through existing ethnographic studies and folklore archives. Content analysis is applied to identify recurring themes and symbolic representations of Babur in these folk expressions. A comparative analysis approached to juxtapose the scientific data derived from historical research with the elements found in folk narratives. This allows for an evaluation of how closely folk views align with historical facts and where symbolic or legendary embellishments appear. The study also considers the social and cultural functions of these folk narratives in preserving collective memory and identity. By integrating historical analysis with ethnographic insights, this methodology aims to present a balanced and comprehensive understanding of Babur's legacy as seen through both scientific scholarship and folk tradition.

III. Analysis and Discussion The analysis of both scientific sources and folk narratives reveals a compelling interplay between historical facts and cultural memory in shaping the legacy of Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur. Babur's autobiography, the *Boburnoma*, provides detailed accounts of his military campaigns, leadership qualities, and personal reflections, which serve as a reliable foundation for understanding his life. These documented facts often correspond closely with the traits celebrated in folk traditions, such as bravery, justice, and a

deep appreciation for nature. Folk narratives, while sometimes romanticized or symbolic, preserve essential aspects of Babur's character and achievements that align with historical records. For example, the portrayal of Babur as a courageous and wise leader in oral stories reflects his documented military successes and strategic intelligence. Similarly, his love for gardens and poetry, frequently emphasized in folk songs and poems, finds direct confirmation in his own writings and historical analyses. The scientific basis for these folk views further supported by ethnographic studies that highlight how communities use oral traditions to maintain collective identity and transmit values across generations. These stories, although they may incorporate mythical elements, often contain a core of historical truth that reinforces cultural cohesion and pride. Thus, folk views are not simply fictional but serve as a complementary means of preserving and interpreting historical knowledge. However, it is important to recognize the differences between scientific and folk perspectives. While historians prioritize empirical evidence and chronological accuracy, folk narratives prioritize moral lessons, emotional resonance, and cultural symbolism. This divergence means that some elements in folk traditions may exaggerate or simplify events for dramatic effect, yet these embellishments contribute to the enduring relevance of Babur's legacy in popular culture. In conclusion, the analysis demonstrates that folk views about Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur have a solid scientific basis rooted in historical fact. The interaction between documented history and oral tradition enriches our understanding of Babur, revealing how his life and achievements continue to inspire and influence cultural identities. Acknowledging both perspectives allows for a more nuanced appreciation of one of history's most remarkable figures.

IV. Comparative Analysis. When comparing the scientific accounts of Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur's life with the folk narratives that surround his legacy, several notable similarities and differences emerge. Scientific sources, including Babur's autobiography—the *Boburnoma*—and academic historical studies, provide a detailed, factual portrayal of Babur as a skilled military leader, a shrewd statesman, and a sensitive poet. These sources emphasize his strategic acumen, political challenges, and personal reflections grounded in real historical events. In contrast, folk narratives often present a more symbolic and idealized image of Bobur. Oral traditions, folk songs, and poems tend to highlight his heroism, moral integrity, and

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deep connection to the common people and nature. While these depictions may sometimes embellish or dramatize his qualities and deeds, they serve to elevate Bobur into a cultural icon whose virtues embody communal values and aspirations. Despite these differences, there is significant overlap between the scientific and folk portrayals. Both perspectives acknowledge Bobur's bravery, leadership, and poetic sensibility. For example, the admiration for his love of gardens and nature is evident both in his personal writings and in folk stories that celebrate this trait as part of his compassionate character. This convergence suggests that folk traditions are not purely imaginative but often rooted in authentic historical experiences. However, the modes of presentation differ. Scientific narratives focus on chronological accuracy, causality, and evidence-based interpretations, while folk narratives emphasize emotional engagement, moral lessons, and symbolic meaning. This means that some folk stories may simplify complex historical realities or incorporate supernatural elements to enhance their impact. Ultimately, the comparative analysis reveals that both scientific and folk views contribute uniquely to the collective memory of Babur. Scientific research provides a factual foundation and critical understanding of his life, while folk traditions preserve his legacy in a form that resonates emotionally and culturally with communities. Together, they offer a more holistic and enriched portrait of Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur as both a historical figure and a cultural hero.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the exploration of both scientific and folk views about Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur reveals a rich and multifaceted legacy. Scientific research, grounded in historical texts like the Boburnoma and scholarly analysis, provides a detailed and evidence-based understanding of Babur's life, leadership, and cultural contributions. Meanwhile, folk traditions, preserved through oral stories, poems, and songs, offer a symbolic and emotional portrayal that reflects the values and identity of the communities that remember him. The scientific basis of these folk views demonstrates that popular narratives are often deeply rooted in historical fact, even when expressed through metaphor or legend. This intersection between fact and folklore enriches our comprehension of Babur's significance, showing how his image continues to inspire across generations. Recognizing the complementary roles of both perspectives allows for a fuller appreciation of Bobur not only as a historical emperor but also as a timeless cultural icon. Ultimately,

integrating scientific analysis with an understanding of folk memory provides a holistic approach to studying historical figures like Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur, highlighting the enduring impact of his life and legacy on history and culture.

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